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COUNCIL'S HOUSING WAITING LIST NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE

A local councillor has expressed serious concern at the number of households and individuals on South Dublin County Council's housing waiting list and across all categories. Derren Ó Brádaigh, a councillor in the constituency of Dublin Mid-West was criticising the government when speaking to what he has described as a housing and homeless 'catastrophe by design'.

Ó Brádaigh represents families and communities within areas such as Lucan, North Clondalkin, Palmerstown and Balgaddy and says that both he and his colleagues are dealing with a worrying number of people staring into the housing abyss with little or no immediate solutions to offer.

Cllr Ó Brádaigh said "Only recently, I received figures confirming that as of 1st April this year, we had a total of 13,438 adults and children across 5,888 family households on my own local authority housing list here in South Dublin. From the total number

43% are children, giving rise to real social, educational and health related concerns for so many of our younger dependents being afforded the stability required to meet their full development and potential. The figures are extraordinary given that we are only one local authority within just one county. There are 5,094 on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) transfer list. There are almost 1,300 awaiting housing transfer with 40% having approval on grounds of specific medical requirements. Many of these are also children.

"Every week, we as councillors receive the list of available properties on the council's 'Choice Based Letting' (CBL) housing system. Those that do qualify on the council's housing list are encouraged to express interest where they feel properties will meet their family needs.

Every week I personally find it increasingly difficult to even share this list, as the offerings are simply paltry. Recently, I took

a closer look at the actual numbers over the course of the past 16 months, being offered, and by bedroom size on CBL. In all of 2022 there was a meagre 262 homes in total available. This year to date there has been 15 one beds, 48 two beds, 33 three beds and no four-bedroom size units whatsoever.

"Whilst schemes such as the tenant-in-situ is hugely welcome, this in itself is not going to dent the bigger problem. The processes within the scheme itself needs to be examined further in my view, and local authorities need to allocate adequate staffing to deal with expressions of interest by landlords keen to sell to the local authority. Also, greater engagement and sharing of information with both council tenants and private homeowners that may be interested in 'Rightsizing' into Age-Friendly council-built developments within existing communities needs to be more accessible, with more of these developments being built. According to 2021 Eurostat data,

almost 7 out of every 10 people in Ireland are over-accommodated, that is, living in housing that is too large for their needs. I was happy to support the council's 'Rightsizing' policy when it was introduced 2 years ago, however I believe that most people that could potentially consider such a scheme as an option if they so choose, actually know very little if anything about it.

"Government now needs to recognise and acknowledge the plight of thousands of people and wake up to what the local authority figures are continually telling them each month, and in response declare a national housing emergency.

This demands a degree of social conscience, empathy, and ambition to be the driving factors toward the delivery of long overdue and necessary social and affordable homes, to be built on the required scale to address today's emergency and begin to resolve the over-reliance for far too long on the private rental sector."

Cllr. Shane Moynihan

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RAMS ATTEND SUPERVALU NEWCASTLE OPENING

On the 26th April, as the opening of the new Supervalu had their Ribbon

Cutting ceremony, RAMS entertained al. The tape was cut by Newcastle's very

own "Queen of the Tidy Towns" Mrs. Breda Flatley, and much to the delight of

the residents of Newcastle, spectators and the staff alike.

Mama, was a real pleaser as some shoppers even line danced.

last month. Musical Director, Mr Liam O Donnell had such a wonderful repertoire of songs for the morning.

SAGGART POPULATION UNDER-REPRESENTED ON €300K HAVE YOUR SAY

Local Councillor Trevor Gilligan recently commented on the local €300K 'have your say' funding for the Saggart area "I welcome the €300K made available by SDCC to the local community.

smaller than that of Tallaght South. Therefore, Saggart will lose out, as each item is voted on individually. A minimum of €100K-€150K of the €300K should be allocated to Saggart and vice versa. The way things are at the moment, Saggart (or Tallaght) could get zero funding based on their numbers and this is unfair. Alternatively if 10 projects are decided, then at least

3 or 4 should be ring fenced for Saggart / Tallaght".

"There must be a separate announcement in Saggart for the Saggart winners, as well as Tallaght. Currently there is only 1 announcement in the Fettercairn Youth and Community Centre in June. Plans must be put in place for an announcement, perhaps in the Saggart Heritage Centre. Of the shortlist of 22, only 5 are Saggart based, I encourage residents to make sure to vote online or in person in the Saggart heritage centre. 15th - 28th May, winners announced on the 7th June. Polling Station Location is Heritage Centre in Saggart 6pm -9pm on Wednesday 17th May & Wednesday 24th May. Well done to the Saggart residents group for their hard work and dedication to their community"

The RAMS in Rhythm were so pleased to sing and entertain at the launch, and were in great voice, as they entertained approximately 1000 customers, who passed through the supermarket on the morning. The weather was good to us all, as many of the shoppers lilted into the shop, with happy smiles on their faces. Rock me

They almost had a full complement of RAMS, with 12 members belting it out, and enjoying the reaction from the shoppers, spectators, and the listeners. With members in age from 70th to 90th, the group were very pleased to have their very own, Mr Pat Weldon singing his heart out, as Pat has just celebrated his 90th Birthday

This was the first time the RAMS in Rhythm have sang at this venue, and they hope to be back again in the near future, and fundraising for various charities.

The RAMS greatly appreciated the hospitality and generosity from The Management of Supervalu.



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MORE THAN €660K IN ADAPTATION GRANTS UNUSED IN SOUTH DUBLIN DUE TO SPIRALLING COSTS

€661,867 worth of grants meant to help older people and people with disabilities living in social housing in South Dublin were not drawn down over the last two years. Local TD, Mark Ward warned that this is because the grant limits are currently too low for works

to be feasible, meaning that people are missing out on much-needed adaptations required in their homes. The figures were released to Sinn Féin TD Thomas Gould.

to the fact the amounts awarded are so low that they aren't feasible due to rising construction costs caused by inflation.

go ahead. "The Department of Housing and South Dublin County Council must look into this issue urgently, to ensure that the scheme can operate as intended without delay. "Many people in Dublin Mid-West have been waiting for long periods for approval for these grants

which would make a major difference to their quality of life and ensure that they are safe in their homes. They are relieved to be approved for a grant, only to find that the work is unable to be delivered. They need clarity about when the flaws in this scheme will be resolved."

