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# “MORE OF THE SAME” SDCC BUDGET FOR 2025

People Before Profit has strongly condemned the 2025 South Dublin County Council budget, describing it as “more of the same” and a missed opportunity to address the pressing needs of local residents.

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The budget, passed by all councillors except for People Before Profit representatives, failed to include meaningful measures to combat housing disrepair and address climate action in council housing.

Our amendment was a common-sense approach to addressing the chronic issues in South Dublin,” said Cllr. Madeleine Johansson. “It would have increased spending by €50 million on urgently needed repairs and maintenance for council housing as well as an expanded retrofitting programme to tackle energy

People Before Profit’s proposal included a 50% increase in the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV) for businesses, generating an additional €76.5 million in revenue. €26.5 million would have been ringfenced

to ensure the increase would only be paid by rate payers over €50 000. This targeted approach ensured that the financial burden was placed on major corporations, not on small enterprises or residents. “The refusal to even consider our amendment shows a lack of vision and a failure to prioritize the needs of ordinary people,” Johansson added. “This budget does nothing to address the housing crisis or the cost-of-living pressures faced by council tenants. People Before Profit will continue to fight for a fairer, more equitable approach to local government funding.”



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# LOCAL 7 YEAR OLD DARCIE FROM TALLAGHT SHARES THE CHRISTMAS MAGIC

This Christmas, local girl Darcie from Tallaght and seven other incredible young patients from Children's Health Ireland have come together to design a special Christmas card collection with MoonPig.

These young artists, who have each experienced care at Children's Health Ireland hospitals and urgent care centres at Temple Street, Crumlin, Connolly and Tallaght, are using their creativity to give back to the hospitals where they were treated and help other sick

children across Ireland. The collection of ten unique and festive card designs, each reflecting the magic and joy of Christmas in the individual style of each young artist. The children behind the designs included Darcie aged 7 from Tallaght, Roisin aged 9 from Cookstown and Chloe aged 9 from Walkinstown.

Darcie is a patient at Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin and Tallaght, where she receives the loving expert care of the doctors and nurses. When asked what she is looking forward

to this Christmas Darcie shared that she can't wait to wear her sparkly Rudolf Christmas Jumper on the lead up to Christmas Day.

These cards were not just designed to bring joy, and hope, but to showcase their gratitude for the care that they received from their time in Children's Health Ireland hospitals. 100% of the proceeds from each card will go directly toward supporting other sick children and their families this Christmas, ensuring they have everything they need to fight illness and injury at this time of year. The collection is now available for purchase at MoonPig Christmas Cards, making it easy for everyone to make a difference with every card they send.

Liam Redmond, Corporate Manager, for Children's Health Foundation expressed his gratitude; "We are so proud of Darcie and the other seven talented patients that created these

beautiful cards. We hope people help support them on their mission to raise funds for other sick children across Ireland. A heartfelt thank you to everyone at MoonPig for making this possible." Alex Toft, General Manager

of Moonpig International; "This Christmas, help support Darcie and the other young patients by choosing a card that brings joy not only to your friends and family but also to children in need. Every card purchased is a

step towards bringing hope and vital resources to sick children across Ireland.

To shop the full collection and to make a difference to the lives of sick children, MoonPig Christmas Cards."



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## KILTIPPER PARK PHASE 2 WORKS SOD TURNING EVENT

On the 28th of November, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan officially turned the sod to mark the commencement of the second phase of works at Kiltipper Park.

The Mayor was joined by local Councillors, Ms. Teresa Walsh, Director of Services, and staff of South Dublin County Council. Representatives from the contractor's and designer's teams were also present to celebrate the event. The works about to commence will include the construction of an extended car park; footpath and northern pedestrian entrance improvements; sports pitch construction & associated drainage; construction of a new viewpoint area; hedgerow rejuvenation works; and all associated ancillary site drainage and landscaping

works. This phase of the project is funded by South Dublin County Council's 3-year capital budget and supported by The Department of Rural and Community Development through the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) and the Department of Sport via Sports Capital Grants.

Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates and Tim Austin Associates have carried out the planning and design work on this project to date. Construction work on site will be carried out by ACS Civils Ltd. SDCC acknowledge and thank the community for all their assistance and support for the project. And ask to kindly bear with them during this construction process. They will endeavour to cause as little inconvenience as possible.



