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20th February 2023

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THOUSANDS OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS ASSAULTED

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has called on the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly and the HSE to do more to protect our healthcare workers after the Oireachtas Health Committee heard of just how frequent and widespread assaults on healthcare workers are. Between January 2021 and October 2022, there were 5,593 reported assaults against nursing and midwifery staff alone.

Teachta Crowe said “The stories that the Oireachtas Health Committee heard from healthcare workers and their unions yesterday were staggering. “Between January 2021 and October 2022, there were 5,593 reported assaults against nursing

and midwifery staff alone. This is a mind-boggling figure. At least 10 a day. And many assaults do not go reported as workers have no faith that their reports will be investigated or they are simply too busy to file a report in the first place.

“It’s simply not good enough that we are throwing healthcare workers to the wolves and then we wonder why the recruitment and retention situation has reached such an epic crisis. “Hospitals must be safe, secure environments where both those in need of medical care and those who provide it can do so without the threat of violence or harassment.

“Bizarrely, some medical staff

victims of assault are not entitled to the same special supports and paid leave as other workers, creating a hierarchy of how one healthcare worker is treated than another.

This two-tier system is simply wrong and should not be allowed to continue. “I am calling on the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly and the HSE to invest in greater security, abolish the two-tier leave system for staff who have been assaulted, and seriously address the recruitment and retention crisis.

Almost every problem in our health service boils down to a fundamental lack of staff and Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil have simply failed to address this issue.”

LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK 2023



Local Enterprise Week 2023 takes place from 6th till the 10th of March. Pictured are Danny McLoughlin (SDCC Chief Executive), John Kearns, Cllr. Emma Murphy Mayor of South Dublin, Peter Byrne (South Dublin Chamber), Jason Frehill (SDCC Director of SDCC Economic Enterprise & Tourism Development, Laura Leonard & Tom Rooney.

FINE GAEL ★

Have a Query? get in touch with my office

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Local Policing Forum Meeting

Opportunity to raise issues relating to policing in the **Rathcoole, Newcastle and Saggart** areas.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Rathcoole Community Centre

7pm

Cllr. Shirley O'HARA

087 174 9419 | sohara@cillrs.sdublincoco.ie | @CllrShirleyOHara

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS TO RECEIVE €730,000 UNDER COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMME

Dublin Mid West's local TD has welcomed a new funding model under the Community Services Programme which will see eight local community groups benefit from additional funding of over €730,000 combined.

Deputy Emer Higgins welcomed the initiative which is designed to support community-based businesses, social enterprises and organisations providing local services as well as creating employment opportunities for disadvantaged people.

Deputy Higgins said, "I am delighted that eight of our local community organisations in Dublin Mid-West will benefit from this initiative.

"These organisations serve a significant role locally, providing members of the community with a place to socialise, learn and meet new people as well as vital supports for vulnerable groups.

"It is wonderful to see these brilliant community centres benefiting from this funding, especially

during these times where the cost of living has posed many challenges for homes and businesses, and I hope this investment shows that these challenges continue to be acknowledged," added Deputy Higgins.

"The recipients of this funding include Bawnogue Youth And Community Centre (€46,066.00), Quarryvale Community Resource Centre (€46,066.00), Quarryvale Community and Youth Centre (€57,582.50), Startbright Early Learning Centres (€80,615.50), Knockmitten Youth And Community Centre (€46,066.00), Clondalkin Community Recycling Initiative (€223,297.00) and Rathcoole Community Council (€46,066.00) as well as the Lucan Disability Action Group (€191,747.50).

"It's wonderful to see such investment for so many groups in our community and I hope to see more continued support in the future," concluded Deputy Higgins.



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FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT IS ON 27TH FEBRUARY – 12TH MARCH

Cllr Francis Timmons commented “I would encourage people to buy at least one Fairtrade item during Fairtrade Fortnight and to learn more about Fairtrade”. Cllr Timmons said “Fairtrade is kept going in Clondalkin by Paula Galvin and students of Clonburris

National school, myself and Paula hope the organised events will encourage and promote Fairtrade”

Cllr Timmons says “ For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, hundreds of individuals, companies and groups across

the world including Ireland come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Fairtrade is our chance to help those exploited and underpaid. By choosing Fairtrade you are choosing to help some of the poorest in the world and choosing the world you want, Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow and create the things we love. It’s all about making trade fair.”

Cllr Timmons concluded “When the market price is higher than the Fairtrade Minimum Price, producers should receive the current

market price or the price negotiated at contract signing.