Speaking recently, Teachta Ward said "The Disabled Persons Grants scheme is meant to be a lifeline to enable older people and people with disabilities living in social housing to carry out adaptations that are needed in their homes. "However, figures obtained by Sinn Féin show that huge portions of the sums allocated are not being drawn down.

"The scheme isn't able to keep pace with these costs and in the meantime, much-needed adaptations can't

"Combined for 2021 and 2022, a funding allocation of €1,896,032 was made to South Dublin County Council but just €1,234,165 was drawn down. This meant that €661,867 in available funding was not used. "This means that people in Dublin Mid-West who need these adaptations aren't receiving them and the money is gathering dust. It is likely that much of this is due

MINISTER VISITS TALLAGHT SCHOOL



Pictured at Old Bawn Community School on the occasion of the visit of the Minister for Education were (L to R) Councillor Charlie O'Connor, Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and School Principal Ursula McCabe.

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Cllr Madeleine Johansson

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ANOTHER DAMNING INDICTMENT OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE IN YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Mark Ward TD has called on the Government to act urgently in the area of child and youth mental health. Deputy Ward was speaking following the publishing of A Piece of My Mind - Children's Mental Health Survey by the Ombudsman for Children's Office, which highlights the

mental health difficulties faced by 12-17 years olds.

Teachta Ward said "The Ombudsman for Children's Office today published a survey of 2,166 young people who were asked about their mental health. "The results of this report are not surprising but once again reinforces the need to resource mental health services for our young people. "78% of young people rate their mental health as not good or sometimes low/stressed/anxious. "This is a large percentage of young people who unfortunately are not having their needs addressed.

"I have regularly highlighted the increasing waiting list for CAMHS, with record highs of over 4,400 waiting for a first-time appointment and of these, 682 waiting more than a year. "What was alarming from this report was that 60% of young people who attended CAMHS, in the last year, had difficulty accessing

the service. "And 42% said that CAMHS did not help with their mental health issues.

"Where are these children supposed to go? "The interim report by the Mental Health Commission earlier this year highlighted the under resourced CAMHS teams

across the state. "This report is another indictment of the response by Government to address this crisis in young people's mental health "Early intervention is key in preventing the development of chronic, long-term mental ill-health and can reduce the increased need for CAMHS by

young people. This needs to be resourced.

"Young people's mental health is a priority for Sinn Féin and in Government we would deliver a service that meets their needs, and allows them to reach their full potential."

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LOCAL CLLR SLAMS FAILURE TO USE ASBOS TO COMBAT CRIME IN CLONDALKIN

Cllr Timmons commented recently "I am very concerned that there has been no use of ABSOs in Clondalkin so far this year and only three used last year. Residents who are being plagued with anti-social behaviour including drug dealing etc will be alarmed that these are not being used to greater effect to help combat the issues of crime, we are sick of more promised Garda resources' and promises to tackle the issues, the issues are being moved around our communities and from talking to people they feel let down by SDCC and the guards who they feel are ignoring there huge concerns" Cllr Timmons says "I understand the pressure on the guards we have but I feel that ABSOs are part of a solution to the issues residents are experiencing, I also feel SDCC need to act

faster when its in there power with the few challenging families littering, dealing drugs and causing there community a nuisance" Cllr Timmons concluded "Some Residents have had their windows broken and others are experiencing open drug dealing and buying near their door steps. One resident told me there are days it's like a market and the response time is generally poor".

"Guards need the support from government in terms of robust law and supports to carry out what is becoming increasingly difficult work, there is a huge need to increase community policing and resources pumped into under age anti-social behaviour so to catch offenders and help them when they are young."

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ACTIVE SOUTH DUBLIN PLAN

On the 8th of May, the Councillors of South Dublin Council formally ratified the aims and actions of the inaugural Local Sport & Physical Activity Plan for the county for the period 2023-2028. Titled "Active South Dublin" the plan stems from Action 8 of the National Sports Policy 2018-2017 which seeks all local authorities to develop local sports plans. South Dublin County Council is the first local authority nationwide to achieve this aim. The plan includes many ambitious objectives and actions in areas such as participation opportunities, facility development, club support and leader training, to support and motivate every citizen in the county, regardless of age, background or ability, to lead active healthy lives.



Pictured: Thos Mc Dermott (Coordinator South Dublin Co. Sports Partnership), Danny Towell (Chair of South Dublin Co. Sports Partnership), Colm Ward (Interim Chief Executive, South Dublin County Council), Cllr Emma Murphy (Mayor of South Dublin County Council), Danny Mc Laughlin (outgoing Chief Executive South Dublin County Council), Louise Burke (Director of Participation, Sport Ireland).

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Pictured from left to right are Gillian McGowran, Director of Market Development at Circle K Ireland; Eadaoin Keane, Head of Marketing at Circle K Ireland; Carmel Doyle, CEO of the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation; and Clodagh Hogan, Head of Communications at the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation announcing that Circle K customers, colleagues and dealer partners raised €175,513 for its charity partner, the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation, in the first year of a two-year partnership. Announced last year, the two-year partnership will see at least €270,000 raised for the children's charity through several fundraising initiatives at Circle K service stations nationwide. For more information, visit circlek.ie. Pic Credit: Naoise Culhane Photography

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CONCERNS OVER LACK OF SOCIAL CLAUSES IN COUNCIL CONTRACTS

Local politicians have raised concerns over the lack of social clauses in South Dublin County Council's construction contracts. The issue has come to light following a question submitted to the May County Council meeting by People Before Profit Councillor Madeleine Johansson

about the use of social clauses. Social clauses can be included in tendering contracts for projects such as social housing or community facilities.

They usually promote the hiring of locally based labour, the employment of workers who were previously

unemployed or apprentices. The only recent projects to include social clauses were the North Clondalkin Library, Castletymon Library, Kilcarbery housing development and Killinarden housing development. Other projects such as the Lucan swimming pool, the Balgaddy housing and community

centre development and others have no social clauses included.

Cllr Madeleine Johansson commented: "It's disappointing to see that a large number of council projects don't have any social clauses. We should be using social clauses to ensure that workers living locally can access work

opportunities in the local area. This would benefit not only local tradespeople and construction workers, but also the environment as travel to and from work would be reduced."

