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## LOCAL REPS CALL FOR THE OPENING UP OF VACANT HOMES

People Before Profit representatives Gino Kenny TD and Cllr Madeleine Johansson are calling on vacant homes to be opened up as a matter of urgency.

One of the properties they have highlighted is located in North Clondalkin and has been vacant for about 2 years. The home is owned by the company Xerico Ltd which in turn is owned by a fund based in Luxembourg. The fund called LRC RE-1, together with its subsidiaries, owns at least another 689 homes in Dublin alone.

The People Before Profit

representatives will be working with local residents to demand that this property is returned to use as soon as possible, or that it be Compulsory Purchased by South Dublin County Council.

Gino Kenny TD commented: "It's absolutely outrageous that we have vacant homes in the middle of the worst housing crisis in the history of the state. There is no reason to leave a home empty for a long period of time. These faceless vulture funds have bought up large numbers of houses in Dublin and are now leaving some of them empty." Cllr

Madeleine Johansson added: "As a tenant facing eviction it makes me furious to see these vacant homes. There are very few properties available to rent at the moment in Dublin while there's thousands of people homeless."

There are also thousands of tenants with eviction notices who will have nowhere to go after the government ends the eviction ban at the end of March. Every single vacant home must be brought back into use immediately or compulsory purchased by local authorities for social housing."

## NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2023



Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr Emma Murphy, celebrated National Tree Week by planting a native Oak tree in Carrigwood Park, Firhouse, on Wednesday 22nd March aided by 35 local school children from Firhouse Educate Together National School.  
Pic Credit: Ben Ryan.

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# DARKNESS INTO LIGHT CORKAGH PARK MAY 6TH

Corkagh Park's Darkness Into Light Committee have launched their registration drive for this year's walk in aid of Pieta.

The event, proudly supported by Electric Ireland, will take place on sunrise in the early hours of Saturday May 6th to raise vital funds for Pieta's life-saving services. Clondalkin's Stephanie Bowden, who took RTE's Operation Transformation by storm this year, joined the DIL 2023 Committee to officially launch this year's event. Registration is now open at [darknessintolight.ie](http://darknessintolight.ie).

Clondalkin's Darkness Into Light Ambassador, Stephanie

Bowden, launched the registration drive saying, "I am so pleased to be an ambassador for Darkness Into Light which takes place in my local park, Corkagh Park. I was overwhelmed by the support I got from Clondalkin during RTE's Operation Transformation and I hope my followers will come out on May 6th to support Darkness Into Light. Taking part will help Pieta ensure they can reach as many people as possible who have been affected by suicide and self-harm."

"Every person and every business that supports Pieta for Darkness Into Light is helping raise vital funds and

raise awareness to break the stigma around suicide.

This year's event will be the second walk held locally in Corkagh Park and will be the closest official walk for residents in Clondalkin, Lucan, Rathcoole, Newcastle and Saggart. I'd encourage anyone interested in joining us to register today as places are filling up fast," said Lorraine Murphy Co-Chair of the Committee.

Local TD Emer Higgins who is PRO for the Committee has

called for volunteers to assist on the night. Lorraine Smith, a local Zumba instructor, who helped out at last year's event by leading the warm-up, highly recommended being involved, "It was such an amazing experience being part of Darkness Into Light.

I really enjoyed the buzz and loved knowing that being there and helping out on the day was making a real difference not just to the event, but to Pieta and to all the people who benefit from its services. I'd encourage

anyone to get involved, you won't regret it - besides what else would you be doing at 4am."

Co-Chair Michelle Byrne said "We all have a role to play in Darkness Into Light 2023. Every participant, every volunteer and every euro donated will help Pieta be a light in the dark. This year's event in Corkagh Park is going to be even bigger and even better than last years. We will have lots of entertainment on the night, artwork displays and of

course the Banner of Hope. None of it would be possible without the support of local businesses who help us, our team of volunteers and everyone who gets up in darkness to walk together into light."

If you would like to volunteer to help out on the night email 'I'd like to help' to [corkaghpark@darknessintolight.ie](mailto:corkaghpark@darknessintolight.ie) To register to attend visit [darknessintolight.ie](http://darknessintolight.ie) and select Corkagh Park as your preferred Dublin venue.



**NEWS GROUP**

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Founder: John Russell  
Advertising: Anthony Russell [anthony@newsgroup.ie](mailto:anthony@newsgroup.ie)  
Administration: Sarah Brooks [admin@newsgroup.ie](mailto:admin@newsgroup.ie)

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# COMMUNITIES COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF #SPRINGCLEAN23

April 1st marked the official launch of The National Spring Clean 2023! Registrations for the National Spring Clean are well underway and 2023's campaign is on track to be the biggest yet with over 300

Dublin groups registered to date.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership

with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Environment, Communications and Climate Environment and Mars Wrigley Ireland. This year An Taisce celebrates its 75th Anniversary and the largest ever Spring Clean would be a fitting way to mark the occasion.

Throughout the month of April communities from across Ireland will take part in the National Spring Clean to tackle the problem of litter in local areas and to see the benefits of a litter-free environment. Over the past 24 years, National Spring Clean participants of all ages have volunteered over 12 million hours of their time, with almost 45,000 tonnes of litter collected to date. This year the campaign also wants to raise awareness about the Circular Economy Act and how the adoption of a circular economy model will reduce our litter and climate impact.

The principles of a circular economy have been central to the ethos of National

Spring Clean for the past 24 years. Last year some 35% of all waste collected was recycled, thanks to recyclable waste bags provided to participating groups and individuals, while the removal of litter from our natural environment helped to tackle biodiversity loss. National Spring Clean hopes that these litter collection initiatives will prompt people to consider their waste output and moderate consumption behaviours that produce excess waste and look at alternatives that will move us away from a throwaway culture to a more sustainable circular culture.

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, said "I am delighted that my department continues to be in a position to support the An Taisce National Spring Clean Programme. The efforts of local volunteers, many of whom come back year after year, are to be highly commended as they continue to make a real positive contribution to

their local community and wider environment. It is particularly pleasing to note that a significant proportion of the waste collected is also recycled, again due to the efforts of these volunteers. I would like to congratulate An Taisce on its 75th anniversary and I look forward to continuing to see their positive environmental impact for many more years to come."

National Spring Clean Manager, Emlyn Cullen, commented "This is an important year for An Taisce as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary and it would be fantastic if we can make this the largest National Spring Clean to date as part of the celebrations. So far, the numbers of volunteers already registered is huge but there's still time for people to register online and get involved this year".

Katrine Grytter, Corporate Affairs Director at Mars North Europe added "Mars Wrigley Ireland is proud to support the National Spring Clean, which empowers individuals

to make a really positive impact on their communities, improving local spaces and biodiversity by collecting hundreds of tonnes of litter each year. We hope that by supporting initiatives like the National Spring Clean and other important anti-litter programmes such as Green Schools and the Gum Litter Taskforce, we can help to deliver a cleaner, greener future for all communities."

To make sure that each community clean up can run as smoothly as possible the National Spring Clean has also provides downloadable information packs on their website for their volunteers to read. The clean-up information pack containing details on how to organise an event, health and safety information, litter facts, useful contacts, media and publicity advice, a guide on how to recycle and information on litter and the law. An Taisce's National Spring Clean is inviting people to visit the website [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org) and register for a free clean-up kit.