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Clondalkin Fairtrade Town presents the following events for Fairtrade Fortnight! (27 February - 12

March). Events will include 1st March - Fairtrade and Climate Justice: A Talk by Paula Galvin 7pm -8pm Clondalkin Library. 7th March - Business event on Fairtrade in Clondalkin Civic Office. 9th March - Fairtrade bake off @ 7pm in Áras Chrónáin, Music by Local Vocals and Taylor Dowling, Bring your

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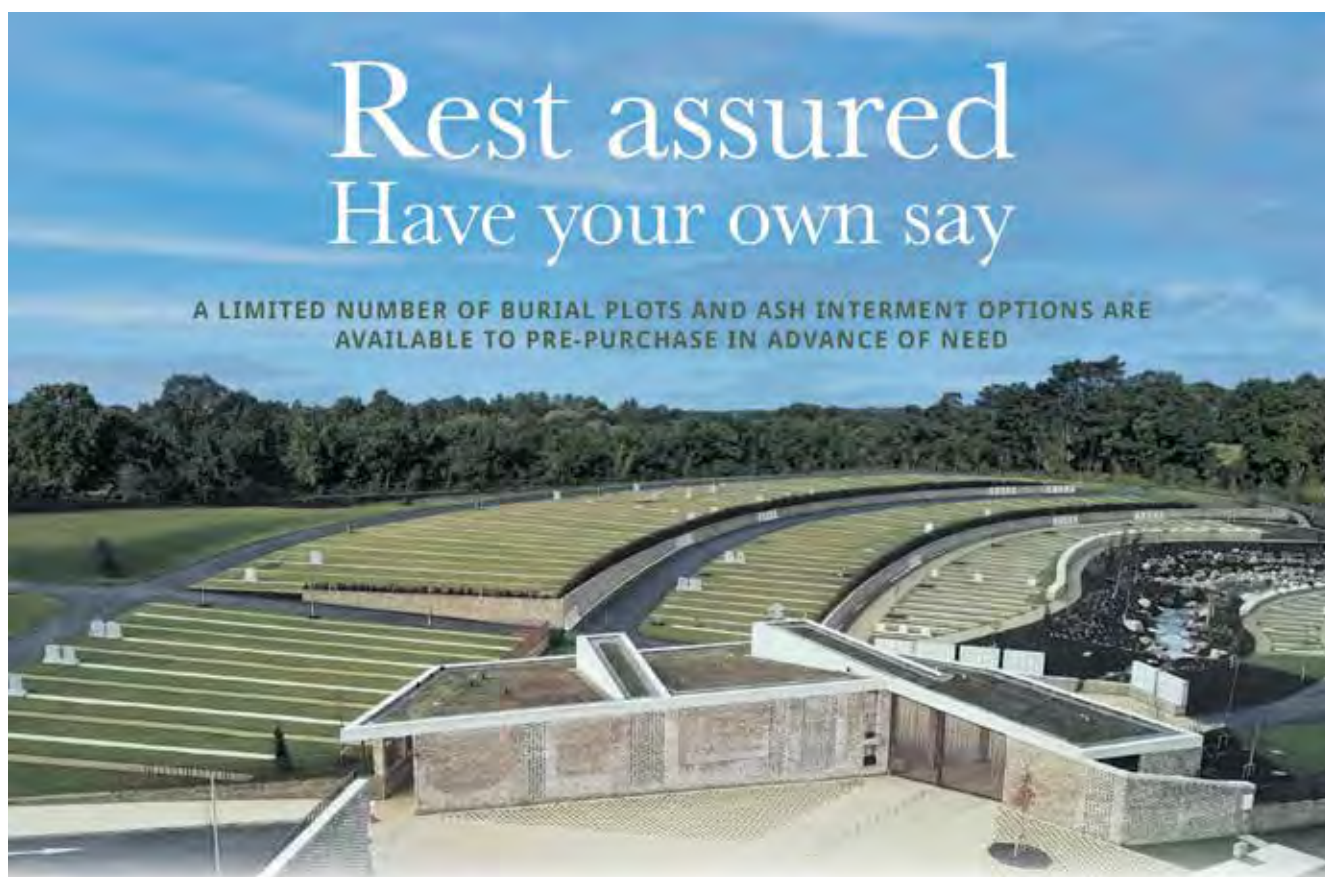
A resolution has been reached on a right-of-way dispute relating to the development on the old Vincent Byrne site in Palmerstown. Unfortunately, any resolution is unlikely to address the fact that this development will only add to the traffic problem in the area, according to David Gardiner, Workers’ Party representative in Palmerstown-Fonthill.

Gardiner said “The BusConnects plan will see drivers forbidden from turning left towards the city centre when exiting the village via Kennelsfort Road Lower, meaning all traffic bound for the city centre will use the exit at the Applegreen end of the Old Lucan Road. This could potentially lead to congestion as far back as Aldi, where the right-of-way exit from the new development is located.”