People Before Profit TD for Dublin Midwest Gino Kenny said: "I'm very concerned that these social clauses are no longer part of council

contracts. I have been contacted by construction workers in the local area who have been denied work on sites here. There is also a big problem with bogus self employment in the construction industry and I think South Dublin County Council needs to take more responsibility to ensure that this is not happening on their sites."

O'CONNOR WELCOMES TALLAGHT HERITAGE CENTRE PROGRESS

Local Councillor, Charlie O'Connor, has warmly welcomed progress towards the development of the proposed Tallaght Heritage Centre.

The matter was the subject of a detailed presentation by Jason Frehill, Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, at the May meeting of South Dublin County Council. It had previously been agreed by local Councillors that the Tallaght Heritage Centre would be located adjacent to the Civic Theatre at Council Headquarters.

Longtime campaigner for the Tallaght Heritage Centre, Charlie O'Connor told the Council meeting that it was an

important and exciting development for the County Town and he congratulated the staff involved. He said that "it is important that we remember that Tallaght didn't fall out of the sky 60 years ago and has a rich history and heritage which deserves to be preserved"

Charlie O'Connor asked for confirmation of the schedule now being followed and was told as follows: Part 8 Public Consultation in June/July, Part 8 September Council meeting, Detailed Design Q4 in 2023 & Tallaght Heritage Centre Construction Q1 in 2024. Finally, Councillor O'Connor called on the people of Tallaght to strongly support the project and to take a particular interest in the detail.

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KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFICIAL OPENING



Pictured at the official opening of Kingswood Community College by an Taoiseach were (L to R) Councillor Charlie O'Connor, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and Colm Brophy TD

OVER 400 DUBLIN GROUPS JOINED THE NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 2023

The National Spring Clean is Ireland's official anti-litter campaign and over the past 24 years, the initiative has highlighted the collective responsibility we share in tackling and preventing our national litter problem.

National Spring Clean is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Local Authorities and supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Mars Wrigley Ireland. Throughout the month of April, the National Spring Clean encouraged communities from across Ireland to tackle the problem of litter in local areas and to see the benefits of a litter-free environment. This year over 400 Dublin groups registered to carry out clean-ups throughout the county making Spring Clean 23 one of Ireland's largest anti-litter campaigns to date. Over 15,000 volunteers joined Spring Clean 23 in County Dublin removing

an estimated 85 tonnes of litter. Furthermore, National Spring Clean has been a starting point for a large number of groups to organise regular clean-up events all year long! Among the groups who joined the National Spring Clean this year, Tallaght Community Council hosted several clean-ups throughout the months of March and April, collecting an average of 10 bags of litter for each clean-up. Among the common litter items found, the group noticed an increase in smoking related litter, particularly vape waste materials.

In addition to clean-ups that had already been organised, over 80 groups and communities all across Dublin joined forces Dublin's Four Local Authorities, Clean Coasts, National Spring Clean, Local Authority Waters Programme, Waterways Ireland, Dublin City Canals, Dodder Action, residents, volunteers, and community groups county-wide for the Dublin Community Cleanup

on 22nd April. National Spring Clean, Manager, Emlyn Cullen, added "This was one of our biggest years ever with regards to people taking part. We can't thank the volunteers enough for giving up their time and energy to make Ireland a cleaner, greener country this

April. Huge credit also goes to the Local Authorities who work hard during the month to collect the full bags after events. Also I'd like to thank our funders, the Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications and sponsors, Mars Wrigley Ireland."

NO PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE COVER FOR NEWCASTLE

In recent months residents of Newcastle have been told there would be no cover in terms of a public health nurse in the Newcastle area for the foreseeable future. PHN's specialise in developmental checks for new-born and infants. They are a vital part of a child's developmental health and wellbeing. In a response to Deputy Gino Kenny, the HSE stated that the issue is one of recruitment of public health nurses in the Dublin area and beyond. People Before Profit TD for Dublin Mid-West Gino Kenny TD said "It is hard to believe in an area with the population of Newcastle there is no Public Health nurse, it is deeply concerning with each month that passes to imagine how many infants are not receiving this vital health check. I first wrote to the Minister about this in May 2022 and followed up parliamentary questions. I have asked the Minister to outline why there are recruitment problems within the HSE especially in relation to the job of Public Health Nurse. Only one application for this position flags there are serious problems if terms and conditions or low wages is the issue the HSE needs to get honest with itself to resolve this matter".

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PIONEERING NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS FUNDED TO DELIVER GREEN AND DIGITAL SKILLS TO TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Four pioneering non-profit organisations will tackle youth unemployment in Dublin's most disadvantaged areas under Rethink Ireland's €763,000 Urban Uplift Fund.

The organisations were announced recently and will deliver innovative projects working to increase youth employment and youth employability in the green and digital sectors. The Urban Uplift Fund will support up to 200 marginalised young adults (aged 18-30 years) in learning transformative skills for the green and digital economies, helping to give them back their futures.

The four non-profit organisations announced recently under the two-

year Urban Uplift Fund are: ECO-UNESCO, delivering employability programmes to young people with a focus on the green sector and sustainable development; An Cosán's Workability Programme, focused on improving digital skills of women from disadvantaged areas; NOW Employment and Training Services, supporting people with intellectual disabilities into jobs with a future; and Generation Ireland, with a focus on opportunities for young adults in Ireland's digital and green sectors.

With support from JPMorgan Chase, IBM and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Account Fund,

Rethink Ireland created the Urban Uplift Fund to address barriers to unemployment. That work begins with these four innovative projects in Dublin that will work to secure employment and/or apprenticeships in the green and/or digital economies for young adults at risk of permanent exclusion and enhance their full participation in society. Rethink Ireland provides cash grants and business supports to charities and social enterprises working in Irish communities across the country.

As part of the Fund, up to 120 marginalised young adults will be empowered into jobs, apprenticeships or work experience

programmes, with up to 75 young adults enabled to complete certified training and up to 80 to progress on to further education.

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD commented: "We are delighted to partner with Rethink Ireland to bring the Urban Uplift Fund to Dublin's most disadvantaged areas, focusing on the central role of social innovation in sustainable community development. The four pioneering organisations announced today have been awarded to address the serious problem of youth unemployment in our communities based on impactful employment

programmes based on upskilling for the green and digital economies. By working with Rethink Ireland we are enabled to support these non-profit organisations as part of the solution."