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# 70% OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING ADOLESCENT ADDICTION SERVICES HAD PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED

Sinn Fein spokesperson for Mental Health, Mark Ward TD has said that it is worrying that 70% of young people attending a specialist adolescent addiction service had previously attended the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

Speaking after the publication of the latest

annual report of the HSE's Adolescent Addiction Service, Teachta Ward said "There is extremely high percentage of young people attending the HSE's specialist adolescent addiction service also having a history with CAMHS. "The report said almost 7 in 10 teenagers attending the service had a history of contact with the HSE's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service. "This reflected the extent to which young people using drugs and alcohol experienced mental health issues. "Among issues reported were attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, self-harm, suicide ideation, depression, anorexia, and anxiety. "Only recently we heard two Oireachtas committees about children experiencing dual diagnosis. Dual diagnosis is when a person has a mental health and substance use problems.

self-medicating because they cannot access the appropriate mental health care when it is needed. "We currently have over 11,000 children waiting for an appointment with primary

care psychology and another 5000 children waiting on an initial assessment with CAMHS. "Despite having had a history with CAMHS only 5% of young people reported having Psychiatric

Assessment. "We need to ensure that young people get the early intervention that they need and that our community youth and addiction services are properly resourced."

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The Fianna Fail Team is Barry Andrews M.E.P, John Lahart TD, Cllrs Yvonne Collins, Teresa Costello, Emma Murphy & Charlie O'Connor



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Emer Higgins TD, was delighted to officially open the brand new 3G astro pitch for St Francis FC along with Cllr. Shirley O'Hara. The club are also now recruiting girls to join their teams

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# SLIMMERS LOSE ALMOST 3,000LBS WITHIN 6 MONTHS

Super Slimmers in Lucan every Saturday morning have lost almost a whopping 3,000lbs in weight since the middle of September 2022 - that's the equivalent of six baby elephants.

Figures from the World Health Organisation (WHO) suggest that Ireland is set to become home to the most overweight population in

Europe by the year 2030. 89% of Irish men are set to be overweight, while obesity rates for women are set to soar from 23% to 57%. This is scary!

Since Gill Nixon set up her Slimming World group in the Canon Despard Centre, Lucan 6 months ago her members have lost an incredible combined total weight loss of almost 3,000lbs to date and still counting! The dedicated members, who attend the group every Saturday morning, follow Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan created by the organisation's team of expert nutritionists, which encourages them to fill up on satisfying foods such as pasta, rice, potatoes, lean meat and fish, pulses and fruit and veg. The proven plan ensures that members never go hungry or feel guilty whilst losing weight. Gill says:

"I'm delighted that my members have lost weight so successfully. It has made an extremely positive impact to their lives and to see them happier, healthier and growing in confidence is very rewarding and inspirational to me personally as their Consultant. I love to see the members light up with happiness as they continue to get closer to their target weight. It's been fantastic to open a group in Lucan and to witness such a supportive community develop before my eyes each week and always with a bit of craic. The shared ideas and support around food optimising and how members can use the plan to suit their own lifestyles whilst still losing weight is incredible. I am extremely proud of my members'.

Gill's Slimming World group is held at the Canon Despard Centre on Chapel Hill, Lucan every Saturday at 9.30am. For more information call Gill on 085 2734867 or just pop along on a Saturday morning.



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[slimmingworld.ie](http://slimmingworld.ie)

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## SECOND PLACE FOR PART-TIME BALLOON TWISTING DUBLINER AT INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Clondalkin man Bob Dunne wins second place at the Blackpool Balloon Bash, an international gathering for balloon professionals from all over the world, attending classes from the top professionals from Italy, Germany, and USA., the 5 minute balloon sculpture competition where he placed second with his frog design. He placed 2nd in the 5 minute balloon sculpture competition with his frog design, which featured on Q corner; Qualatex YouTube channel. The competition took place in March 2023.



Bob works full time in Snickers workwear and fills his weekends entertaining at parties. Plans are being made for Bob's Balloons to teach some free classes through Dublin libraries sometime later in 2023 for all those who have an interest in starting balloon twisting or improving their skills.

Bob started balloon twisting after receiving a novelty

balloon book from his wife Eileen for Christmas 2016. Bob's Balloons was founded in February 2018 after working with Holmes Mascots and Party entertainment.

Bob grew up in Clondalkin and now lives in Palmerstown. He serves Dublin, bringing the magic of balloons to private parties and local community events. Bobs balloons has its own website <http://bobsballoons.ie/> and social media channels where you can contact Bob to book

your next event. An hour of balloon twisting is Eur85 for peak times\* (1pm -6pm Saturday and Sunday)

Cllr Gilligan said "I'm delighted for Bob, I have known him a long time. He is a hard worker and this couldn't happen to a nicer person. He entertained kids at a recent event in The Purty Central and the kids were overjoyed. Next time, I have every belief that he will finish no less than 1st place in the tournament"

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## MUCH NEEDED NEW HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CENTRE PROGRESS WELCOMED

Sinn Féin Councillor for Lucan-Palmerstown-Balgaddy & North Clondalkin, Derren Ó Bradaigh, has welcomed the progress underway that will now see the delivery of some long-awaited social housing and a new community centre to be located in the heart of Balgaddy.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh said “Whilst early ground works commenced in January of this year, on site work is now steadily progressing with actual construction soon to begin and ahead of next week’s sod turning ceremony. The project will deliver 69 units, comprising of a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom properties. The housing crisis is particularly acute in Dublin Mid-West and these council-built properties will provide desperately needed homes for some families. With the contractor already on site and the construction period approximately 20 months in total, the completion date is expected for August 2024.

“The development will include a badly needed community centre, long sought after by local people and resident groups working and advocating on the needs for greater amenities in the area. Down the years Sinn Féin have worked in support of the residents of Balgaddy and indeed the wider community, to help bring about an improvement in existing living conditions and a better living environment.

This has involved working directly with the

council’s housing and community department to help better inform and deliver upon this overdue project. “As with the development of any new community facility, it is essential that the council community team engage with residents and community groups to undertake local consultation and to provide a full analysis of community needs in advance of facility usage planning. It is expected that consultation will take place in advance of, and during the early construction of the community centre.

“The existing estate of Balgaddy was built 16 years ago and quickly became a forgotten community, following the emergence of a litany of structural defects that have continued to blight homes to this day. Progress to address long awaited remedial works, some of the more challenging roof repairs, insulation, electrical and plumbing repairs has been painstakingly slow, but with some results finally beginning to unveil. Initiatives such as the ‘Better Blocks’ project last year, seeking to empower communities was hugely welcome and need to be broadened out.

“With this new development and extension of Balgaddy finally off the ground, hopefully this will help focus minds further in addressing all the existing challenges and issues faced by residents daily, and equipping the needs of the community both now and into the future through the provision of adequate services, amenities and investment.”

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# MINISTER PATRICK O'DONOVAN OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES WHITECHURCH STREAM FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Mayor of SDCC, Cllr. Emma Murphy and Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan, T.D. recently launched the start of construction of the Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme. The scheme is the combined initiative of the Office of Public Works (OPW and

South Dublin County Council. The Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme is designed to provide protect 52 properties against a significant flood event. Due to residential homes and businesses being adversely affected by flooding over some years, this important Scheme is a welcome development for those

families, businesses and wider community.