Pictured Mayor of SDCC Cllr. Baby Pereppadan with Teresa Walsh (SDCC Director of Service, Suzanne Furlong, Sean Redmond, Keith (Tim Austen Design), Shea McElhatton (ACS Civils Ltd) & SDCC staff at the sod turning for the Phase 2 works in Kiltipper Park. Pic credit: Ben Ryan

## RAMS RAISED IN EXCESS OF €45K IN THE YEAR 2024

The Retired Active Men's Social of Newcastle, RAMS, celebrated in style at their end of year activity morning, by donating to their nominated charities. Nominated charities are Capuchin Day Centre, Down syndrome Kildare branch, SVP Holy Family Conference and Our Lady's hospice Harold's Cross.

The morning commenced with usual fun activities while enjoying freshly baked scones, brown breads, Christmas cake and brewed coffee. Followed by Eton Mess, as a real treat to all members. Emer Higgins TD attended and endorsed the tremendous work the RAMS in Rhythm do in fundraising for charity, all year round. The RAMS in Rhythm have raised in excess of €45,000 in the year 2024. Other guests were Cllr Shirley O Hara, Cllr. Shane Moynihan and local national school principal Jonathan Loftus.

Representatives from the Capuchin Fathers, Down syndrome and the SVP all

accepted their cheques on behalf of the RAMS. Acting Chair, Mr Paddy Becton wished the candidates the very best of luck in the forthcoming elections. The RAMS in Rhythm gave a wonderful rendition of "On the one Road" to the delight of all our guests, and members.

Acting Chair, Mr Paddy Becton wished everyone a "Very Happy Christmas" and all members were looking forward to their annual Christmas function in the Springfield Hotel in

December. On reflection on the year 2024, the group were so pleased of all efforts, socialising, fund days away, in Blarney, Navan, and all singing events. Yes! Plenty of life in the old dog yet. On the 14th December, the RAMS in Rhythm will sing and perform in Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, fundraising on behalf of the SVP Holy Family Conference, 4 District. Singing from 12 noon to 3 pm. The RAMS will then take a well deserved break and return to full activity in January of 2025.



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## ACTIVE CITIES DUBLIN UNVEILS INNOVATIVE PLAYBOARDS IN COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Active Cities Dublin, in partnership with South Dublin County Council, is delighted to announce the launch of Play Innovations Target Games at the MUGA in Collinstown Sports Complex and Quarryvale Community Centre. This exciting initiative brings a new, interactive dimension to physical activity in South Dublin. The playboards offer a fun and inclusive way to encourage active lifestyles for all ages. Users can enjoy friendly competitions using the boards' built-in scoring systems or create their own games, making the experience both engaging and adaptable.

Key Benefits of the Playboards: Innovative Activity: A refreshing alternative to traditional sports, encouraging creativity and movement. Community Focus: A resource designed to bring people together, fostering social connection through fun and play. And Accessibility: Free to use and available during the centres' operating

hours, ensuring access for everyone.

This initiative reflects Active Cities Dublin's commitment to enhancing health and well-being through accessible, community-focused activities in line with its partnership with South Dublin County Council. The playboards are now

installed at Collinstown Sports Complex and Quarryvale Community Centre and are free to use whenever the centres are open. Active Cities Dublin continues to work closely with South Dublin County Council to deliver innovative projects like this, ensuring our communities have opportunities to stay active,

healthy, and connected.

Pictured: Cllr. Liona O'Toole with Darragh Conway (South Dublin Active Cities) and Jimmy McKeever Sports Centre Attendant along with TY Co-ordinator Winnie Kirwan and her students at the launch of the new Play Innovation facilities at Collinstown Sports Complex.



Pic credit: Ben Ryan

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# TUH AND SDCP LAUNCH NEW PODCAST SERIES ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

A new podcast series from Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) funded by the South Dublin County Partnerships Health Project (Fettercairn) has been recently released which focuses on Women's Health.

The six individual episodes released as part of the Hospital's Let Talk About series look at Endometriosis, the Importance of Cervical Screening, Brain Health and Dealing with Brain Fog, Pelvic Prolapse and Incontinence, Good Heart & Bone Health and finally Menopause.