Deirdre Mortell, CEO, Rethink Ireland said: "Critically, this Fund will empower marginalised young adults who are at risk of permanent exclusion from society by working to remove the persistent barriers to employment that they face. The green and digital sectors are the employers of the future and we are determined that no one will be left behind. The Urban Uplift Fund focuses on providing opportunities in these sectors, making a step change in the right direction for young adults in Dublin's most marginalised communities." She added: "Progress made to date on reducing unemployment rates in Ireland has not benefited everyone equally and with the onset and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, these inequalities have only increased. The need for this Fund is great."

Marc Hussey, Senior Country Officer and Head of Banking in Ireland for J.P. Morgan Bank SE, commented: "Ensuring that young people are equipped with the skills and experiences they need to thrive in the jobs of today and tomorrow is key to creating a more inclusive economy. JPMorgan Chase is committed to addressing barriers to opportunity and economic mobility, and we're thrilled to partner with Rethink Ireland in these efforts."

Deborah Threadgold, IBM Ireland Country General

Manager, commented: "IBM is proud to support the Urban Uplift Fund to help marginalised youth reach their potential. Supporting people through training and development has always been at heart of everything we do in the local community and part of our commitment to help upskill 30 million people globally by 2030. "Participating in programmes like this and getting access to resources like SkillsBuild not only enables these young people to develop the skills needed by the digital and green sectors in Ireland, but also opens up new pathways to career opportunities, now and into the future."

Heydi Foster, CEO, An Cosán added "We welcome the support and the recognition by Rethink Ireland of the value of our WorkAbility programme, which addresses issues of low levels of education and employment of women living in Tallaght West, Cherry Orchard / Ballyfermot and Dublin's south inner city. Following on from the success of our Business Administration with Digital Skills programme, which helped learners across Ireland gain sustainable employment, we look forward to continuing to provide transferable skills for through our WorkAbility programme. As Ireland's largest community education organisation, An Cosán has empowered over 20,000 adult learners since 1986.

Our unique holistic approach, which encompasses career coaching, early years' education, family support, and one-to-one mentoring and counselling, ensures that learners are supported to achieve their education goals and to go on to secure better jobs."



Pictured from left at the launch of Rethink Ireland's Urban Uplift Fund are: Maeve Monaghan, CEO at NOW Group; Debra Crawley, Community Education Lead at An Cosán; Deirdre Mortell, CEO at Rethink Ireland; Jennifer Wickham, Generation Ireland; and Elaine Nevin, CEO at ECO-UNESCO. Photograph: Marc O'Sullivan

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'EVERYONE A READER' SCHOOL LIBRARY PROJECT LAUNCHES IN CLONDALKIN

Davenham Switchgear and Children's Books Ireland to gift a full library of books to three local secondary schools. As reading enjoyment and comprehension slumps among teenagers, a new project from Davenham Switchgear and Children's Books Ireland aims to draw them back to the bookshelf. 'Everyone A Reader', launched recently in Clondalkin, will engage three local schools - Coláiste Bríde, Deansrath Community College and St Kevin's Community College - to build a love of reading among their students, staff and wider community.

Thanks to a three-year commitment from Davenham Switchgear, a leading Irish manufacturer based in the area, each school will receive 400 new books for each year of the project. Of these, two hundred will be chosen by the expert Children's Books Ireland team, selected to capture the students' interest and attention, and to reflect the richness and diversity of Irish society. A further

one hundred titles will be chosen by the students and teachers in each school, further building a sense of ownership over their new library.

Every year for the three years, the schools will also receive class sets of books, which make up the final one hundred books and which will facilitate the set-up of book clubs for TY students. A Champion of Reading - a well-known Irish author or illustrator - will work with the school over three years to encourage creativity and engagement with the library. Staff will be trained in maximising the use of their new library, while school-wide surveys will measure the long-term impact of the project.

According to the Growing Up in Ireland longitudinal study, at nine years old, only 6% of children in Ireland report never reading for pleasure. At thirteen, however, this figure rises to 19%, and within another four years, there is a significant decline: over half of seventeen-year olds never read for pleasure.

By engaging directly with teenagers at this critical point in their reading journey, this project aims to ensure that every student leaving the school considers themselves a reader, and can enjoy the many opportunities opened up by a regular habit of reading.

Yvonne Crowley, a teacher at Deansrath Community School, said: 'The Everyone a Reader project is a massive opportunity for our school to develop and foster a love of reading and encourage reading for enjoyment in our students. The excitement in the faces of the students as they browsed all the books is one that I have never seen before and gave them a new way to experience modern titles and books that they could relate to. We are so grateful to have this programme running in our school to enhance our students' love of reading.'

John Corcoran, Managing Director of Davenham Switchgear, said: 'We are delighted to be supporting the local schools through Children's Books Ireland.

We have been based here in Clondalkin for over forty years and a lot of our success has been through local employment. The Everyone A Reader programme, launched last week, is key to engaging with younger students to develop their reading skills. We will continue to support Children's Books Ireland in this initiative.' Elaina

Ryan, CEO of Children's Books Ireland, said: 'We are thrilled to be working with Davenham Switchgear to foster a lasting culture of reading in their local community. The long-term nature of this project means that we can really engage with each school, boosting their shelves with brilliant books, sharing our expertise

and making sure every student feels that there's at least one book in their new library that they can pick up and bring home. Making reading fun and accessible is the first step in building a young person's identity as a reader, and is front of mind for ourselves and Davenham as we begin this new partnership.'

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PURE MILE VOLUNTEERS COLLECT TONNES OF RUBBISH

The environment/community/heritage initiative, The Pure Mile, which encourages communities and groups living in rural areas of Wicklow, South Dublin, and Dun-Laoghaire, to adopt a mile, or miles of road, and organise litter picks, clean-ups, and work together to keep these areas litter and rubbish free, have collected tonnes of litter and illegal dumping from the beautiful, scenic, South Dublin Uplands.

Due to the hard work, determination, commitment, energy and enthusiasm, of the Pure Mile Groups, there has been a visible decrease in litter and rubbish in the South Dublin Uplands. There are now over 1,000 miles of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries and upland amenities, signed up to the 2023 Pure Mile, the largest number ever since the initiative began. Thousands of litter picks and clean-ups undertaken by Pure Mile volunteers, ranging from individuals, family groups, community groups, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, hiking groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, businesses, and organisations, have removed hundreds of tonnes of illegally dumped waste and thousands of bags of litter and rubbish from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since the initiative was started in 2010. The success of the Pure

Mile demonstrates the importance and necessity of the initiative and the need for continued collaboration and engagement to protect the South Dublin Upland environment.