“This is quite alarming

if you are a resident in any part of Palmerstown village. It is only one such concern that people have in relation to the Vincent Byrne site development when it comes to infrastructure and facilities.” “Additionally, it must be asked how An Bord Pleanála deemed it appropriate to grant planning permission to the development in the first place, considering that this dispute relating to one of the two entrances referenced in the planning application is only being resolved now.”

“It is clear that an overpass is needed in Palmerstown. This would allow traffic coming from the west to the city centre to flow freely, it would allow people in Palmerstown to get on to the bypass with ease and, by keeping that traffic largely separate from purely local traffic, it would make it easier for people to drive from the village into the rest of the Palmerstown.”



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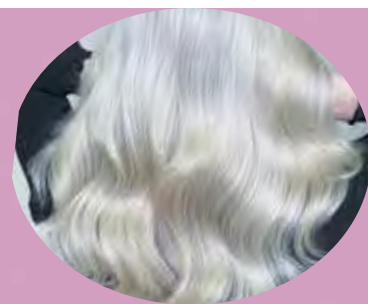
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RAMS VISIT DAIL EIREANN

“Oh what a wonderful morning” and as the RAMS in Rhythm sang this song so many times, they were treated to a wonderful morning, by Local TD, Deputy Emer Higgins, with a visit to Dáil Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street.

Smiles all around. Matt Dowling of RAMS added “A photo shoot on the steps of Leinster House is a must for anyone visiting Leinster House. Another opportunity for the RAMS to have a photo shoot, after our last visit there in 2011.

and introduced us to many of the dining room personal. We were all seated in a very pleasant area, and served by excellent professional staff. We were served a very pleasant light lunch, and much banter was heard among all our members. So thank you to the Chef de Cuisine. Some of our members pointing to all the “Dignitaries “ who were also dining”.

Matt concluded “Following

lunch, and bidding our farewell and thanks to the dining room staff, we were again greeted by the usher, who gave us all a wonderful tour of the house, a visit to the Live Dáil chambers, where the Dáil was in session. It was a very unique experience for us all. Following the Dáil session, we then visited the lower chamber, Seanád, which too was a lovely experience. Our Host, Deputy Emer Higgins, was in the chambers, as we made our exit, and we are very grateful for a wonderful day, and an excellent experience”.

The RAMS in Rhythm are back singing & performing again, and are very pleased to accept an invitation from Deputy Higgins to perform and sing in Corkagh Park, Clondalkin for Pieta House in May 2023.

Future date for the RAMS in Rhythm singing 26th of February in Newbridge 2pm - 4pm, 15th March in Peamount from 11am, 16th March in Tallaght Hospital 1 -2 pm and on the 18th of March in Avoca Rathcoole from 12 noon.

A group of 11 members of RAMS in Rhythm, were invited guests of Deputy Emer Higgins on the day, and were met and greeted by Emer at the main entrance.

On arrival, we were guided to the Dáil restaurant by the house usher, and Emer, as special guests on the day. The Maître’d greeted us all personally to the restaurant,



Pictured Paddy Becton, Liam O'Donnell, Amby Moloney, Sean Keane, Matt Dowling, Jim Dwan, Ciarán Dowling, Brian Tierney, Lorcan Ryan, Ray O'Haire, Mario Aprile with Emer Higgins TD.

KISHOGUE TRAIN STATION FINALLY SCHEDULED TO OPEN

A statement by Irish Rail in recent weeks confirmed that Kishogue train station which has remained out of use for 14 years will be opened in December 2023. The statement was welcomed by local representatives who have been calling for the opening of the station for years. The station will need major refurbishment works at a cost of €3.8 million.

People Before Profit TD for Dublin Midwest Gino Kenny commented: “It’s great news that this station is finally scheduled to be opened this year. It never made any sense to keep it closed. There are many people living in the Lucan area who could have used the train for their commute if it had been available. Hopefully the opening of the station will help both existing and new residents and alleviate some of the traffic in the Lucan area.”

Clr Madeleine Johansson commented: “I really hope that December 2023 will be the date of the opening of Kishogue train station. During the discussions for the Clonburris SDZ the NTA said that the station would be opened in 2020 but this never happened. If we’re serious about getting people out of their cars and onto public transport then we need provide good reliable services for people. The opening of the new station and the coming Dart+ project are a first step towards that.”

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TOURISM EVENT AND FESTIVAL GRANT 2023 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The Tourism Event and Festival Grant is targeted at organisations and organisers who plan to hold a public event or festival within South Dublin County Council's administrative area.