Those contributing to this series were all highly trained and respected experts in their fields. The speakers included Consultant Gynaecologists Aoife O'Neil and Alison DeMaio, Consultant Endocrinologist Lucy-Ann Behan, and Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health Sinead Cleary, Cheryll Gilmore, and Colleen Byrne as well as Endometriosis Clinical Nurse Specialist Paula Earley.

They were joined by their colleagues Advanced

Nurse Practitioners David Askin (Bone Health) Shirley Ingram (Heart) and Cathy McHale (Brain & Memory). The podcasts also featured Grainne Wall a Specialist Urogynaecology Physiotherapist and the Hospital's Head of Psychology Neuropsychologist, Dr Valerie Twomey.

Consultant Gynaecologist Aoife O Neil, also the Clinical Director of the Women's Health Centre at TUH, said, "I was delighted to participate in these podcasts which cover in detail so many different aspects of Women's Health. Hopefully, by listening to these podcasts, women who are often the primary carers in their families will understand how important it is that they also prioritise their own health."

Launching the podcast series, The CEO of TUH Lucy Nugent said, "I would encourage everyone to listen to these excellent free podcasts where our experts and highly qualified staff share a wealth of important medical

and practical knowledge on each topic. All of the episodes are in keeping with TUH's important mission of becoming a hospital without walls, striving to improve the health of the population we serve."

The podcasts were funded as part of a partnership project between the South Dublin County Partnership Health Project (Fettercairn) and Tallaght University Hospital. As they were being launched, the Coordinator of the Fettercairn Community Health Project Samantha Griffin said, "All of these episodes are an excellent free resource for the public in terms of health promotion and the prevention of illness. I would urge anyone to log in and listen to them because as we all know when it comes to health, prevention is better than cure."

You can hear all of the podcasts on the Tallaght University Hospital YouTube channel. They are also available on the Apple Podcasts and Podbean platforms.



# OFFICIAL OPENING OF KILLINARDEN PARK



On the 27th of November, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan officially opened the newly improved Killinarden Park. The Mayor was joined by local Councillors, Mr Colm Ward, Chief Executive, Ms. Teresa Walsh, Director of Services, and staff of South Dublin County Council. Children from The Sacred Heart National School, members of the Croí Ró Naofa GAA Club and Sacred Heart Football Club and members of the local community were also in attendance to celebrate this event.

Speaking at the event Mayor Cllr. Baby Pereppadan said "Works began on site here 12 months ago, to upgrade the park in accordance with the plans developed with the local community over several months. The park enhancements now include provision of a lit walking and cycling route and other new accessible routes though the park. New play spaces, exercise areas, a skate ramp and a multi-use games area have been

provided. A major upgrade of the existing grass pitches has also been undertaken. New improved entrances with associated signage now welcome visitors, and there has been extensive tree and shrub planting throughout the park. I would like to acknowledge and thank the community for all their assistance and input during the preliminary design stage and their support for the project during construction. It is a joy to see the park so well used and I look forward to seeing it providing amenity, recreation, and environmental benefits to the community of Killinarden for many years to come."

This project has been funded by South Dublin County Council's 3-year capital budget and supported by the National Transport Authority via Active Travel Grants and the Department of Sport via Sports Capital Grants. Nicholas de Jong Associates carried out the planning and design work on this project with Clonmel Enterprises Ltd civil contractors realising the vision on the ground.

## Beannachtaí an tSéasúir

Seasons Greetings & Thankyou to all my Constituents & Friends

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# OAKLEE LAUNCHES FIRST COST RENTAL HOMES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH QUINTAIN

Oaklee, an award-winning Approved Housing Body, has officially launched its first cost rental homes at The Sidings in Adamstown in partnership with Quintain Ireland and South Dublin County Council.

homes. Cost rental housing is designed to provide affordable and secure accommodation for those on middle incomes, with rents based solely on the cost of construction, management, and maintenance.

This new development is one of the largest cost rental projects in the country and involves a mixture of 154 one, two, and three-bed

Monthly rents for the homes at The Sidings apartment development are at least 25% below market rates and range from €1,525-€1,800.

The 154 apartments include 71 one-bed, 81 two-bed and two 3-beds.

Oaklee is delivering the homes with the support of South Dublin County Council (SDCC) through funding from the Department of Housing's Cost Rental Equity Loan (CREL) scheme and private financing from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA). Oaklee already manages over 2,500 homes across 19 counties, but this new development marks its first launch of cost rental homes, a tenure the organisation expects to deliver more of in future. All of the homes are A-rated, high-quality and spacious with fully fitted kitchens and built-in wardrobes.