The South Dublin Uplands is a unique landscape and environment and although Pure has removed tonnes of illegal dumping from this beautiful scenic landscape, they only have one truck and one driver, so they are unable to remove the unsightly small-scale litter from the area. The Pure Mile Groups make a huge difference to the appearance of the South Dublin Uplands and Pure would like to congratulate all of the Pure Mile Volunteers involved. Pure want to engage with all types of groups and businesses who are interested in 'Cleaning-Up The South Dublin Uplands' and they will assist in any way they can.

It is also worth noting that the majority of the uplands in South Dublin are of environmental significance, and part of the Wicklow Mountains National Park. It's an area of both Irish and European significance and protected under the European Habitats Directive as a Special Area of Conservation. Pure Mile Volunteers have commented to Pure that the majority of the litter in the South Dublin Uplands consisted of, cans, bottles, wrappers and plastic, predominantly

located at viewing points and pull-ins, no doubt discarded there by people enjoying the scenic landscape and tranquil beauty of the area. Because of the enthusiasm, energy, and commitment, of the Pure Mile Volunteers Pure have noticed a considerable improvement in the areas adopted by Pure Mile Groups.

Ian Davis, manager of Pure commented 'The Pure Mile was established in 2010 and the project has grown from 5 miles to over 1,000 miles this year. Now that all Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted we are able to organise large scale clean-ups of the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and we have seen an increase in people getting involved. Since Covid-19 people have become much more aware of the amount of litter and rubbish on roadside verges, hedges, and drains and they want to do something about it. Pure Mile groups are contacting us every day to organise litter picks and clean-ups, and the Pure Truck has been extremely busy collecting the rubbish on a daily basis, ensuring that no bags are left on the landscape. It's amazing the amount of litter and rubbish the Pure Mile Volunteers are removing from the South Dublin Uplands and we would like to thank all of them in assisting us to Clean-Up The South Dublin Uplands.'

Over 50 litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping

initiatives, have already taken place in the 2022/2023 Pure Mile in the South Dublin Uplands and almost all roads in the South Dublin Uplands are being adopted by Pure Mile Groups. These groups are extremely busy 'Cleaning-Up The South Dublin Uplands' with Roads, Car Parks, Amenity Areas, Upland Trails, Mountain Trails, Woodlands and Forest Entrances, being adopted.

Pure Mile Groups involved in this Pure Mile in the South Dublin Uplands, include, Trekkers Walking Group, Glencree Walking Group, Atha Cliath Uplands Clean-Up Team, Bog Trotters Walking Group, Wayfarers Walking Group, Cruagh Walking Group, Friends of the South Dublin Uplands, Glenasmole/Cunard Pure Mile, Gunny Hill Pure Mile,

Windmill Hill Rathcoole Pure Mile, Irish Mountain Running Association, and more people are expressing an interest in getting involved. It is estimated that the Pure Truck removed approximately 26,000 kilograms (26 tonnes) of waste, rubbish, litter, illegal dumping, from South Dublin Uplands in 2022, and a considerable amount of this was collected/gathered by Pure Mile Groups.

Pure supply all groups with Pure Mile Signs, Pure Mile Bags, Pure Mile High-Vis Vests, litter pickers and gloves, and the Pure Truck collects all rubbish and litter gathered by groups. All groups who register with the Pure Mile are invited to the Pure Mile Gala Evening Awards Night, and all receive a Certificate of Participation,

a selection of Native Irish Trees, and all feature in the Pure Mile Calendar.

Pure are looking for groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, scouts, businesses, organisations, EVERYONE, to get involved in the Pure Mile by adopting an upland area in the South Dublin Uplands. All groups who enter will be included in the 'Clean-Up The Uplands' Award category and all are in with a chance of winning €500. People can contact Pure at info@pureproject.ie. Further information on Pure can be found on www.pureproject.ie

TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING IN THE SOUTH DUBLIN UPLANDS CALL 1800 365 123

BRAY INSTITUTE ABOLISH FEES FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

The cost of living has reached a record high this year, families and businesses are struggling and interest rates are rising. It is for this reason that Bray Institute of Further Education has decided to abolish all tuition fees, exam fees, course material fees, and kit fees for the 2023-2024 academic year. Students will only have to pay an acceptance fee of €50 and a flat registration fee of €150.

BIFE is also pleased to present their Graduate Show 2023. The exhibition comprises work from all art and design courses representing the high quality of work produced by students who complete certificate and diploma courses at the college. BIFE Graduate Show 2023 is exhibiting 10.00-16.00 Wednesday 24th, 10.00-21.00 Thursday 25th May, and 10.00-13.00 Friday 26th May. (Poster attached)

If you missed their recent Open Days, you will have the opportunity to visit the Institute again on Thursday May 25th for our Open Evening which will take place between 7 pm and 9 pm. You will be able to view the extensive range of courses and facilities available and browse through our Graduate Exhibition. Staff will be on hand to answer any queries

that you might have or to discuss courses on the night.

This year, the Institute has launched several new courses at levels 5 & 6:

- Soccer Coaching in collaboration with Liverpool FC Level 5
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Level 5
- Podcasting & Streaming Level 5
- Dog Obedience & Training - Start Your Own Business Level 6
- Payroll & Office Administration Level 5
- Hospitality & Business Management Level 6
- Optician Assistant Level 5
- English Language and IT Skills for International Students Level 5
- English Language and Business for International Students Level 5

Work Experience is a vital part of the BIFE courses and now all students in the College have the

opportunity to complete a 3-week or a 3-month work placement abroad in countries such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Finland, Malta or Czechia under the Erasmus+ Programme which is sponsored by the European Union.

This is a terrific opportunity for BIFE students, not only to gain valuable work experience in a European country but also to experience a different culture and to broaden their horizons.

Full details of the above courses are available on our website www.bife.ie. Students can apply online on the website by clicking on the "Apply Now" button. There is no application fee.





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60TH BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY OF YEAR RETURNS JANUARY 2024



The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition returns to the RDS from January 10th to 13th, 2024, and will celebrate 60 years of the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people on the island of Ireland. It is an all-encompassing celebration of science and technology under one roof.