The aim of the scheme is to fund innovative events or festivals to add value to the County's tourism product Dublin's Outdoors and grow the visitor economy across key priority areas including culture, food, sports and activity. The maximum grant available is €7,500 and directly linked to the number of spectators from outside the county or overseas.

"South Dublin County Council is delighted to open applications for the Tourism Event and Festival Grant 2023." said Jason Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development at South Dublin County Council. "After an increase in activity in the Irish tourism sector in 2022, it's about building on that and supporting sustainable tourism growth in the County. The scheme aims to

support event organisers to develop events in the County, attracting both domestic and overseas visitors."

Since 2018 the scheme has provided almost €138,000 in funding supports to events taking place across the County. Grant recipient Dave Heffernan, of Shamrock Bricks says, "Dublin Brickcon was delighted to receive the grant from SDCC. It allowed us to bring the show to Dublin, giving a large number of lego builders, some who would identify as

Neuro diverse, a platform to showcase their Lego building skills across the South Dublin Community attracting guests from as far away as France and the UK."

Up to €50,000 has been allocated for this year's scheme. Applications are now being accepted. To apply for the scheme, event organisers can complete an online application form on sdcc.ie. Queries in relation to the scheme should be emailed to econdev@sdblincoco.ie.



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SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY TOURISM STRATEGY - HAVE YOUR SAY!

KPMG Future Analytics and Toposophy, on behalf of South Dublin County Council, are currently preparing the next Tourism Strategy for South Dublin County. "The way we interact with the world around us - how we live, the way we work, and how we experience places both old and new - has changed significantly since the turn of the decade", Associate Director at KPMG Future Analytics James Chilton said. "These changes are no more apparent than in tourism. The relationship we have with tourism attractions and experiences, both in our area and those

afar, are becoming an ever more important part of the way we live our daily lives."

"Since our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, a renewed sense of value in our local areas and what our local area means to us has revitalised many cities, towns, and villages across Ireland. The pride we have in our places, and most importantly our people, is what gives our County its identity and its purpose. Because of this, ensuring the County develops in a way which is inclusive, sustainable and prosperous for all is a key ambition for us

in charting the best possible future for our County and its people", said Ralph McGarry, Administrative Officer with South Dublin County Council's County Promotion Unit.

As part of this, the Council is looking to hear from people, communities, businesses and visitors of South Dublin County - on what is felt would most benefit the future development of tourism in South Dublin County, for residents, businesses and visitors alike. To do this, KPMG Future Analytics and Toposophy have created a short but engaging online survey for all those interested in the County and its future tourism offering and potential. Completing this survey will provide the Council with invaluable knowledge, information, and ideas on South Dublin County - essential to develop a Tourism Strategy for the County, which is reflective of the views of all locals, visitors and businesses alike, and is representative of the County's values.



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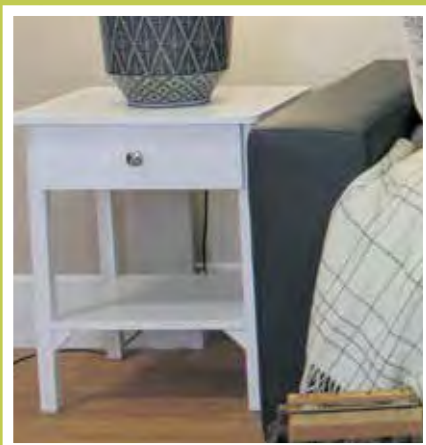
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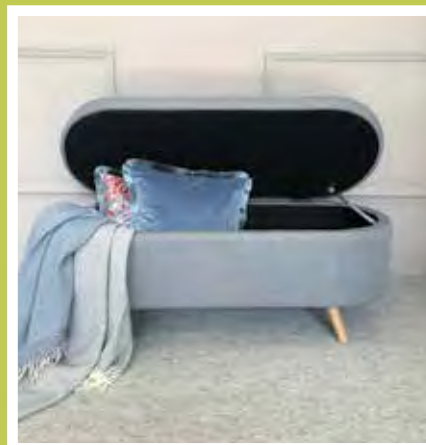
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AHMADIYYA MUSLIM WOMEN ASSOCIATION CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

On Sunday, the 5th of February, Ahmadi Muslim women from all over Ireland celebrated 100 years since the establishment of their women's organization. Over 129 women gathered in St Finians Community Hall in Newcastle Dublin and celebrated this historic event with the Irish Community. Among the distinguished guests were Cllr. Joana Tuffy, Cllr. Liona O'Toole, and women from Collective Ireland Lucan and the ICA Lucan.