Speaking about the Government's €4m investment in the Scheme's construction, Minister O'Donovan said "This Scheme will make a real difference to some fifty families and businesses that live with the risk and impact from

flooding in this community by protecting them against significant flooding, along St. Enda's Park and Whitechurch Road. I want to thank the local community for its constructive and valuable engagement to the scheme's design and its patience during the design and planning process. I am delighted to announce that the OPW's own staff will construct this scheme that I expect it to be substantially complete by the end of 2025."

also shows SDCC's and the OPW's endeavour in trying to alleviate this risk."

Whitechurch is one of 150 flood relief schemes being supported by the Government's €1.3 billion investment in flood relief under the National

Development Plan to 2030. This investment as well as protecting against the current flood risk will also provide protection from the additional impact from Climate Change. Please visit <http://www.whitechurchfas.ie/> for more information.



On the day, Cllr. Murphy, Mayor of South Dublin County Council said "I am delighted to be here to represent South Dublin County Council and the local residents for this, the launch of the Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme. Flooding has also been identified as a key climate change risk to the Dublin region, so this scheme also highlights SDCC's and the OPW's commitment to the flood resilience theme contained in the current Dublin Climate Change Action Plan and

## ICELAND WORKERS MUST BE PAID THE WAGES THEY'RE OWED

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has said that it is unacceptable that some Iceland workers have gone unpaid since the stores were sold off as Iceland pulled out of the 26 Counties.

Teachta Crowe said "Since Iceland announced they had sold their 27 stores in the south, many of the workers have reached out to my colleague and Sinn Féin Workers' Rights spokesperson Louise O'Reilly TD. These workers have alleged that some workers have not received wages owed and others have not received wages in full. "This is an unacceptable situation and requires immediate intervention by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment. These workers are owed wages and they deserve clarification on their futures and the future of the company's operations in Ireland.

"We have an Iceland store locally in Tallaght and if any of these workers are owed wages, it is imperative that this is rectified without delay. A new owner can't be allowed to cut workers lose and not paid them the wages they are owed for work done."



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# LUCAN ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE A HUGE SUCCESS

Our Grand Marshal for 2023 was the wonderful actor and musician, Sorcha Furlong, a very popular Grand Marshal. She was in great demand during the day standing in for photos at the assembly point in Hillcrest and at the review stand in the village, and most important judging the parade entries. The Little Blue Heroes won the Grand Marshal prize having wowed both Sorcha and the crowd.

The Little Blue Heroes are Maisie Crossan, Dylan Lester, Amelia Somers, Issacc Keenan, and Aoife mcQuillan. These honorary Gardai all live in Lucan and are attached to Lucan Garda Station with their Garda buddies Garda Anne Gabbett & Garda Donagh Hanrahan and all their colleagues in Lucan Garda Station. It's their first time in the Lucan Parade, and they did a great job on duty with their Garda buddies.

The winners were presented with their prizes by Sorcha at the review stand. The groups performed all along the route and then gave outstanding performances viewed by our guests on the review stand, who are Deputy Mayor South Dublin County Council Cllr. Joanna Tuffy, Inspector Aonghus Hussey of An Garda Síochána, Ms. Vania Lorenzo, wife of the Italian Ambassador to Ireland, and their son Diego, and other leaders from across the Lucan Community. "We are also very lucky in Lucan because we have over 47 different nationalities from all over the world living in the area. The colour and creativity that comes from such diverse citizens is spectacular and it's great to see everyone having being creative, having fun, and getting together on St.

Patrick's Day" said Caroline Brady parade organiser. The Winner of the Peter Brady Perpetual Cup for BEST IN PARADE are the combined Lucan Scouts the 23rd Lucan Scouts and the 142nd Esker Scouts. They did a fantastic job as flag bearers presenting the Colour Party and they were one of the biggest groups in this year's Lucan St Patrick's Day Parade.

The Winner of the Paddy Keeny memorial Trophy for BEST TURNED OUT in parade are Lucan Sarsfields Gaa Club. They've been in every parade since 1991 and are always the biggest group. Lucan Sarsfields Abú. The Winner of the BEST COMMERCIAL entry in the parade is RTH, Remi the Handyman. A great supporter of the parade for many years and a local business. We are delighted to see Remi's business grow from strength to strength since we first saw him years ago in the Lucan Parade.

The Winner of the Muintir na Tíre YOUTH entry is Arthur Griffith Park FC. Their U12 and U13 teams are just back from Liverpool FC training academy. This is the second time they've been to Liverpool to play against Liverpool FC and visit the training academy. They demonstrated some pretty slick football moves for us. AGP FC Abú. The Winner of BEST PERFORMANCE was the Ab Fab, and our very own Lucan Gospel Choir. A huge surprise for the crowd as they arrived on the Big Bus and sang the whole way from Dodsboro into Lucan village entertaining the crowd all along the parade route. It was a spectacular performance.

The Winner of BEST INDIVIDUAL entry is Walter and Emma Kilcullen. Walter



drove his vintage 1975 VW Beetle and is a member of the Celtic Old Vehicles Owners Club (COVOC) which is the largest vintage club in Ireland. Emma had a long time ambition to hold an art exhibition and with the help of St. John of Gods she held her first art exhibition in Maynooth Library in March 2023. Her work is a combination of photography and art. Emma loves recycling and loves to make a "creative explosion" by reusing items for her work. The exhibition was very successful and she sold all 12 pieces.

Winner of MOST ENERGETIC is Lucan BMX Club Ireland's biggest, baddest, and best BMX track based in St. Catherine's park. Their members enthralled the crowd with their BMX bike tricks all the way along the

parade route, and gave us an outstanding demonstration of bike control at the review stand.

Winner of the MOST COLOURFUL entry was The Chinese Community. Lucan has a very vibrant Chinese Community and are regulars in the Lucan Parade. This year they put on a very colourful display dressed in traditional Chinese clothing and they gave us a demonstration of martial arts set to Chinese music.

Winner of the MOST ENTERTAINING entry was Jimmy Stagg Cycles and Lucan Cycling Club. Jimmy and Lucan Cycling Club have one of the longest standing partnerships in Cycling in Ireland with Staggs supporting the club since 1985. They also put Lucan on the map organising the Stagg Cycles Lucan Grand Prix every year which sees cyclists coming into Lucan from all over the world.

"This year's parade was the biggest ever with over 40 entries and approx 2,500 marching in the parade" said Caroline Brady Parade Organiser. "This year as well as having an opportunity to perform at the review stand, the groups had an opportunity to perform at the Spar in Dodsboro, McDonalds under the N4, the AIB, and the Review stand in the village. There was a huge turnover to watch the parade all along the route,

Dodsboro and Lucan village was packed to capacity, and the atmosphere was electric. We start planning the Parade in September, and we meet every week right up until the week of St. Patrick's Day. When you see the happy beaming faces of the children both in the parade and in the crowd it makes the effort well worth it, it's the only reason we do it really."