The development was designed by Henry J Lyons and delivered by Quintain to complement the first phase of development at The Crossings urban village. The Sidings is a nine storey "gateway" building and a visual marker for this new neighbourhood. The architectural design includes balconies, brickwork and active frontages to the Ground Floor level which positively attributes to the street environments and

residents of The Crossings. The Sidings apartment development forms phase 2 of The Crossings, a new urban village located at the heart of Adamstown with a host of services and amenities already in situ and with more to come. Quintain has already delivered 279 apartments in The Crossings, with a further 436 apartments under construction and a fourth phase currently being master planned.

The village centre includes a large shopping centre with Tesco and Aldi supermarkets, other individual retail outlets including McCabes, Grafton Barbers, Urban Vets, Belfry&Co and ABC Gym. The development also includes a public plaza and a three-acre public park while there are several creches and schools nearby. The Crossings is also located next to a purpose-built train station on the main west Dublin commuter and intercity train lines with excellent access to the N4 and the M50.

Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien commented, "For Oaklee to be launching its first Cost Rental scheme here in Dublin is hugely welcome. The development

in Adamstown will provide secure, high-quality homes which will make a real difference in the lives of more than 150 families and individuals. It's clear that the hard work and effective collaboration between our local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies, such as Oaklee, is delivering the quantity and mix of homes which are needed to meet the needs of our people. Affordable cost rental is a key element of Housing for All and has already been extremely successful in providing stable, affordable, long-term rental homes for individuals and families. A robust pipeline of cost rental homes is now in place and it's through the work of AHBs like Oaklee working in collaboration with my department, with our Local Authorities and with our Agencies that we will scale it up even further."

Sharon Cosgrove, CEO of Oaklee said "At Oaklee, we are committed to providing secure, high-quality homes that are as affordable as possible for people across Ireland. To date our main activity has been in the delivery and management of social housing. However, now we are delighted to be

involved in the delivery of these cost rental homes and to work in partnership with Quintain. We continue to support the Government and local authorities nationwide in the delivery of homes under this model. The Sidings is a prime example of working in partnership and emphasises our dedication to expanding cost rental housing, ensuring long-term security, comfort, and high-quality accommodation in thriving communities."

Michael Hynes, CEO of Quintain said "We are excited to partner with Oaklee on the delivery of these new cost rental homes and look forward to welcoming new households to The Crossings. At Quintain, we seek to deliver new communities in addition to new homes and this is a vision we share with Oaklee. The Crossings is a great place to live and is well-served with transport links, community facilities, retail outlets, creches and new schools. We are continuing to add to the neighbourhood, and we are in the process of delivering new apartment developments with mixed tenures that will help to ensure an even more vibrant and diverse new community."



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# AN COSÁN FURTHER EDUCATION LEARNERS RECEIVE QQI AWARDS AT GRADUATION CEREMONY

Thirty two learners attended An Cosán's Further Education Awards ceremony in The Russell Centre, Tallaght on Saturday 30th November to receive QQI awards in Community Care, Community Development and Business Administration with Digital Skills.

Based in Jobstown, Tallaght, the mission of An Cosán, Ireland's largest community education provider, is to empower people through education and break the cycle of poverty. All awardees of the Level 5 courses have completed a two-year journey to gain their professional qualification. Speaking at the awards ceremony, An Cosán's Deputy CEO, Anne Genockey, said that "for some it wasn't always an easy journey". The learners faced a myriad of challenges which they surmounted to gain their professional qualifications. Challenges cited that learner's faced included lacking digital skills, juggling assignment deadlines with family or carer commitments, health issues, depression, anxiety, and securing work experience. But despite all the challenges faced, Ms Genockey reminded them that the Awards event

is a celebration of both their journey and their achievements: "because you stuck with it, in spite of all of these challenges and you should be really proud of yourselves!".

The graduates were joined for the celebration by their proud tutors, families and friends. Valerie Hogg, Adult Education Officer of Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board (DDLETB) also attended. Expressing gratitude to DDLETB for their continuing support of community education programmes at An Cosán, Ms Genockey said their support is "essential in providing the learner supports required to run these programmes and achieve these outcomes for learners."