During the event, the recitation of the Holy Qur'an was presented with English and Irish translation, followed by a welcome note by the President of the community, Tayyaba Mashood and a presentation which served as an introduction to the community and the work carried out by the women's organisation in Ireland. The celebration included a

delicious Asian dinner and various stalls for everyone to enjoy, such as the henna tattoo stall, a cake stall with a huge section of home-baked cakes and deserts, and a souvenir stall that included cups, badges, key chains, pens, and scarves.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, Lajna Ima'illah (Maids of Allah) can be traced back to India 100 years ago, and now it is established in over 200 countries. The women's organisation was formed to give women a voice in the administrative matters of the community and to create awareness among them about their role and status in society.

The current Head of the organization, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who resides in the UK, is an advocate of human rights and women's empowerment.

Cllr. Joanna Tuffy was among the many guests who took the time to congratulate all the Ahmadiyya women on the 100-year anniversary of their organisation's establishment and said to them 'I wanted to commend the women for the work they are doing in the community to integrate and network with other members of the community. I want to commend them for all the work in terms of the charitable works that they organise and the social events as well, and well as for them as individuals, in terms of their contribution towards society and our community be it in the home or in all the different walks of life, professions and careers, technology, education, healthcare and community work and voluntary work'.

The locals attending were also very thankful to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for the wonderful evening. Melissa McCabe and Caroline Murphy from Newcastle commented 'We had a lovely, peaceful, informative, and fun day and felt very welcome, and we both learned a lot about your organisation and were very impressed by the charity events and empowerment of women. We wish you every continued success'.

The AMWA has been actively organising and taking part in charitable works throughout the years. The motto of the community is "Love for All, Hatred for None," and throughout the country, AMWA members have been continuously striving to spread peace, love, and harmony through their volunteer and integration efforts, like giving hampers and donations on Women's Day and New Years to women's shelter homes and care centres, donating masks and care packages to hospitals, organising

Interfaith and Peace Symposiums, etc. They have been arranging fundraisers like the Meena Bazar every year to support local charities. Last year, they raised 700 for Barretstown and 300 for Lucan Disability

Action Group. AMWA plans to continue their charitable work and integration efforts to promote love and harmony. To show gratitude to God on completion of 100 years of their association, the members of AMWA

Ireland have pledged to donate ten solar wells in Mali, Africa.

To end this celebration of the event, gift bags containing souvenirs were given to all the guests.



Cllr. Liona O'Toole, Judith Edmonds (Womens Collective Ireland, Lucan), Tayyaba Mashood (President AMWA), Nudrat Malik (Event Coordinator AMWA), Cllr. Joanna Tuffy

CALLS FOR FULL RESTORATION OF TALLAGHT WEST BUS SERVICE

Local Councillor, Charlie O'Connor, has repeated his calls that everything possible be done to ensure that the normal Dublin Bus schedule be restored. The service to Tallaght West estates is curtailed as a response to regular anti-social and crime incidents which have grown over the past two months.

Charlie O'Connor said that the issues are being raised at the meetings of the Dublin Bus/Luas Community Forum whose membership includes the Gardai, Dublin Bus management and unions, Council officials, community reps and public reps. A number of special meetings have been held recently and efforts are being made to deal with the whole issue including passenger and driver safety.

Charlie O'Connor, who is a member of the Forum, says that they are all working hard to deal with the curtailment which is of great concern to the community. He praised the efforts of the Gardai and said the need of the Bus curtailment is now the clear target for the Forum members.

Cllr. Mick Duff

Independent Councillor Tallaght

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THE CAMPAIGN TO GET SOUTH DUBLIN READING RETURNS

Libraries throughout South Dublin County are taking part in Ireland Reads, a campaign to get the whole country reading this month in the lead up to a national day of reading on Saturday, February 25th. Irish libraries have teamed up with publishers, booksellers, authors, and others for the campaign, which is part of the government's Healthy Ireland programme and aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment. The campaign is asking everyone to 'squeeze in a

read' on Ireland Reads Day, Saturday, February 25.

The pledge to read can be made at www.irelandreads.ie where you can also see how much time has been pledged by the Irish public so far and sign up for reading reminders. The website also offers book recommendations suited to a person's interests and the time they have available. There are more than 1,500 recommendations from librarians all around the country for all interests and reading levels. A website user can simply enter their favourite type of book and how long they would like to read each day and the website will offer the perfect book suggestion and work out how long it will take to complete - so you can set yourself a challenge if you're finding it hard to get back to reading.

Campaign partners and libraries all over the country

will be running 'Ireland Reads' initiatives and events throughout February in the build up to Saturday, February 25. To find out more about what might be happening in your local library this month, visit www.southdublinlibraries.ie or follow your local library on Facebook. A number of well-known campaign ambassadors are on board to help promote the campaign, including Marian Keyes, Joe Duffy, Colm Tóibín, Rick O'Shea, Liz Nugent and more. You can find out what reading means to them and why they support the campaign at www.irelandreads.ie.