BT Ireland, the communications services company, and the education charity, Young Scientist & Technology of the Year Limited (YSE Ltd), have also announced that they have extended their partnership for a further three years through to the 2026. The three-year sponsorship extension will see BT Ireland continue as custodian and organiser of the exhibition. BT Ireland has been the title partner of the Young Scientist & Technology exhibition since 2000 and will mark 25 years as custodian and sponsor of the exhibition in 2025.

Applications for the 2024 BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition will open in late August 2024 and students from across the island of Ireland are encouraged to submit project proposals and be part of the country's leading live STEM event.

Shay Walsh, Managing Director, BT Ireland commented, "At BT Ireland we're extremely proud of our history with the exhibition and we are thrilled to be extending our partnership with the Young Scientist and Technology of the Year for another three years. The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition has become part of our organisation's DNA, with 200 of our colleagues volunteering their time each January to help make the exhibition a success.

"The exhibition is much more than a competition, it is an unforgettable experience of a lifetime for the students who take part.

We continue to see the positive impact the exhibition has on fostering young talent in the areas of science, technology, engineering and maths in Ireland, and we look forward to growing the exhibition further in the years to come with our exhibition partners."

UCD Professor Pat Guiry, Chair of YSE Ltd, commented, "On behalf of the board of the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition we're delighted to be continuing our partnership with BT Ireland. BT Ireland has helped the exhibition reach new heights since it became the custodian of the exhibition 23 years ago, increasing engagement levels amongst students and the public and strengthening relationships with exhibition partners. They have introduced a science festival around the annual exhibition as well as extending the exhibition to primary school students through the Primary School Science Fair and developed a business skills extension programme for exhibition alumni. We look forward to celebrating 60 years of the exhibition in January and our partnership with BT Ireland."

Under its tenure BT Ireland has helped grow the exhibition over the past 20 years to reach new audiences and further the STEM agenda in Ireland. BT Ireland has introduced a science festival at the exhibition with live acts appearing daily. Since 2001, the Primary Science Fair has been a core component of exhibition week. It encourages 3rd to 6th class primary school students to develop their interest in STEM in a non-competitive environment. The Primary Science Fair takes place on the Thursday and Friday of exhibition week at the RDS.

The BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp has been a very successful initiative, which has been an extension programme of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition for fourteen years. It was created by BT as a way to encourage participating BTYSTE students to develop key business and innovation skills.

FOOD PRICES SOAR WHILE GOVERNMENT PLAYS 'WAIT AND SEE'

TD for Dublin South West Seán Crowe has called for the Government to take action to bring down the cost of feeding a household as research by Kantar showed that grocery prices rose by 17% in the past year and could cost families an average €1,200 extra by next year if measures are not put in place to control the price of food.

Speaking in the Dáil recently, Teachta Crowe said "Grocery prices have soared by 17% over the past year, which is the highest rise ever recorded. This means the average grocery bill could rise by €1,200 a year, just to put food on the table, if the current trend continues. "We know this rise in the cost of living shows no sign of slowing down. What we were told was a temporary rise in inflation, a reaction to the war in Ukraine, has persisted and running a household is becoming increasingly unaffordable.

Prices will not come down on their own. We saw this with petrol and diesel where a slight decrease from the highest prices became the new normal. It is the same with utility bills and grocery bills. Prices will not come down unless action is taken in this House to protect workers and their families.

"The Government likes to say 'No', whether it is on mortgage interest relief supports or with the rising cost of putting food on the table for a family. Food banks are popping up all over the place and this Government will not even consider taking action until the October budget. That is a long way away for a lot of people when they see large bills coming through the door and they are wondering how to pay for basics like food.

"We need to increase weekly social welfare and pension rates to stem the flow of

families, and especially pensioners, into food poverty. We need to secure the food supply chain in Ireland. We grow enough food to feed this island ten times over. Why is that not reflected in the cost of food? It is because we have allowed input costs to go entirely out of control. Diesel costs have doubled and fertiliser costs have tripled. All of this throws uncertainty over the agriculture sector and drives up the prices for the consumer. This is about more than growing lettuce in a window box. This is about protecting the farmer and the consumer and creating a system that is fair and less reliant on imports, to the benefit of both.

"The Government is a master at wait and see, or waits for Europe to lead. The Consumer Price Index rose for the 18th month in a row in March. More and more vulnerable families cannot wait. We need to do more."

SUN SHINES FOR CLONDALKIN RUGBY CLUB FAMILY DAY

Deputy Emer Higgins, TD for Dublin Mid West was delighted to attend the recent family day in Clondalkin Rugby Club's new grounds, with many of the young players, parents and volunteers, enjoying the sunshine and some home-made pizza.