Lisa Keating, who graduated with a QQI Level 5 award in 'Business Administration with Digital Skills', received a standing ovation from the audience for sharing her moving learner journey speech. Lisa spoke about how, upon returning to live in Ireland from the UK with her children, she didn't know where she was going: "when I walked into An Cosán the light shone on me and my path would become clear". Lisa started her learning

journey on the Return to Learning course, and then went on to complete a learning module in Communications; "and then the big step, the step that would change everything for me," she shared, "was when I started on the Business Administration with Digital Skills course". Lisa also shared how she secured a learner work placement with Bank of America and whilst there met lecturer and author of 'Poor', Katriona O'Sullivan, who was visiting the bank to speak to work placement participants.

Lisa said: "I came from poverty just like her, and I know now that I am 'that woman' that she talks about, and from me, raising my voice, she was quick to ask me to join her admin team".

Lisa's children have been inspired by their mother's learning journey. "The boys see me working hard, studying hard, and they know that we're in it together, studying together, coming together as a family, believing in the power of education. I say to them 'If mammy can do it, then you can do it' and you know what, they believe me". "And they're not the only ones," she continued. "Not



Pictured Anne Genockey, Deputy CEO, An Cosan with Marija Knezevic. Pic credit: Lorraine O'Sullivan

too long ago I was down the shops, and I got talking to the girl there, and I told her my story. Do you know where she is now? She's started doing the same course at An Cosán as I did". Lisa says the dark days of the past are

firmly behind her now. "The future is so bright, standing here today, graduating, sharing my story... I'm looking forward to the New Year now, and all it will bring. This is going to be my first Christmas with no dark cloud

over my head" she said. "It's a good feeling. I'm free now, I'm graduating, and I know I'm going to make something of myself. That potential was always in me, but it was An Cosán that lifted me up and let me find it".



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**MOTORING LIFE WITH****VW ID.7 IS A HIGH-TECH ROAD-TRIP CHAMPION**

**By Breda Corrigan**

Volkswagen's latest electric family saloon is the strikingly-designed ID.7. Like all VW ID. models, the ID.7 is built on the VW groups' MEB electric vehicle architecture. Loaded with new technology, it has a spacious interior, and offers both a 77kWh and 86kWh battery capacity, depending on which model is selected. It is almost five metres long from bumper to bumper, and a little over 2 metres in width, with a swooping roof that makes it look slick and sporty from every angle. Striking Silhouette.

Despite the fact that the ID.7 has the lowest roof of any of the VW ID. electric models, inside the cabin there is plenty of space, with ample legroom and headroom for up to 5 occupants. Helping to make the cabin more airy is a model-dependent, full-length glass roof with smart glass, where the layers of glass in the sunroof can be electronically switched between opaque and clear via a slider in the roof. The spacious, upmarket cabin is dominated by a 15.0-inch colour touchscreen, mounted high up on the dash. Underneath are some touch-sensitive buttons, which are backlit so you can see what you're doing at night. The software operates a lot like a smartphone, there is a configurable homepage with various widgets, and two rows of shortcut keys that can be swapped out to give quicker access to the functions mostly used.

The massive central touchscreen is complimented by a narrow driver information display behind the wheel. This shows the important information relating to speed, range and warnings, while other

functions such as navigation instructions can be viewed through the head-up display. Material and build quality throughout the cabin is excellent. The front seats have been certified by the German Campaign for Healthy Backs (AGR) and are multi-adjustable, with four-way lumbar support, and an extendable seat base to help support longer legs. They are also heated, and come with a massage function as standard. Storage is good with large door pockets which are felt-lined so that items in them won't rattle. There is also a large cubby under the central armrest, while the two hideaway covers in the centre console conceal a pair of cupholders, two USB-C ports and a wireless charging pad. Boot space is also generous with a 532-litre capacity, increasing to 1,586 litres when the rear seats are folded.