Find out about all that's happening for Ireland Reads, get book recommendations and take the pledge to read on Saturday, February 25th at www.irelandreads.ie. Joining the library is free of charge, all you need is your photo ID and proof of address.

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LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK 2023

Small businesses and budding entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to sample 16 events aimed at helping them to start or grow their business as part of this year's Local Enterprise Week in South Dublin.

The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices nationwide, supported by Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities, takes place from the 6th-10th March this year across the country. While there are hundreds of events taking place nationally during the week, including 5 Spotlight events that are available for free online, there are also plenty of events in South Dublin open to all to attend, the majority of which are in person, with great presenters and great networking opportunities.

The programme includes events with a focus on business trends, together with development and growth opportunities for specific sectors including Food, Creative Industry and Social Enterprise and with topics for small business to concentrate on key areas of their business, which can make a real difference to their future ambitions. This may be in relation to digitalization or becoming more sustainable, or those who have ambition to grow

internationally and begin to find new markets. There is also the opportunity to get expert advice on what steps you need to get started if you are thinking of starting your own business as well as opportunities to meet with experts to discuss key areas of business from financial skills, raising funds and boosting your business online.

A flavour of those taking part in Local Enterprise Week includes keynote presentations from former Kilkenny Team Manager Brian Cody on 'Building and Sustaining a Winning Team in Business' and with the growth in the Creative and Digital business sector in the county, Lorraine Bowen together with some of our fantastic creative individuals will tell you about what it takes to grow a business in this sector. James Burke from Dublin Food Circle will be joined by a panel of experts [from Bord Bia and Tesco] to discuss Future Food Trends 2023 and John Kearns from Partas and a panel which includes Carol Gibbons, Enterprise Ireland and Angela Ruttledge, Food Cloud will examine the model on Building the Business of Social Enterprise [and opportunities for scaling and international expansion].

Tom Rooney, Head of

Enterprise South Dublin said "Local Enterprise Week is a fantastic marker in the road for any business. It's an opportunity to take stock of where you are, see where you can grow, where you can innovate or maybe become more sustainable and see what resources are available on your doorstep. There is something for everyone and those who maybe always had that ambition to start on their own, or a great idea, this is the week to see how to get started and make it happen.

We have an incredible line up of presenters and business owners across our many events which have been organised in collaboration with some of our key business support partners in the county. There are hundreds of events taking place all over the country covering everything from exporting and digital to going green or growing that idea. We also have 5 National Spotlight events taking place online and open to everyone, that include experts from a range of industries. So online or on your doorstep, I would encourage everyone to check out the schedule of events and get involved."

Each of the 31 Local Enterprise Offices will be running a full programme of events in their area that

will tackle a variety of areas relevant to small businesses and starting up. The events are open to all, from budding entrepreneurs to established businesses and gives them the opportunity to get expert advice on key areas of business.

Deirdre O'Neill, Senior Regional Development Executive with Enterprise Ireland, said "Enterprise Ireland is delighted to support and be involved in Local Enterprise Week. Working closely with the Local Enterprise Offices across the year, this week is a chance for small businesses to focus on key areas, the areas where they can make a real difference for their future ambitions.

This may be in relation to digitalization or becoming more sustainable, or those who have ambition to grow internationally and begin to find new markets. If you are a business who wants to grow, internationalise or innovate, then there is something for you at Local Enterprise Week and we would encourage every small business out there to see what is happening in their area this year and take that next step".

Danny McLoughlin Chief Executive South Dublin County Council said "Local

Enterprise Week offers a great opportunity for anybody who wants to start or grow their business to get inspired and motivated. Events during the week will give you insights and add to your knowledge on important topics that can make a real difference to your business competitiveness. The week also puts a spotlight on the range of supports, advice and information available to businesses through their

Local Enterprise Office. We would urge everyone to make the most of the week and to remember that your Local Enterprise Office is also available year-round to help your business to thrive."

Details for all the events taking place across the country during Local Enterprise Week, from March 6th to 10th, are available at www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Week

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY ON 85 STEP-DOWN HOMES ON MILL LANE

Deputy Emer Higgins visited the site of Sallymills, a new Approved Housing Body development of 85 homes on Mill Lane which will be operated by Clúid Housing Association. The properties have been designed specifically for step-down living. One of the first developments of its kind in the country.