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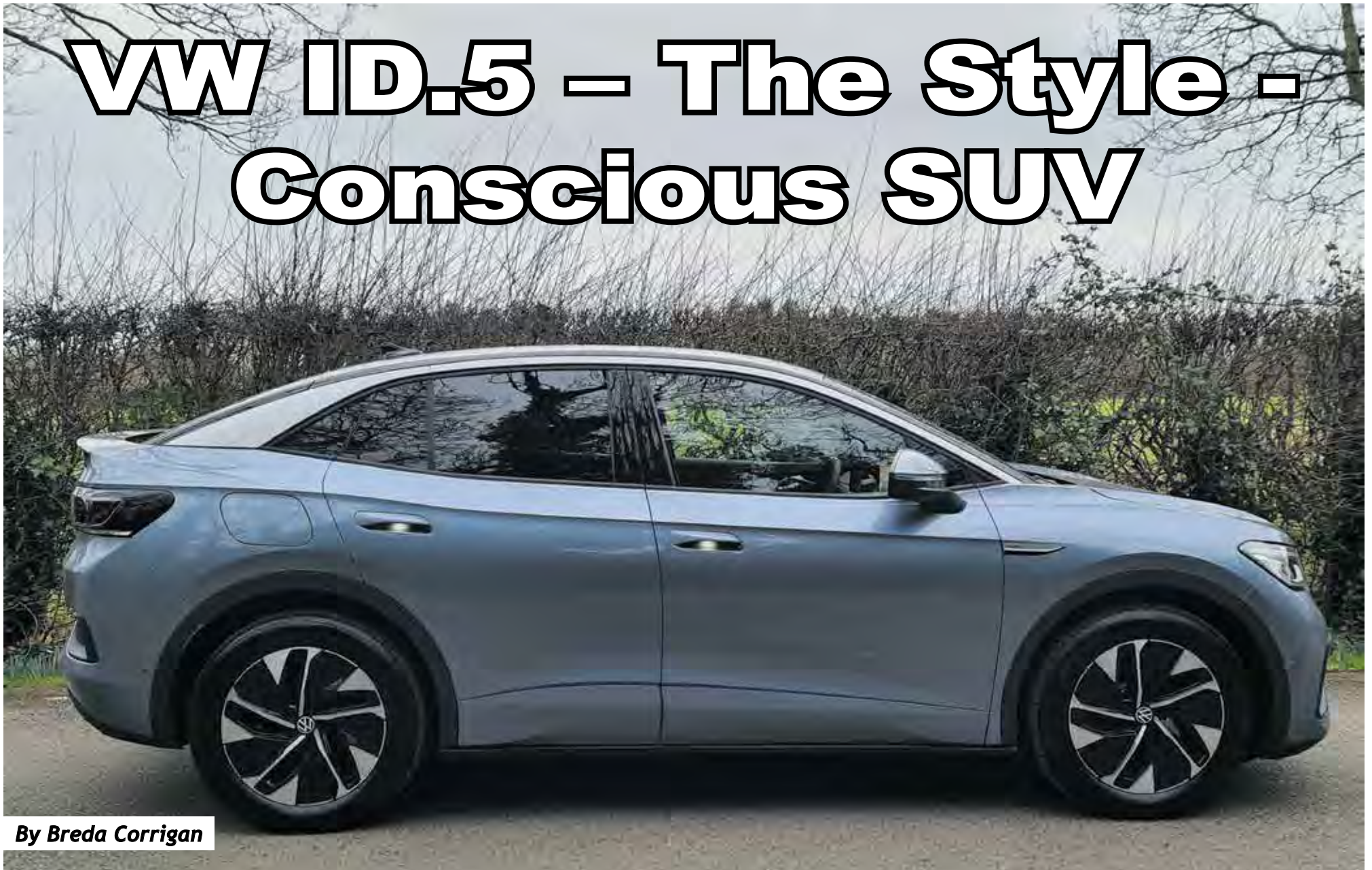
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VW ID.5 – The Style - Conscious SUV



By Breda Corrigan

Following on from the launch of the hugely-successful, fully-electric ID.3 and ID.4, Volkswagen has introduced the sleek and sporty ID.5, which is a fully electric SUV with coupe styling. The ID.5 is built on the same platform as the ID.4, the Audi Q4 Sportback e-tron and the Skoda Enyaq Coupe SUV, but unlike these cars, the ID.5 is not available with a smaller battery: the only option is a sizeable 77kWh unit that provides a WLTP battery range of up to 530km. The ID.5 can be charged from 0-100% via a wallbox charger in seven and a half hours, with a 5-80% charge at a DC fast charge station taking just 29 minutes.

Sporty Exterior Design.

The overall exterior design of the ID.5 doesn't deviate all that much from the ID.4. Indeed, from some angles it might not be obvious to spot the new rear-end treatment, featuring redesigned C-pillars, a sloping roofline and a new boot lid incorporating a rear wing. Inside the ID.5, the interior closely resembles that of the ID.4, albeit with some nicer trim elements to reflect the ID.5's position in Volkswagen's fully-electric car line-up. The modern and uncluttered cabin features two digital screens mounted on the dashboard that give access to the various on-board functions. The 12.0-inch infotainment screen has sharp graphics and is responsive to the touch, and it offers wireless Apple

CarPlay and Android Auto, sat nav, DAB radio and over-the-air update capabilities. There is also a wireless smartphone charger fitted to all trims. The cabin is spacious with plenty of head and leg room for all occupants, while the seating is comfortable and supportive too. Rear passenger space is virtually unchanged from the ID.4, so there is space for up to five adults, and the boot is actually slightly larger, holding up to 1,561-litres when the rear seats are folded.

Trim & Drivetrain Options.

Trim levels available in the new ID.5 comprise of Business, Style, Family, Tech and

Max which come in rear-wheel drive guise, and GTX, GTX Business and GTX Max which benefit from all-wheel drive capability. A terrific energy recuperation system in the ID.5 makes it easy and fuss-free to extend the range of the battery. For instance, when the driver approaches a slower moving vehicle, the ID.4 can automatically use the slowing effect of regenerative braking to align with the vehicle in front. Additionally, there is a selectable 'B' mode which increases braking effect in normal driving. As is the case with its ID.3 and ID.4 siblings, the gear selector in the ID.5 is situated to the right hand side of the steering wheel and it is engaged by simply twisting the selector forwards or backwards to choose

the direction of travel. Key standard features from entry-level ID.5 Business trim include 19-inch 'Hamar' alloy wheels, LED Matrix headlights (with automatic headlight control, Dynamic Light Assist and iQ. Light), LED tail lights, exterior surround lighting with unique puddle light design, black roof, rear spoiler, centre console with armrest, carpet mats made from recycled material, 12-inch 'Discover Pro' Navigation System, wireless smartphone charging, tinted rear windows, Adaptive Cruise Control with speed limiter, We Connect Plus, front & rear parking sensors, Driving Profile Selection, Natural Voice Control, noise and heat insulating windscreen, Air Care Climatronic air conditioning with enhanced air filter, multiple airbags, and a suite of advanced driver assistance systems.

Test Car Details.

My ID.5 Tech test car was finished in beautiful blue metallic paintwork that was complimented by sporty 19-inch 'Hamar' alloy wheels. Buyers looking for even more visual drama can upgrade to 20 or 21-inch alloy wheels, with a host of other optional extras available for ultimate personalisation. With 204hp and 310Nm of torque available from the get-go, the car can accelerate from 0-100km/h in as little as 8.4-seconds. It is impressively smooth and refined to drive, particularly at high speeds

on a motorway, and there is always plenty of power in reserve for overtaking slower-moving traffic with confidence. There is plenty of grip on twisty roads, the steering is well weighted and body movements are controlled with great precision. Ride comfort is excellent, with occupants adequately insulated from the outside world. All trim variants come with a host of standard comfort, convenience, safety and infotainment systems, with my Tech test car also benefitting from an augmented reality head-up display, 450W output speakers with subwoofer, sensor-controlled Easy Open & Close boot lid, Trained Parking, Area View overhead camera incorporating a reversing camera, and Travel Assist with Swarm Data, along with Emergency Assist and Side Assist safety features.