The parade is a free family day out as well as the parade itself we had the Lucan Concert Band performing at Spar Dodsboro from 2pm, the St. James Brass & Reed performing at the Ball Alley from 2pm, and Free Face Painters, Clowns, Balloon Artists at Muintir na Tíre in village & Tesco Dodsboro from 2pm. They ran two competitions 1) a painting competition with the primary schools winners announced on our FaceBook page, and 2) a Create a Go Kart competition with the Transition Year Students in the Secondary Schools judging and winners will be announced in May at the Transition Year Graduation.

"I'd want to highlight the number of groups and individuals in the community who help us, and to say a big thank you to our volunteers, the SDCC Volunteer Core, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Lucan Red Cross, Lucan Men's Shed, Lucan Tidy Towns, Lucan ICA, St. Joseph's Transition

Year Students, and the individual volunteers from the community who all turned up on the day to help us out, we couldn't do it without you." said Caroline Brady parade organiser.

The Lucan St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is a volunteer led non-profit community organisation. The parade committee are: Organiser Caroline Brady P.C. Committee Members: Sanjeeb Barik, Joseph Brady, Richard Casley, Samantha Cummins, Denise Edwards, Aedan O'Duill, Bernice Farrelly, Emma Kirwan, Leighann Spollen, Marcin Witoski, SDCC Community Dept, and the Community Guards Lucan Station.

Thank you to Toner Transport who supply the Review Stand, Joe Keegan for DJ & PA System, and Print & Promotions for the Sound System. The Lucan St. Patrick's Day Parade is grateful to South Dublin County Council who provide a grant for the parade, the SDCC Parks Department who help us with barriers and clean up after the parade, and to the Lucan Traders who sponsor the parade. Thank you to Lucan An Garda Síochána for their support and a big thank you to the Little Blue Heroes who are on duty today with their Garda buddies. The Parade is made possible by their continued support since 1991, over 30 years of supporting the community in Lucan.







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# PAT WELDON IS THE RAMS VERY OWN NONAGENARIAN

Recently, the Retired Active Men's Social (RAMS) celebrated the 90th birthday of our esteemed member Mr Pat Weldon. Pat has been a member of the RAMS since its inception in October 2010. The group celebrated his birthday with a large birthday cake, made by a daughter of member Mario Aprile, and thoroughly enjoyed by the 40 members

attending the activity morning. Their very own Musical Director, Mr Liam O Donnell provided music, and of course sang Happy Birthday.

A visitor on the day, Mr Neal Doherty author of The statues and sculptures of Dublin City, gave the group a rendition of Percy French, Are you right there Michael

are you right which was sung many time by Pat Weldon. Neal also presented Pat with a signed copy of his book.

Pat was born March 1933, lived in Brownstown, Newcastle, Co. Dublin. The family moved to Hynestown, Peamount road, Newcastle two years later. He attended Newcastle National School until he

was 14 years old. Then, he then went to Peamount Hospital and worked on the farm for 7 years. His job entailed thinning turnips, picking potatoes, harvesting onions, and general farm work. During that time, Pat became a member of the Rathcoole and district Pipe Band, and they played on the day when St Finian's won the Intermediate Championship in Parnell Park in 1949. The following Sunday they played in Newbridge, when Ardclough beat the Army in the County Final. He also joined the Newcastle Church Choir after leaving school, and they sang at mass every Sunday, at funerals, and weddings, and only stopped in 2020 when the pandemic halted everything.

Pat married in August 1964, to Kathleen Thornton from Celbridge. They have 5 children, 4 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild, and 58 years later they are still going strong. In the early 1950's, Pat moved jobs from Peamount Hospital to Swiftbrook Paper mills in Saggart. Swiftbrook Paper mills made the highest grades of paper. Unfortunately, in 1972 the papermill closed and Pat was made redundant along with his friends and work colleagues, but he enjoyed working there for 20 years. Pat left the papermill in Saggart and returned to Peamount Hospital, where he worked as a boiler man, keeping the heating going

in the hospital until the gas was installed in the late 90's, then he had to combine his duties as boiler man with security work until his retirement in 1998. He loved every minute of his working life and when he retired, he took a part time job in Concast Precast for a few more years.

Pat was also a member of the Rathcoole Drama Group. They toured the country with plays like, Juno and the Peacock, Is the priest at home? Cat on a hot tin roof, The plough and the stars, Sive, Big Maggie and many more plays, and they won many competitions through the

years. Pat loves singing and would sing in pubs, clubs and hotels when he had the time, he was fortunate enough to win and be placed in a number of song contests.

In 2010 he joined the RAMS which was a new outlet, with social outings and singing for charity with his friends, in The RAMS in Rhythm. Pat's hobbies include gardening, singing, drama, GAA, and most sports. He also enjoys going to matches, and watching St Finian's GAA and Dublin football team play. He loves watching most sports from GAA, Rugby, Soccer to Snooker, Horse Racing etc.

*Happy 90th Birthday Pat!*







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# HOMEGROUND REPORT & DOCUMENTARY FILM LAUNCHED

HOMEGROUND was a two-year Artist Mentoring Programme that ran during 2020-2022 and comprised of bespoke artist supports, both personal and professional, for artists from or with a connection to Draíocht, Dublin 15 or the wider Fingal County and whose work was socially engaged, collaborative or focused on children and young people. Four artists were chosen over a 2 year period, which included the very challenging and uncertain period during Covid-19, the artists met with 8 mentors; had 12 peer discussion group sessions; had 50 one to one Coaching Sessions; and had 75 one to one Mentoring Sessions, both in person and online.

The four participating artists of HOMEGROUND selected via open competition were: Michelle Hall - an interdisciplinary visual artist from Dublin 15. Thomas Johnston - a musician and theatre maker, dedicated to promoting high quality and meaningful experiences of the traditional arts amongst children. Monica Muñoz - a choreographer and dancer, and recent artist in residence in Balbriggan Educate Together National School. Jijo Sebastian Palatty - a collaborative Film Maker, based in Dublin 15, with more than a decade of experience in participatory, collaborative

and intercultural filmmaking. HOMEGROUND was conceived and led by Emer McGowan Director, Draíocht and Sharon Murphy, Resident Curator, Draíocht with support from Sarah O'Neill (Deputy Arts Officer, Fingal County Council) and Caroline Cowley (Public Art Co-ordinator, Fingal County Council).

Launching the HOMEGROUND Report & Documentary, Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Howard Mahony, said "Fingal County Council has been committed to Draíocht's Programme delivery for over 20 years. We have been proud to watch its importance grow not only as a recognisable asset to Dublin 15, but to the greater Fingal area and beyond with programmes like HOMEGROUND. We wish the artists and the team continued success in their professional journeys."

Of HOMEGROUND, Emer McGowan, Director of Draíocht commented "HOMEGROUND was conceived both out of Draíocht's 5 year Strategy 'A Space for the Arts' where providing support and expertise to develop artist's practice is one of our stated goals and out of a body of collaborative and children/young people's practice that we have engaged in over our 20 years of operation. I am delighted to be working

with this group of artists - Michelle Hall, Thomas Johnston, Monica Muñoz and Jijo Sebastian - and mentors - Marie Brett, Annabelle Comyn, Christine Devaney and Fearghus Ó Conchúir amongst others and under the guidance of Draíocht's Curator, Sharon Murphy, in a considered and curated programme that will support the development of their work and practice. I know this programme will have far-reaching outcomes and I look forward to supporting the participating artists on their individual and collective journeys. Our key partner on this is Fingal County Council Arts Office - we are looking at what we can do together to create a sustainable impact on artists' practice and how we could act as a key support to them which will also have resonance for Dublin 15 and Fingal."