#### **Impressive Driving Range.**

The entry-level Pro Plus (rear-wheel drive) uses a 77kWh (usable) battery pack, the same as what is available in the ID.4 and ID.5, but because of the sloped shape of the ID.7 it offers better efficiency, and has an range of up to 616km. There is an 86kWh (usable) battery pack as standard in the Pro S Plus (rear-wheel drive) and the GTX (all-wheel drive) models, with both models having a potential real-world range of 702km and 585km respectively. Rapid charging is possible at up to 170kW for the 77kWh Pro model. The 86kWh Pro S and GTX models up the charging speed to 200kW for even faster charging ability. VW claims a 10-80% refill in either version is possible in under 30 minutes. Anyone who has a 7.4kW wall-box

charger at home should be able to refill a flat battery (0-100%) in a little over 12 hours for the Pro version, and just under 14 hours for the Pro S and GTX variants.

#### **Test Car Details.**

My test car was an ID.7 Pro Plus finished in Glacier White paintwork. Standard equipment includes a 15-inch colour touchscreen, keyless entry and ignition, heated front seats and steering wheel, 19-inch alloy wheels, a head-up display, adaptive cruise control, automatic high-beam Matrix LED headlights with dynamic beam control, massaging front seats, three-zone climate control and an automated parking system, 'swerve support' automated braking and steering assistance, pedestrian and cyclist detection, blind-spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, semi-automated lane changing, lane-keeping steering, road-sign recognition, predictive speed limiter and a 360-degree surround-view camera system. Optional equipment fitted to my test car included a panoramic glass roof, 20-inch alloy wheels, and an interior 'style package plus pack', which includes ventilated front seats, heated rear seats, front and rear curtain airbags, a centre airbag and a Harmon Kardon sound system. Performance is sufficient, getting from 0-100km/h in just 6.5 seconds (6.6 seconds for the heavier Pro S version) with 545Nm of torque providing the car with instant acceleration from the get-go. The ID.7 is a refined and quiet car with a good driving position and an intuitively responsive accelerator pedal, while the steering is precise and well-

weighted. There are no regenerative brake paddles, but by twisting the drive selector into 'B' mode, the regenerative braking function is greatly enhanced. It is quite strong, but it doesn't go all the way down to a full stop (commonly known as one-pedal-drive). The suspension is soft and compliant, which allows it cope well with speed bumps, potholes and any uneven surfaces. With the appropriate suspension setting selected, the ID.7 remains remarkably composed, but it never loses its feeling of supreme agility. Impressively, tyre, road and wind noise remains minimal - even at motorway speeds, and this ensures that the occupants within the car experience a near-silent experience on every journey.

#### **Verdict, Price & Warranty.**

The ID.7 is highly commendable, zero-emission, family car, that is practical, remarkably quiet and comfortable too. It offers more space and more rolling refinement than many of its direct rivals, yet it dramatically undercuts similarly sized, but more premium competitors in terms of price. The car drives very nicely, and it performs with intuitive ease, while strong ergonomics and high levels of comfort make every journey pleasurable. The ID.7 has received a full five-star safety rating from Euro NCAP with impressive scores in the adult occupant protection category. Prices start at €56,490 for the ID.7 Pro Plus, with motor tax costing just €120 per annum. Like all VW's the ID.7 comes with a 3-year/100,000km warranty, with the battery warranty covering 8-years or 160,000km - whichever occurs first.



# VISION IRELAND CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS AT THE FIRST-EVER VISION STAR AWARDS

Vision Ireland hosted its first-ever Vision Star Awards, in a spectacular event that celebrated the outstanding contributions of its volunteers. With passion, energy, and a sense of community, the event was a landmark for Vision Ireland, marking the first charity awards ceremony of this size and scale. The celebration recognised the pivotal role volunteers play in supporting Vision Ireland's mission to empower individuals with visual impairments and sight loss.

The event was attended by a host of notable guests, including Olympian Peter Ryan, Joe Neville, Mayor of Kildare, Jean McCabe - CEO of Retail Excellence and Julia Edwards - Head of Outreach at Charity Retail Association who each presented awards and commended the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to Vision Ireland's cause.

The event was filled with emotion and admiration as volunteers from across the island of Ireland were celebrated for their invaluable contributions.

Craig Holman, Volunteer Experience Manager, who hosted the event, said, "It is an absolute honour to celebrate and recognise the incredible work of our volunteers, not only in our stores but within their communities as well. Their dedication and kindness are what keep Vision Ireland moving forward, and today has been a truly inspiring day filled with energy and appreciation for every single one of them."