Pictured Deputy Emer Higgins TD and Liam Long



Pictured Sandra Hickey (South Dublin LEO Business Advisor), Tom Rooney (Head of Enterprise at South Dublin Local Enterprise Office), Cllr. Emma Murphy Mayor of South Dublin, Danny McLoughlin (SDCC Chief Executive)

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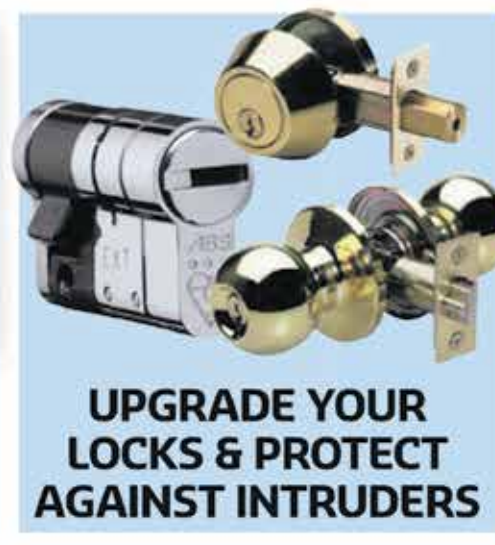
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ALL-NEW KIA NIRO PHEV SETS A NEW BENCHMARK



By Breda Corrigan

Kia's popular Niro crossover has been entirely redesigned from the ground up to meet the complex and diverse needs of today's environmentally-conscious car users. Two state-of-the-art electrified powertrains (Plug-In Hybrid and Full Electric), sustainable interior materials, and exceptional safety performance combine to ensure the all-new Niro surpasses customer expectations. The redesigned Niro is an intrinsic model in Kia's growing eco-friendly line-up, which will include 14 BEV (Battery Electric Vehicles) models by 2027. A perfect blend of form and function ensures that the new Niro provides a safe, family-friendly vehicle with favourable economic and environmental credentials that will encourage many people to take a meaningful first step into electrification.

Even More Spacious.

The new platform that underpins this second-generation car is longer than the previous model's, but the Niro still doesn't feel too large from behind the wheel. It has brought a huge improvement when it comes to interior space, however. Kia has also reduced the depth of the front seatbacks, so there is a lot more rear legroom than its predecessor. The old Niro was relatively cramped in the back, but that is not the case in

the new car. The new Niro is full of clever features, too. The old Niro had an extendable load cover, but the new car has a foldable parcel shelf that takes up less space when it is not in use. One reason for this is that there is no space to put a conventional load cover now, because Kia has created more boot space for this new car. Even though the sub battery is located under the boot floor (with the main battery located under the rear seats), there is still a respectable 358-litres of space available. When the need arises, the rear seatbacks can be folded to reveal up to 1,342-litres of usable space.

Two Trim Levels.

The new Niro PHEV is available in two trim levels, 'K3' and 'K4', both of which enjoy a suite of new safety systems that bring the latest advancements in protection to this family-friendly crossover. Standard equipment for the 'K3' includes 18" alloy wheels, LED headlights with bi-function projection, heated front seats, a 10.25" touchscreen navigation, Kia Connect Telematics, wireless phone charger, and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto with voice control. Safety features include Lane Keep Assist, Lane Follow Assist, Smart Cruise Control, and Blind-Spot Collision Avoidance. Upgrading to the 'K4' trim adds shift-by-wire functionality (rotary

dial for drive, reverse and park), power adjustable front seats, heated rear seats, driver heads-up display, a 10.25" LCD driver display screen, and a power tailgate.

Sharper & Sportier New Look.

The new Niro's exterior design looks sharper and sportier than before, and in keeping with Kia's fully-refreshed SUV model range it feels more modern and desirable than ever. Buyers looking to personalise their Niro can opt for a contrasting colour for the sleek side blades on the car's C-pillars if they so wish (K4-only). Premium-effect recycled materials adorn the cabin of the new Niro to underline its sustainable credentials. The dash and driver controls feature minimal clutter and smooth lines to ensure a distraction-free, yet intuitive, user experience.

Petrol/Electric Plug-In (PHEV).

The Niro PHEV benefits from Kia's Smartstream 1.6-litre GDI petrol engine paired with Kia's second-generation six-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Innovations on the second-generation GDI engine include low-friction ball bearings, gears optimised for transmission efficiency, and the removal of the reverse gear that saves 2.3kg alone. Reverse motion is instead drawn solely

from then electric motor, helping to eliminate tailpipe emissions during reverse manoeuvres. A 62kW e-motor results in combined maximum power of 183PS (180bhp) and provides an electric-only range covering up to 59km (WLTP combined driving cycle) of zero-emission journeys, adequate for most daily commutes. The Niro PHEV debuts Hyundai Motor Group's very first 5.5kWh high-volt Positive Temperature Coefficient (PTC) heater for Plug-In Hybrid models, enhancing electric-only performance in colder conditions. The self-regulated ceramic elements provide cabin heating to complement the car's heating core and ensure a continuous flow of warm air. The 11.1kWh Lithium-ion polymer battery in the Niro PHEV can be fully charged from empty in just under 3 hours, with the charging port located on the passenger side rear quarter panel.