Resident Curator of Draíocht, Sharon Murphy said of HOMEGROUND "For 20 years there has been a huge commitment by Draíocht to artists and particularly artists whose work is rooted in children and young people. HOMEGROUND was conceived as being very holistic. It was really important that the mentorship had a number of strands that focused both on the professional practice of the artist but also on their personal development. I think this has been the key and the distinctiveness

of HOMEGROUND for the awarded artists. It has provided long term benefits by being tailor made, looking at the person first, then their practice

and finally at their specific outcomes."

A documentary film of HOMEGROUND was commissioned by Draíocht

from Joe Lee and Tom Lee, to accompany the Report of the same name, available now on Draíocht's social channels and website [www.draiocht.ie](http://www.draiocht.ie)



Pictured Jijo Sebastian Palatty, Collaborative Film Maker; Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Howard Mahony; & Emer McGowan, Director Draíocht

## FREE BOOKS TO BE PROVIDED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Free books will be provided to all primary schools and special schools in Dublin, a local TD has confirmed. Deputy Emer Higgins said the initiative will provide not only free schoolbooks, but also workbooks and copybooks easing the financial burdens facing families during back-to-school time. Deputy Higgins said: "This scheme will ensure that parents and guardians will not be asked to buy or rent any primary school books, workbooks or copy books as of Autumn 2023.

"In 2020, Fine Gael in Government announced a new pilot programme which provided free schoolbooks to more than 100 primary schools which were part of the DEIS programme, in both rural and urban areas. I'm delighted to have seen this pilot project expanded to better support families and pupils in our community. "This ground-breaking, permanent measure will ease some of the financial burden facing families with the back-to-school costs," added Deputy Higgins. "Around 558,000 children

and young people, their families and their schools around the country will benefit from the initiative, including those in areas like Lucan, Clondalkin and Palmerstown and the villages of Saggart, Rathcoole, Newcastle and Brittas.

"The objective of the new scheme is about ensuring every child has the resources required to access education and also easing financial burdens surrounding the back-to-school costs which can be a cause of huge financial difficulty for many families each year," Deputy Higgins concluded.

Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, Josepha Madigan, said: "The provision of free books to primary schools, particularly special schools, will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the academic, social, and emotional development of children. "It can help to promote a love of learning, improve literacy skills, and support the unique needs of children with special educational needs."

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## PURE REMOVE 140,000KG OF LITTER AND RUBBISH ILLEGALLY DUMPED



In 2022 the environmental initiative Pure removed over 700 individual dumping sites, with the collection of over 140,000kg (140 tonnes) of illegally dumped waste from the remote, beautiful, and scenic, Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Pure has made huge progress in reducing illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. If you compare the amount of dumping collected by Pure in 2022, which was 140 tonnes of waste, to 2008 which was their busiest year, when they removed 440 tonnes, the initiative has seen a 68% reduction in illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

Minister of State Ossian Smyth with responsibility for Public Procurement, eGovernment and Circular Economy said, 'Everyone who spends time in the beautiful Wicklow and Dublin uplands benefits from the work of the Pure Project and the efforts of the volunteers who participate annually in the Pure Mile Initiative. The reduction in illegal dumping in the area is impressive and my department is pleased to support this work.' The Pure Truck is on the road every day, and since Pure was established in 2006, it has removed over 3,800,000kg (3,800 tonnes) of rubbish from over 14,000 illegal dumping sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands with the project processing over 15,000 reports/complaints. If you were to put all the rubbish that Pure has removed from the uplands into standard household rubbish bags, they would fill over 400,000 bags. If you lined up all these bags on the road, they would stretch all the way from Dublin to Dingle.

Ian Davis, Pure Manager, commented 'Illegal dumping is not unique to the Wicklow/Dublin uplands, however, while most regions in Ireland are currently reporting an increase in illegal dumping, Pure are seeing a decrease. We're the first initiative of its kind in Ireland and the success of Pure is based on a multi-stakeholder approach, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and cooperation between all of the organisations involved. However, it is extremely important that we do not become complacent, because if we do, it won't take long before illegal dumping will be on the increase.'

Pure has been recording and mapping every location and incident of illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since 2007 and they have built up a base-line-data of all illegal dumping activity in this region, the location of dumping, type of dumping, landowner, and amount of dumping, and for a number of years now they have been recording an annual reduction. The data that Pure collect is valuable information providing indicators into the nature and extent of illegal dumping in Wicklow/Dublin

Uplands, and statistical evidence for all illegal dumping incidents in this region.

Pure utilises a multi-disciplined approach in combating illegal dumping, incorporating a number of educational initiatives, environment/community projects - The Pure Mile, public awareness campaigns, regional/national media campaigns, enforcement and preventative measures, GPS/GIS data-base to record all illegal dumping sites, covert CCTV operations, and a dedicated vehicle - The Pure Truck, that removes all illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Pure is a partnership approach, incorporating statutory, non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, and for the past six years they have recorded an annual reduction in illegal dumping activity. This reduction in dumping coincides with the huge increase in Pure Mile groups, which is now numbering over 1,000 miles of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, upland amenities, car parks, currently being adopted in Wicklow, South Dublin, Dun-Laoghaire, uplands.

The Pure Mile is an environmental, community, heritage initiative, that encourages communities and groups living in rural areas of Wicklow, South Dublin, and Dun-Laoghaire, to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, in their local area, or in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and organise litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping campaigns, research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of an area. Thousands of Pure Mile volunteers, ranging from individuals, family groups, community groups, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, scouts, beavers, businesses, and organisations, removed hundreds of tonnes of illegally dumped waste and thousands of bags of litter and rubbish from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and Pure Mile high-vis vests, and they also remove all of the rubbish collected by the groups. In 2022, Pure Mile groups organised clean ups and litter picks of the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, which resulted in a visible decrease of litter and rubbish in upland areas. These clean-up events carried out by Pure Mile Groups resulted in the removal of over 4,000 bags of litter and rubbish, and it further demonstrates the necessity and importance of The Pure Mile Project, and the need for continued collaboration and engagement to protect the Wicklow/Dublin upland environment.

**TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING IN THE WICKLOW/DUBLIN UPLANDS - LO-CALL 1800 365 123**



# URGENT REVERSAL NEEDED ON DECISION TO PAUSE 58 SCHOOL PROJECTS

The recent decision to pause advancement of 58 school projects until after Easter needs to be reversed urgently, especially for shovel-ready projects, a local TD has said. Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid West is calling on the Minister for Education and Minister for Public Expenditure to work on reversing the decision to pause 58 school projects due to inflation-related funding constraints and allow shovel ready projects to move ahead as planned.

Deputy Higgins said: "I'm so disappointed that these 58 school projects, including in my own former school Holy Family Community School in Rathcoole, have been put on pause until Easter. I'm informed that inflationary constraints and the rising cost of construction have created capital funding pressures for advancing these projects until Easter, but my concern is that a delay of even a number of weeks would

have much a bigger impact on schools like Holy Family Community School, which are shovel-ready, because their construction plans may be impacted.