The event featured five awards: The Happy Whispered Award, recognizing volunteers who spread joy and foster community connections. The Cup of Kindness Award, celebrating those who create a warm and

welcoming environment. The Reliability Rockstar Award, honouring volunteers who provide unwavering support to their teams. The Smooth Operator Award, recognizing excellence in the smooth running of store operations. And The Merchandising Maestro Award, celebrating creativity and visual flair in store displays.

Aaron Mullaniff, Chief Services Officer, emphasised the importance of volunteers in enabling Vision Ireland to fulfil its mission: "Our volunteers are the core reason that Vision Ireland can reach the 296,000 people living with visual impairment or blindness across Ireland. It is through their commitment, passion, and dedication that we can offer our essential services. This event is crucial to remind our volunteer heroes that everyone in services recognises and deeply appreciates everything they



*Pictured Beverly Scallan Chief Commercial Officer Vision Ireland Retail and Tracey Kavanagh Walkinstown Shop Manager - Presenting Happy Whisperer Award*

do."

The sentiment was echoed by Beverly Scallan, Chief Commercial Officer, who added, "Without our volunteers, there would be no Vision Ireland Retail - it's that simple. Their contributions are not only vital to the success of our

retail operations but also to our overall mission and purpose. Today has been nothing short of amazing, as we reflect on the incredible work they do each and every day."

The Vision Star Awards is set to become an annual tradition, continuing to shine

a light on the volunteers who give their time, energy, and hearts to Vision Ireland.

For those interested in volunteering and making a difference, Vision Ireland offers many opportunities to get involved. Learn more at <https://vi.ie/supporting-us/volunteer/>.

## LOCAL TEENAGERS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS IRISH LANGUAGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Nine local teenagers are among a group of talented

young leaders from across Dublin who have been

selected to participate in a groundbreaking Irish language leadership program

aimed at strengthening the use of Irish in communities across the county.

The program is being coordinated by Ógras and counts South Dublin County Council among its supporters as part of the Gaeilge365 programme. It is providing over 100 hours of mentorship and support to participants to develop innovative projects to promote the Irish language.

Over the course of 12 weeks, the nine South Dublin teenagers will be supported to develop exciting new projects as Gaeilge in their community. The South Dublin participants taking part in this programme are Alessia Moran, Lily Stewart, Kara Ní Laighneanáin (Coláiste Chillian), Adam Ó Bradaigh, Matthew Ó Dúinn, Max Nesbitt (Coláiste Cois Life/Na Gaeil Óga), Ellen Ní Bhróin, Saoirse Nic Carthaigh (Coláiste de hÍde), and Naomi O'Leary (Lucan Community College). They are working on a diverse range of projects including content

creation, an intensive GAA course, contemporary music concerts, baking competitions and a play club for children who are newly arrived to Ireland, all supporting the use of the Irish language.

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Baby Pereppadan mentioned "it is great to see young people engaging with the Irish language in their communities, bringing it to life in innovative and exciting ways".

For further information on Todhchaí Geal Gaelach and the projects these young leaders are working on, please contact [eolas@ogras.ie](mailto:eolas@ogras.ie)



*Pictured Cllr. Liona O'Toole and Lorna Maxwell Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management with Muireann Ní Cheannabháin Irish Language Officer SDCC and Daithí de Buitléir Programme Manager Gaeilge 365 and students.*

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# THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION CALL ON PEOPLE IN DUBLIN FOR HISTORICAL MATERIALS FOR ARCHIVES

The Camogie Association has launched a nationwide appeal for historical materials to contribute to the GAA Library and Archives. The items required includes, but is not limited to; minute books, convention reports, match programmes and souvenir programmes (i.e. opening of grounds), publications (books, magazines and annuals), old photographs and letters and diaries relating to Camogie.

The appeal forms part of the Camogie Association's Newman Fellowship Project

at University College Dublin. The Fellowship project on the history of Camogie was launched to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the founding of Camogie, and will document the unique place of Camogie in Irish life since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Brian Molloy, Uachtarán of the Camogie Association said "The Newman fellowship project provides a unique opportunity for us to gather together all aspects of our Association's proud history and document it for future

generations. I would ask that everyone who has or had any connections with Camogie over the past 120 years to take the time over Christmas to bring together any materials they can find and share them with us so we can collectively preserve the rich and detailed story of Camogie."