Test Car.

My test car was a Niro PHEV 'K4', which was finished in elegant Interstellar Grey metallic paintwork, with stylish 18" two-tone alloy wheels. Producing 180bhp and 265Nm of torque, the petrol/electric hybrid powerplant can propel the car from 0-100km/h in just 9.8-seconds, on its way to a top speed of 161km/h (where permitted). The engine is nicely

muted when driving around town, and the car can get up to motorway speeds in a fuss-free manner. The light steering is a pleasure to use, while the handling is soft and comfortable, allowing the Niro to transport occupants to their destination in a calm and relaxed way. The combination of a heads-up display, blind spot warning lights in the door mirrors and straightforward driving controls, along with comfortable and supportive seats made every journey enjoyable. The Niro PHEV emits just 21g/km of CO₂, and is capable of consuming as little as 0.9l/100km when used with a fully charged battery at the start of every journey.

Pricing, Options & Warranty.

The all-new Kia Niro PHEV is so much better than its predecessor in virtually every area, it enjoys generous equipment levels, and it benefits from a spacious and comfortable cabin too.

The new Niro PHEV 'K3' is priced at €38,500 with the range-topping 'K4' priced at €41,500 (excluding delivery & related charges). Metallic paint is an additional €600 and a contrasting side blade on the car's C-pillars (K4 only) costs €700. All Kia cars are covered by a 7-year/150,000km warranty, which is transferrable between owners.

CRESCENT INFRASTRUCTURE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Crescent Infrastructure, Ireland's leading cabling infrastructure specialist, is thrilled to announce the launch of its rebranded website, www.ccl.ie.

The site is faster, easier to navigate, and most importantly, focused on providing the best experience for their website visitors. The website has been rebranded to not only highlight the variety of significant projects solutions and infrastructure that has been offered for more than 30 years but also to pageant their history as pioneers in the cabling infrastructure industry.

"The launch of our revamped website will enable us to communicate more clearly and consistently, the wide range of markets and regions we serve." - Derek Bonner, Managing Director

Crescent Infrastructure is committed to being a technology-focused cable infrastructure specialist that welcomes change, invests in innovation, and stays up to date with the latest technology and trends to ensure that products and services remain competitive. This is done with the explicit intention of protecting their client's investment for the future, allowing for the inevitable improvement of technology, and allowing for increased capabilities.

Using the latest technologies and products from industry-leading suppliers and partners, they keep client's businesses communicating and future-proof their investments that will be relevant and useful far into the future. Their complete infrastructure communications solutions

are tailored to the end user, allowing for ease of use, system functionality, and network reliability and with the rebrand of the website, they wanted to do the same. "We have been planning the rebrand of the website for a while and it coincides with a time of significant expansion in our business. We wanted a contemporary and versatile look. Customers will enjoy using the updated website more, and it will serve as a useful resource for learning about our business's operations, solutions, and dedication to our clients." says Derek Bonner, Managing Director.

The company's dedication to innovation and its spirit of exploration is reflected in the new website design with a strong, cohesive modern aesthetic. Visit www.ccl.ie to explore the new website.

PLANS FOR 12TH LOCK DEVELOPMENT RELEASED

The plans for the development of the area at the 12th Lock on the Grand Canal were released at the February Council Meeting. The initial proposal include a mixed use/enterprise centre, hostel, restaurant, public park, artist studios, kayaking club, creche and yoga studios. It seeks to transform the area while retaining the current buildings. South Dublin County Council will be co-operating with Waterways Ireland in the development of the area. The next step for the project will be looking at budgeting and phasing before it goes to planning and public consultation.

People Before Profit TD for Dublin Midwest Gino Kenny said: "This is a very welcome plan for the area around the 12th lock. There is a huge amount of potential in the canal as

a natural amenity, but at the moment it's not really usable. The development here will bring the canal into use with water sports such as kayaking and SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard). It will be on the route of the extended Grand Canal Greenway to Hazelhatch allowing people to safely cycle and walk to the area."

CLlr Madeleine Johansson added: "It's great to see proposals that retain the current buildings and refurbish them for a mix of uses. This both keeps the architectural heritage while also being a more environmentally friendly alternative to demolition and construction. As someone who is interested in the arts it's also great to see the addition of artist studios and possible other uses of buildings here for the arts."



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

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