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# WE NEED TO URGENTLY RECLASSIFY NITROUS OXIDE AS A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Barry Andrews, Fianna Fáil MEP representing Dublin, has reiterated his appeal to the Irish Government to designate nitrous oxide as a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977. MEP Andrews is renewing his call following reports from Doctors at a Dublin hospital that there is an increased number of teenagers presenting with frostbite injuries following the inhalation of the dangerous substance, known as ‘Laughing Gas’.

Andrews stated “The Irish Government needs to take action and align with the recent decisions of other EU Member States and amend existing legislation to restrict possession of Nitrous Oxide, popularly known as laughing gas. “The situation

is worsening, evidenced by a growing number of severe frostbite cases linked to gas usage. Given the well-known life-altering side effects of the gas, one wonders why we haven’t aligned with our European counterparts in restricting possession of this substance.”

“The Netherlands, Belgium and the UK have taken measures to prohibit its recreational use, indicating a shift even in nations known for progressive views on drug use. The Government must urgently amend existing legislation to prevent laughing gas becoming this century’s ‘gateway drug’ for young people.”

Andrews sheds light on the legal inconsistencies, stating,

“While the Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2010 prohibits the sale of psychoactive substances, which prohibits the sale of nitrous oxide for its psychoactive properties, nitrous oxide remains legally accessible for catering and industrial purposes. This legal gap allows its sale in small retail outlets and online, contributing to its prevalence.”

The 2022 study from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, highlighted by Andrews, reveals that one in four Irish individuals has experimented with nitrous oxide. Despite the psychoactive properties of nitrous oxide, existing legislation falls short of classifying it as a controlled

substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977. “It’s disturbing that this substance can be easily purchased from online retailers who boast about its ability to ‘create memorable moments’, all the while emphasising the anonymity it provides to the buyer.”

Andrews concludes with a stark warning: “Despite being marketed as safe by online retailers touting its European production, free delivery, and a variety of flavours, I’m concerned this creates a dangerous misconception among young people regarding the safety of nitrous oxide. The momentary euphoria it provides is not worth the potentially life-altering and fatal consequences. The Government must take action to safeguard our youth.”

# Shamrock Rovers Kick Off Event

Pictured at the Shamrock Rovers Kick Off Event in the Square were Shamrock Rovers soccer stars Maria Reynolds, Richie Towell and Aine O’Gorman with Rovers Fan Cllr. Charlie O’Connor.

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# LEO'S BARBER SHOP CUTS OUT THE COMPETITION IN SHOPFRONT GRANT SCHEME 2023

Leo's Barbers, received €1,000 from South Dublin County Council under the Council's annual Shopfront Grant Scheme. The award of Best Designed Shopfront was in addition to a grant received to part fund the installation of an improved shopfront design.

"I would like to congratulate Leo's Barber Shop on winning Best Designed Shopfront as part of the Shopfront Grant Scheme 2023", said Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Alan Edge. "It was lovely to chat to David and Mohamed and to their customers, one of whom has been coming

to this family business since David's dad, Leo, founded it more than 50 years ago. The vision shown by David and his staff to improve the aesthetics of their fantastic community-based business exemplifies the goals and aspirations of Shopfront Grant Scheme. I am delighted to see the results of the work and the positive impact it has on the locality."

The annual Shopfront Grant Scheme provides grants for shopfront improvements ranging from painting updates to replacing an entire shopfront. Grants are

available for a maximum of 50% of overall costs. Furthermore, a prize of €1,000 is awarded for the Best Designed Shopfront under the scheme.

South Dublin County Council are delighted to launch the scheme for 2024, for the eleventh successive year. The council would encourage local businesses to apply for this year's scheme, which is currently open for applications. Business owners/ operators of independently owned shops which front onto public streets are eligible to apply.

Under the 2023 scheme, Leo's Barber Shop were granted approval for a complete shopfront renovation. This included painting, replacement signage, and the addition of vinyl designs. The works carried out have made a significant improvement to the design of the long established and popular barber shop, exemplifying the benefits of the scheme



for business owners.

"In 2022 we became aware of the SDCC Shopfront Grant Scheme and applied for a grant in 2023, to update the shopfront with new signage and lettering to improve appearance and attract more customers, says David McCurtin, owner of Leo's

Barber Shop. The procedure was so easy and with the help of SDCC staff we had out new shopfront within weeks. When we heard that we were chosen as winner of Best Designed Shopfront 2023 we were overjoyed.