If anyone has information to share, GAA Archivist Adam Staunton can be contacted at [astaunton@crokepark.ie](mailto:astaunton@crokepark.ie) or 01 8192350.

Since its establishment in 2007, the GAA Library and

Archive has been collecting the publications, records and archives of the GAA at central, provincial and county board levels. The GAA Library and Archive collects material that contains information on the GAA, Camogie Association and LGFA. This includes material written about the GAA and Gaelic games, (books, magazines etc.) and material created by the GAA (records and archives).

The specific type of material collected by the GAA Library and Archive includes administrative

records (minute books and convention reports in particular), publications (books and articles), magazines, annuals, photographs, posters and

flyers, GAA newspapers and match programmes. Find out everything you need to know about the GAA Library and Archive collection process on [www.crokepark.ie](http://www.crokepark.ie).

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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

Oh glorious St. Anne you are filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer. Heavily burdened with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at your feet and humbly beg of you to take the present intention which I recommend to you in your special care. Please recommend it to your daughter,

the Blessed Virgin Mary, and place it before the throne of Jesus, so that He may bring it to a Happy issue. Continue to intercede for me until my request is granted. But, above all, obtain for me the grace one day to see my God face to face, and with you and Mary and all the saints to praise and bless Him for all eternity. Amen. M.M

Dear Saint 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 blessings from God. 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 published immediately and after 3 days the favour will be granted. M.M.

"Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints" O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever

full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. M.M

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. O.R

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. F.R

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. S.R

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. L.R

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](mailto:info@newsgroup.ie).

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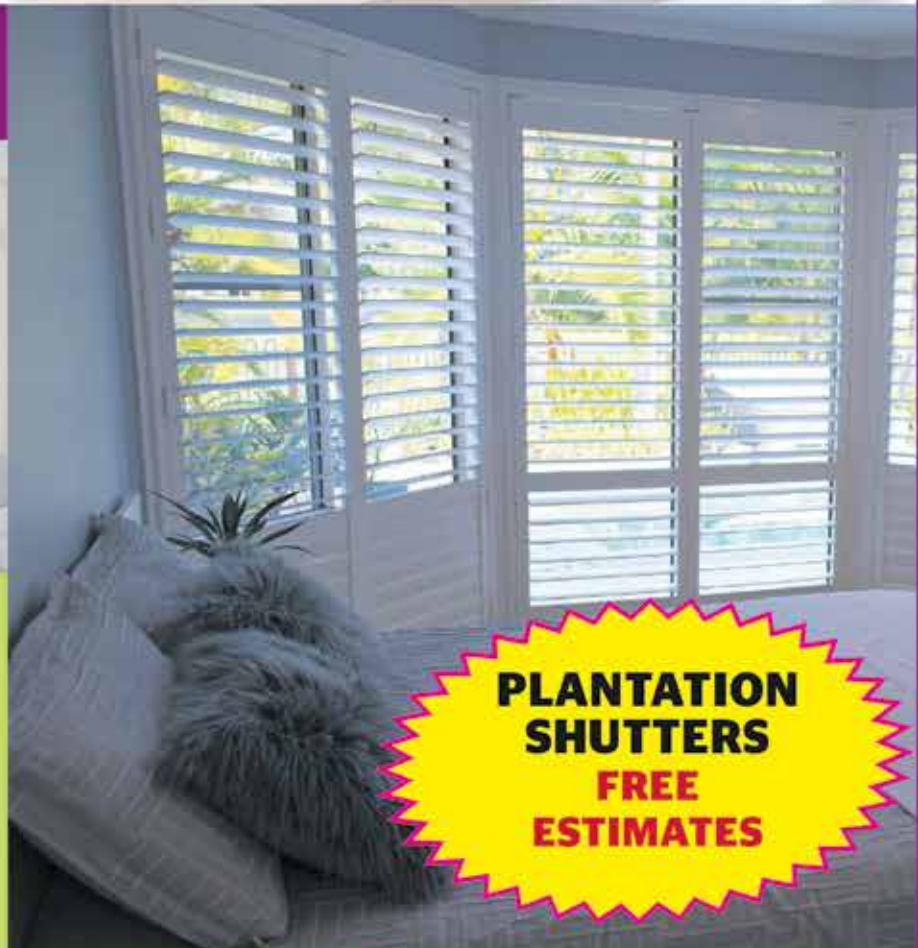
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