"There are multiple schools in my constituency affected by this pause, and if this pause is lifted by Easter that won't result in much upheaval for most projects, but it has the potential to create significant delays to schools which are ready to break ground. That's why I'm calling on the Minister for Education and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to give that clarity to schools who are ready now to begin work on their projects," Deputy Higgins added.

"All 58 schools, some of whom are in our area, are school projects that have been promised for a very long time, decades in some cases, and to pause them now is causing huge upset. This is particularly true for the

projects which are so close to starting construction. For them this decision is a huge blow.

"In some cases contractors are in place and ready to start construction tomorrow and if projects are put on hold, the risk is that contractors will pull out, leading to even longer delays and creating the need to go through the retendering process again at which point the capital spend for these projects will likely come in at higher than there's currently authorisation for and many schools will be back to the drawing board again. We need the Taoiseach to intervene to avoid that," Deputy Higgins said.

"I've spoken with the Taoiseach directly on this and asked him, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to consider my proposal for shovel ready projects to be allowed to move ahead as

planned while others wait for the negotiations between the two Departments to continue.

"We can't have these shovel ready projects going back a stage in the process to retender, especially while so many areas are experiencing

school place shortages and working out of temporary accommodation or poor-standard facilities.

"There are multiple schools in my constituency affected by this pause, but an Easter decision won't impact hugely on most projects but

has the potential to be big for schools ready to break ground and I'm calling on the Minister for Education and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to give that clarity to schools who are ready now to begin work on their projects," concluded Deputy Higgins.

## O'CONNOR CALLS FOR PROGRESS ON AGE FRIENDLY HOUSING PROJECTS

Local Councillor Charlie O'Connor, has urged the Council to continue ensuring progress on the Age Friendly Housing Projects in Tallaght.

He raised the matter at the Tallaght Area Committee and asked the CEO "to detail the new schedules now being followed in respect of the Age Friendly Housing developments at Brady's Field, Old Bawn/ Springfield Estate/ and Whitestown; will he give details in each case and give assurances that everything is being done to ensure progress"

Charlie O'Connor was told at the Tallaght Area Committee meeting that "The contractor for the age friendly

development of 12 homes at Brady's Field Old Bawn commenced site on site in August 2022. The construction programme for this development is approximately 12 months and is expected to deliver in Q3 2023. In relation to the age friendly schemes being delivered by Clúid AHB the timeline for completion of the homes at Maplewood is Q2 2023, Fernwood is Q3 2023 with Whitestown Way due for delivery in Quarter 4 of 2023. These projects are being closely monitored to ensure satisfactory progress."

According to Charlie O'Connor there is huge interest in all of these Age Friendly Housing Projects and he will continue to maintain contact with Council Management in respect of the matters.

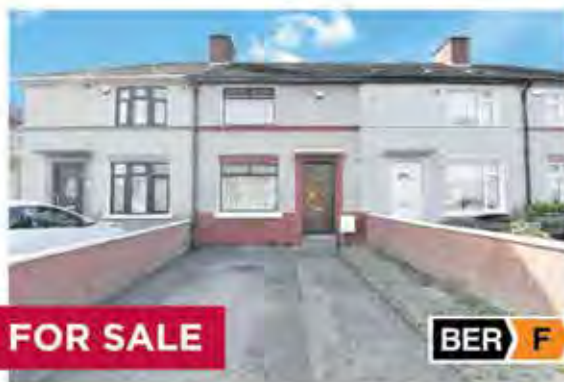
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# DART+ SOUTH WEST RAILWAY ORDER APPLICATION LODGED WITH AN BORD PLEANÁLA

Iarnród Éireann has recently lodged a Railway Order application with An Bord Pleanála to seek permission to extend the electrified DART network from Hazelhatch & Celbridge to Heuston Station and the South city via Phoenix Park Tunnel. The statutory public consultation period will then commence on 29th March and will run until 16th May, a period of seven weeks. Following the DART+ West Railway Order (Maynooth/ M3 Parkway to Dublin) being lodged with An Bord Pleanála in July 2022, DART+ South West is the second line in the DART+ Programme to reach this stage.

Funded by the National Transport Authority, under Project Ireland 2040 and the EU Structural Development fund, the DART+ South West will provide a greatly enhanced and more sustainable transport option for communities in Hazelhatch & Celbridge, Adamstown, Clondalkin & Fonthill, Parkwest & Cherry Orchard, a new station at Heuston West and Drumcondra.

This will be achieved through infrastructure works resulting in higher frequencies and electrification, and new trains, to increase passenger

capacity from the current 5,000 to 20,000 per hour per direction.

The planned infrastructure improvements include:

20km of electrification and re-signalling of the Hazelhatch & Celbridge Line to Heuston and the south city via Phoenix Park Tunnel.

Construction of a new station at Heuston West to serve the community of Clancy Quay and Island Bridge.

Four-tracking of the rail line from Park West & Cherry Orchard Station to Heuston to enhance capacity.

All civil, bridge and ancillary works as necessary to accommodate the project.

Upgrading of the Phoenix Park Tunnel.

New electric DART carriages for the DART+ Programme will be deployed on Hazelhatch & Celbridge services.

There have previously been two rounds of non-statutory public consultation on this project, with revisions to the proposals arising from feedback received. These changes including the provision of

a new station at Heuston West. Potentially directly impacted landowners and occupiers within the lands referenced in the Railway Order Application were contacted directly in advance of the lodgement of the order on 22nd March. The Railway Order application website [www.dartsouthwestrailwayorder.ie](http://www.dartsouthwestrailwayorder.ie) is live from today and features all of the Railway Order documents.

Hard copies of the documents will be available to view at the locations listed below. The website also gives details of how to obtain hard and soft copies of all or some aspects of the order. Members of the public, prescribed bodies and directly impacted landowners and occupiers are welcome to make submissions from 29th March to 16th May. It is anticipated when the consultation period closes, an oral hearing will be held into the application by An Bord Pleanála.

Subject to receiving An Bord Pleanála approval and funding allocation it is anticipated that construction will commence in mid-2024 and be completed in late 2029.

Chief Executive of Iarnród



Éireann Jim Meade said: “Today is a great day for the communities of North Kildare and South Dublin, and the provision of DART services will transform commuting for the existing and new communities along this railway corridor.

It will make travelling with us more sustainable, more frequent and more reliable. This is the second DART+ project to submit a railway order, with DART+ Coastal North & South to follow. The DART+ programme, when delivered will truly revolutionise commuting in the Greater Dublin Area and assist in meeting Ireland’s

climate action targets by reducing reliance on the private car and providing sustainable high frequency, high capacity transport”

Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority said: “The lodging of this railway order application is another indication of the real progress that is being made in developing a public transport service that will meet the transport requirements of people in the Dublin region for years and decades to come. I have no doubt that DART+ as a programme of projects will prove to be transformative for the entire region”.

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD said “The lodging of the Railway Order application, following the Government’s approval of DART+ South West recently, is another key step on the way to delivering on this project and highlights our ongoing commitment to investing in high-quality public transport and decarbonising Ireland’s transport system.

It also means that we are one step closer to linking commuter communities with Dublin City Centre with a fast, frequent new train service, transforming how people travel.”

## DRAFT CLONDALKIN LOCAL AREA PLAN PREPARATION

South Dublin County Council has announced the commencement of the public consultation period ahead of the preparation of the Draft Local Area Plan for Clondalkin.