Verdict, Pricing & Warranty.

With its stylish coupé looks, excellent interior space, smooth acceleration, high driving position and an impressive range, the new VW ID.5 is a very commendable car in every respect. Pricing for the ID.5 (174hp) starts at €62,695 (inclusive of delivery-related costs), with the 204hp version priced from €64,790. A 3-year/90,000km manufacturers' warranty comes as standard, along with an 8-year/160,000km battery warranty for total peace of mind motoring.

CLONDALKIN BASED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Interested organisations and individuals are being encouraged to register for an international conference on Social Enterprise, which will take place on May 24th. The half-day conference is being hosted by Clondalkin based Oakfield Trust and entitled Social Enterprise in Ireland: Achieving Real Social Impact and Developing the Space.

The conference will take place from 9.45am to 1.30pm at the Wood Quay

Venue in central Dublin. It will include a combination of international and homegrown speakers, panel discussions with CEOs and leaders from the enterprise and social sectors, and video contributions from the social enterprise community.

The event will be moderated by the Managing Director of the international Hayes Culleton Group, Susan Hayes Culleton, known as 'The Positive

Economist'. Chairperson Aileen O'Donoghue said the organisation was looking forward to "an open and thought-provoking event with many opportunities for audience participation." Oakfield Trust is a Dublin based social enterprise and registered charity and has been successfully supporting community organisations and social enterprises for 26 years. More information is online at www.oakfieldtrust.ie.

WELCOME PROGRESS ON NEW NORTH CLONDALKIN PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

TD for Dublin Mid-West, Mark Ward has welcomed that progress has been made on the provision of a primary health care centre in North Clondalkin on the grounds of Collinstown Community College. In response to a parliamentary question submitted by Teachta Ward, the HSE stated that the process of formal acquisition of the site for the primary care centre will now be progressed.

Teachta Ward said "The provision of a state-of-the art primary health care centre is badly needed in North Clondalkin. "An agreement was reached in 2015 between The Department of Education & The Department of Health on a transfer of lands at Collinstown Community College. "Planning permission was granted in 2018 for the construction of a two-storey primary healthcare centre and a single-storey multi-functional space in the grounds of Collinstown Park Community College in Rowlagh, Clondalkin.

"It is now 2023 and not a sod of earth has been turned on the site, despite planning

permission, the fire safety cert and the disability access certificate all being granted. "I welcome the news I received from the HSE that the process of formal acquisition of the site for the primary care centre will now be progressed.

"North Clondalkin is a strong and vibrant community, but also one that experiences significant socioeconomic disadvantage. Therefore, the delay in this facility has all sorts of additional consequences. "The plans for the Rowlagh Primary Healthcare Centre are to house a nurse-managed clinic, suites for speech and language therapy, occupational and physiotherapy therapy, a dental clinic, a paediatrics suite, GP suites and a mental health suite.

"These are much needed services that the people of North Clondalkin are crying out for. "I also welcome the money has been allocated for the primary care centre in the 2023 capital programme. "I will be contacting the Minister regularly to make sure there are no more delays."

STUDENTS WIN TOP PRIZES IN TEXACO ART COMPETITION

Four South local students were amongst 36 young artists from Dublin to have won top prizes in this year's 69th Texaco Children's Art Competition. All were winners of Special Merit Awards for artworks that Final Adjudicator, Professor Gary Granville said 'were imaginative and displayed high levels of skill and creativity'. They were Matthew Chen (age 6) from St. Thomas' J.N.S. Lucan; and Hannah Oyakhirume (17), Aitor Moroney Puche (15) and Josh

Maguire (18) - all pupils at St. Michael's School, Chapelizod. The Texaco Children's Art Competition is popularly regarded as the longest-running sponsorship in the history of arts sponsoring in Ireland, with an unbroken history that dates back to the very first Competition held in 1955. This year, as has been the case throughout its life, it has been a platform on which young artists from Dublin and counties throughout Ireland have had their talents recognised and their creativity commended.



NOVENAS FOR LAURALYNN

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

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BALGADDY - A COMMUNITY FORGOTTEN

TDs for Dublin Mid-West Eoin Ó Broin and Mark Ward conducted a door-to-door survey in Balgaddy during September 2022 to discuss tenants' personal experiences in their homes, community, and the council.

The survey consisted of twelve questions asking the tenant about their personal experience in dealing with the council. They were also asked about their personal experience in witnessing anti-social behaviour, intimidation, drug dealing and vandalism Teachta Ward said "Balgaddy is a

community that has been left behind. The community is in dire need of more funding, more investment in maintenance and housing.

"The people of Balgaddy have been forgotten about by the parties in government and the council. Residents need action from those in power to make change. We are calling on the council, elected councillors, TDs, and the government to act.

"67% of responders reported issues with Damp/Mould in their homes. 63% of people who filled out the survey

reported issues with their Windows/Doors and the same percentage of people reported issues with leaks.

"The reports found in this survey are a damning indictment on the inaction of the organisations responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Balgaddy as a community. Despite the tireless efforts by the community at large and local groups nothing can be achieved until the council and government give the necessary support to help the people of Balgaddy. "76% of people who responded to our survey have said they have seen no improvement in SDCC repairs in the last year.

Teachta O Broin said "A total regeneration of the area is needed. The announcement of 69 new homes and a community centre being built is welcome news. We must stress that the mistakes of the past must not be repeated. The community centre must be adequate for the extra needs of the people of Balgaddy and must be built as soon as possible. "A

comprehensive maintenance plan with the appropriate budget to tackle all the complaints of Balgaddy residents is required.

"74% of responders have said they have witnessed open drug dealing. 43% of people have had experience with Intimidation, 62% of people have had issues with Anti-Social Behaviour and 60%

of people have experienced Vandalism. "One positive note is that when we conducted a survey 10 years ago 55% rated the Garda performance as poor were as this has dropped to 39%. Ronanstown Garda station is large enough for more gardai.

A higher garda presence is required in Balgaddy and

this is only possible through hiring more Gardaí.

"A Community Safety Forum needs to be set up including all the stakeholders from the area to address the issues raised. This must include the local community and senior management from South Dublin County Council, youth services and the Gardaí and they must meet monthly.





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