The purpose of the public consultation is to gather input and feedback from the local community and stakeholders in Clondalkin and its surrounding areas. South Dublin County Council recognises the importance of involving all stakeholders at this early stage of the Local Area Plan preparation process and is looking forward to hearing your opinions, ideas and aspirations for the future of your area.

The early stage of the consultation has commenced with an online survey, which will run until Wednesday 26th April

2023. The survey aims to establish the issues of importance for the local community and stakeholders, and to encourage discussion at workshops that will be held during May 2023. The first of the community and stakeholder workshops will take place on Wednesday 10th May 2023 between 6.00pm-8.00pm at Áras Chrónáin Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin.

Mayor, Emma Murphy, representing the South Dublin County Council, emphasises the significance of this consultation “The Local Area Plan is an essential document that will shape the future development of Clondalkin. It is important that we involve the community and all stakeholders in the decision-making process. We encourage everyone

to attend the consultation and share their thoughts and ideas.”

“We value all input, and we aim to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate and have their voice heard. We look forward to working together to create a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of the Clondalkin community”

The public consultation will be held in a friendly and welcoming environment and children are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend in person, you can still participate in our online community workshop. For further information on the public consultation, please visit our website [www.sdcc.ie/clondalkinLAP](http://www.sdcc.ie/clondalkinLAP)

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## MOTORING LIFE WITH



## Mustang Mach-E is an All-Electric Thoroughbred



By Breda Corrigan

When you first hear the name Ford Mustang, you immediately think “muscle car”, but the Ford Mustang Mach-E is a very different horse. It represents the first real venture by Ford into the electric vehicle market and comes in the shape of a large SUV. Ford has combined a distinguished name from the 1960’s with an SUV body that is very much the style of the moment, and coupled this combination with a fully electric powertrain.

Standard or Extended Range.

The Mustang Mach-E comes in a choice of two battery capacities - Standard Range (70kWh) and Extended Range (91kWh). The ‘standard range’ version is available with a power output of 265bhp (269PS), while the ‘extended range’ model comes with a choice of 290bhp (294PS) or 346bhp (351PS), with the top-of-the-range GT model offering 480bhp (486PS) and a thumping 860Nm of torque for outstanding performance. The ‘standard range’ Mach-E Select comes in rear-wheel drive (RWD) guise only, and the ‘extended range’ Mach-E Premium has the option of RWD or all-wheel drive (AWD), while the sporty GT variant comes with AWD as standard.

With a driving range of up to 600kms (model dependent), range anxiety can be resigned to the history books. Recharging the Mach-E is a fast and simple task. For ultimate convenience, the SUV can be charged from 0-80% in as little as 8 hours from a 7.4kWh domestic wallbox charger, with a similar charge achievable in as little as 38 minutes from a fast charge public charge point. Making its debut in the Mach-E is Ford’s SYNC 4A infotainment system for a highly personalised in-car experience. Machine learning helps better understand drivers habits over time, learning from each drivers’ routines to make the right navigation and communication suggestions at the right time, enabling drivers to concentrate of the road ahead.

Classic Mustang Styling.

With this stunning electric SUV comes a mix of classic Mustang styling, such as the long bonnet and muscular haunches, together with the EV styling of the blanked-off grille and tall upright body, along with the intelligent use of roof colours and window shaping to give a coupe-like impression. The Mustang Mach-E measures in at 4713mm in length, 1625mm

in height and 1881mm in width, so it commands a strong presence on the road. Due to the bespoke EV platform, the cabin floor is completely flat which benefits the second row occupants in terms of legroom. With plenty of headroom also on offer, the Mustang Mach-E has enough passenger space to accommodate five adults comfortably.

Spaciousness Guaranteed.

Standard equipment is generous with an impressively-responsive 15.5-inch, portrait-style touchscreen positioned on the centre of the dash, while other comforts include heated front seats, a heated steering wheel, a smartphone charging pad, adaptive cruise control and front and rear parking sensors along with a reversing camera. The Mach-E also includes plenty of other practical equipment that makes life just that bit easier on the road, with features such as adaptive cruise control and electrically-operated front seats, and the Active Park Assist system which can automatically locate and steer you into even the tightest of parking spaces. There are lots of storage cubbies in the cabin of the Mach-E, while the main boot at the rear has a capacity of between 402 and 1,420-litres (depending on rear seat configuration) and another 100-litres of space available in the ‘frunk’ (front boot) - an ideal location for storing the charging cables.

Test Car Details.

My test car was a Mustang Mach-E RWD Extended Range model which was finished in striking Space White paintwork with contrasting 18-inch 5-spoke alloy wheels. In place of traditional door handles, the Mach-E has (at the front) plastic hooks that protrude from the B-pillar. To open the car you have to press a touch-sensitive button above the hook, while rear-seat passengers have to press a flush-fitting button on the C-pillar to gain access. The futuristic touches continue inside the car’s spacious cabin too. The most used, and most useful information is easily accessible on the large central touchscreen, and there are well-placed shortcuts for important functions too. An array of digital instruments in front of the driver provide key information such as speed, range, and battery charge without unnecessary layers of configuration and options. Unique settings for shock absorbers, springs, anti-roll bars, and steering have been

tailored for European roads, enabling the five-seat SUV to tackle motorways and twisty back roads with ease. The One Pedal Drive function in the Mach-E returns more kinetic energy to the battery for greater efficiency, and this is just one of the advanced technologies employed to deliver the most comfortable and confidence-inspiring Ford ownership experience yet.

The one-pedal driving experience is so intuitive you will almost never touch the brake pedal, but this is a selectable feature, so choosing the one-pedal mode is purely optional. On the road, the Mach-E is refined and stable and, compared with some rivals, it offers a more lively interaction with the driver. Producing 346bhp and 580Nm of torque, my test car could sprint from 0-100km/h in just 5.1-seconds from a rolling start, and a single charge can accommodate a range of up to 540kms. Recharging the Mach-E is a fast and simple task. For ultimate convenience, the SUV can be charged from 0-80% in as little as 8 hours from a 7.4kWh domestic wallbox charger, with a similar charge achievable in as little as 38 minutes from a fast charge public charge point. Making its debut in the Mach-E is Ford’s SYNC 4A infotainment system for a highly personalised in-car experience. Machine learning helps better understand drivers habits over time, learning from each drivers’ routines to make the right navigation and communication suggestions at the right time, enabling drivers to concentrate of the road ahead.

Five-Star Safety.

Industry safety body, Euro NCAP, awarded the Mustang Mach-E a top five-star rating in 2021. Standard safety equipment is reassuringly extensive, with a host of active on-board features helping the Mach-E achieve a 92% score for adult safety, a score of 86% for child protection, and 82% for safety assist technology. All cars include systems such as Forward Collision Warning, Dynamic Brake Support, Automated Emergency Braking, Lane Keep Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Distance Alert, Evasive Steer Assist, and Blind Spot Warning (BLIS) with Cross Traffic Alert.

Pricing.

The Ford Mustang Mach-E is now on sale at Ford dealerships nationwide, with prices starting from €67,666.



# ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR FOUNDATION, TREES ON THE LAND AND THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION PARTNER TO HOST A TREE PLANTING EVENT

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Enterprise Holdings, Inc., and Arbor Day Foundation, in collaboration with Trees on the Land and community groups in South West Dublin, will team up to host a tree planting initiative in Tallaght. This event will highlight

the importance of the community's environmental health and will involve up to 50 volunteers assisting in the project, where almost 5,000 trees will be planted.

Increasing local tree cover will create new habitat to support biodiversity in the area as well as help to

sequester carbon dioxide and remove other atmospheric pollutants to improve local air quality, while also absorbing rainwater and reducing reliance on drains and waterways. The initiative will also help improve the appearance of the local environment and will encourage residents to

spend time outdoors in the area.

Announcing the project, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Ireland's Managing Director, Brendan Grieve said: "The partnership between Enterprise and the Arbor Day Foundation is a fantastic initiative, aimed at improving various aspects of Tallaght for the community. At Enterprise, we welcome the opportunity to give back to the community and assist in creating a healthy environment for residents."

Speaking about the event, Project Coordinator with Trees on the Land Imogen Rabone said: "We are delighted to be working with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Arbor Day Foundation to coordinate this tree planting project. These trees will help to create new diverse habitat for local biodiversity and soak up local carbon dioxide from the air."

Dan Lambe, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation, said: "One of the things the Arbor Day Foundation does

best is to help local planting partners take meaningful action in their community to plant trees. Trees offer vast benefits for the community at large. Thriving urban forests bolster human health, from encouraging physical activity to reducing respiratory illnesses stemming from air pollution. Urban trees filter the air by removing pollution

which improves a city's overall air quality."

Since first partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation in 2006, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation 50 Million Tree Pledge and Urban Tree Initiative programs has led to the planting of more than 17 million trees in North America and Europe.



Pictured: Dan O'Shea, Sean Crowe TD, Joe Maughan, Francis Noel Duffy TD. Pic Credit: Fennell Photography

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# GOWAN AUTO CONSOLIDATES 9 MAJOR MOTOR BRANDS AT CITYWEST HQ

Sporting its new company name and fresh brand identity, a new state-of-the-art headquarters in Dublin's Citywest has been unveiled by Gowan Auto, following the consolidation of 9 major motor brands and the completion of a phased relocation of 129 staff. To support its strategic vision and ambitions, Gowan Auto, the exclusive importer, and distributor of Alfa Romeo, Citroën, DS Automobiles, Fiat, Fiat Professional, Honda, Jeep, Opel, and Peugeot in the Republic of Ireland, has united its suite of car brands, teams and expertise and presented its expansive office space, to include a 110,000sq ft parts warehouse, a contemporary training academy, and an extensive marketing showroom.

Gowan Auto, a member of the family-owned holding company, the Gowan Group, has made a significant commercial investment in the new Citywest premises, to future-proof the business and to meet its dealer partners' sales, parts, technical and after sales needs, more readily. Equipped with 26 electric vehicle chargers, 123 car parking spaces, 7 meeting rooms, and 2 training classrooms, the extensive new facilities have also seen the parts warehousing capacity significantly increase for the brands. The 110,000 sq ft warehouse holds increased volumes of stock

to ensure rapid parts availability for dealers, with up to 3 times daily deliveries direct to dealers.

The Gowan Academy is a contemporary training facility, offering Gowan Auto dealers access to dedicated technical, sales, finance, marketing, and digital expertise, to enable in-depth training across all facets of the business. The new marketing showroom, the Gowan Gallery, is a multi-purpose event space that has been designed for each brand to hold conferences, events and launches, and to welcome dealers and fleet guests. The introduction of shared services across the brands has ensured greater efficiencies, with the dealer networks now accessing centralised IT support, enhanced customer care, warranty, technical, parts, and finance teams.

Michael Dwan, Gowan Group Managing Director, said: "Backed by 53 years of steadfast motor industry expertise, the Gowan Auto rebrand and relocation are cornerstones to our clear vision for achieving success, together with our collective car brands, nationwide dealer networks, fleet, lease and car rental partners, and our suppliers. This transformation is part of our commitment to support our expanded brand

portfolio, and to continuously enhance our services to our dealer networks, our end-customers, and the wider auto industry in Ireland."

A major expansion to the distribution business, the consolidation and relocation

have led to the sale of both the landmark Honda building on the N7, and Gowan House in Dublin 12. Holding more than 12.2% combined passenger car and light commercial market in Ireland in 2022, the company has set its sights on considerable, sustainable growth in the coming years.



Pictured with Gowan Auto staff at the front of the new HQ, are family members, L-R: Cristiana Hurley, Fiona Thomas, Maria Bourke, Michael Maughan and Gemma Smith Maughan.



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# KNOCKLYON STUDENT WINS 2ND PRIZE IN THE SONAS BATHROOMS 2023 BATHROOM DESIGN OF THE YEAR

SONAS Bathrooms and TU Dublin (Technological University Dublin) recently announced the winners of the 2023 Bathroom Design of the Year. The overall winner is Anna Szwagrzyk from Blanchardstown, followed by Niamh Tighe of Knocklyon, in second place, and Georgia Robinson from Bray in third. Students of the Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Design, led by one of Ireland's best known Interior Designers Dr. Neville Knott, were tasked to create a luxury bathroom for a

contemporary hotel and they certainly did not disappoint. Third year award-winning students, received a certificate along with a cash prize. The overall winning design will be brought to life in a Sonas Studio display at one of the Sonas Retailers.

Dr. Knott said "This has been a really exciting competition for our students. As Sonas are the largest supplier of bathroom products in Ireland, the students had the opportunity to explore a variety of themes and

styles in bathroom design with products from their extensive range. Working on real life commercial projects is always a great experience for tomorrow's designers and these students have really risen to the occasion with a wide range of amazing designs. I extend my congratulations to Anna, Niamh and Georgia."

Richard Sloan, MD of SONAS Bathrooms said "Sonas Bathrooms are proud to support the next generation of designers and noted the extraordinarily high standard in entries to the competition. We really enjoy seeing the creativity of these students and how they brought sustainability, wellness and technology to play in the modern bathroom. It will be wonderful to bring the winning bathroom to life in one of our retailer showrooms."

Jackie Carton, President of the Interiors Association of Ireland said "It is wonderful

to see Irish companies investing in the designers of the future. And what a future that is - I have been blown away by the talents I witnessed as part of the judging panel. The Interiors Association also appreciates Sonas Bathrooms sponsoring

student membership for this entire class."

Niamh Tighe Dublin 16 (Second prize) - According to the judges "The bold use of magenta colour combined with monochrome gave this bathroom instant impact.

It was a clever simple design proving that less is more. While keeping to the same palette the judges commended Niamh's use of a wide variety of materials, clever storage and the overall linear look of the room."



Pic Credit: Fennell Photography



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Tel: 085 7812 869. Open 7 days  
Monday-Friday till 5pm -  
Saturday till 6pm - Sunday 12-5pm



*All Blinds For All Occasions!*

**ROMAN BLINDS / VELUX ROOF BLINDS / WOOD VENETIAN BLINDS / BLACKOUT BLINDS**



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- Full House Roller Blinds **€399** up to 25ft. **€499** up to 30ft. White/Cream Straight Finish
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All Blinds Supplied & Fitted • Carpets/Wood Floors, Vinyls  
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### CARPET/VINYLS

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Finance Arranged - Weekly Collections

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