It was great to meet the team who helped us to

achieve this and thank them personally. Our business has increased significantly, and we have lots of people commenting on our shop front daily. We would urge anyone who is in business to avail of this grant as the rewards are great. We love our new shop front and can't thank SDCC enough".

**NEWS  
GROUP**

Published by: Newsgroup, Unit 3 Floor 2 St. Dominics Shopping Centre, St. Dominics Road, Tallaght, Dublin, D24 HK49.

Titles: Tallaght News, Clondalkin News, Lucan News and Rathcoole & Saggart News

Distributed by: Local Post Co. Printed by: Webprint Citywest

Contact Details:  
Website [www.newsgroup.ie](http://www.newsgroup.ie) Email: [info@newsgroup.ie](mailto:info@newsgroup.ie)

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# JAMES KELLY AN EMERGING RALLY STAR

James Kelly from Ballinascorney completed in the final round of the Rally Sport Association Northern Ireland Winter Championship on the 16th of March. The Antrim based event is the final round in the winter

series. James, at 13 years of age entered the event leading the Junior class with 1 round remaining.

The Junior class caters for drivers between the ages of 12 to 17 in 1000cc cars. James drives a left hand drive Peugeot 107 with a full roll cage, competition seats and 6 point safety harness. All junior drivers must have a co-driver and this responsibility is shared between his father Jason Kelly and grandfather John Kelly.

This class has an average of 25 entries per event and competition is fierce with young drivers from all over the country battling for the top spot. His fast pace, consistency and fearless determination has allowed James to take wins already. He started competing in March 2023 at the age of 12, although he was one of the youngest in the junior class he quickly established himself as one of the front runners, scoring a podium in one of his first outings of the 2023 Summer Championship.

James is also competing in upcoming Rally Sport Association Pallas Winter Series, this championship is based in Tynagh in Galway. This championship consists of

4 rounds, of the three rounds that have been completed to date he has won 2 and came 2nd in the other, he leads this championship by 1 point with the last round on the

24th March. He is sponsored by J Kelly Motors Blessington and Kumon Firhouse. The graphics on his car was kindly sponsored by Tint It in Sandyford.



Pic Credit: Philip Stewart Photography

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# KINGSWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE AMONGST SCHOOLS AWARDED FOR LGBTQ+ INCLUSION

Kingswood Community College was one of the first schools to be awarded the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark for their commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion. The post-primary schools recently finished an 18-month journey embedding LGBTQ+ inclusion across their people, policies and practices.

The LGBTQ+ Quality Mark is run by Belong To, Ireland's national LGBTQ+ youth organisation. Students, teachers and principals from 37 schools came together to receive their award at a celebratory event at The Foundry, Google Headquarters in Dublin. The LGBTQ+ Quality Mark initiative is a holistic approach to LGBTQ+ inclusion in post-primary schools that involves the whole school community. Over the course

of 18 months, schools are supported in implementing evidence-based actions across a number of key areas, which research shows improves the wellbeing and safety of LGBTQ+ students. The LGBTQ+ Quality Mark was created with support from Google.org.

Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia remain a significant challenge for LGBTQ+ students. In Ireland, 76% of LGBTQ+ second-level students feel unsafe at school. The schools involved in the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark have worked tirelessly to create an environment where all students feel safe and supported.

Speaking at the event, Jack Chambers (he/him), Minister of State and TD for Dublin West, said "I am delighted

to join students, teachers and principals from schools across Ireland as they receive their LGBTQ+ Quality Mark. Belong To's LGBTQ+ Quality Mark recognises the importance of schools being places where members of the LGBTQ+ community can feel safe and supported. We know that a supportive school environment can have a hugely beneficial impact on the wellbeing and attainment of LGBTQ+ students.

Together, we need to address the anti-LGBTQ+ stigma and discrimination that remains prevalent in our society. The Government is committed to ensuring the safety, equality and inclusion of all students, including our LGBTQ+ students, by creating safe, supportive and inclusive school

environments for all." Emma O' Beirne (she/her), Deputy Principal of Kingswood Community College said "We in Kingswood Community College are so proud to commit to inclusivity for everyone in our school. Working with the Q Mark process, building on our Safe and Supportive Schools focus, we found this project both challenging and rewarding. It allowed us to reflect on what we are doing well and work that still needs to be done. Our ethos and mission statement embody the tenets of the Quality Mark and we are dedicated to improving the student experience to be as positive, welcoming and diverse as possible. Our school has become a place of support, openness and empowerment while working for the Q Mark. We strive to live this every day in KCC!"

Moninne Griffith (she/her), CEO, Belong To - LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland said "School can be a difficult place for LGBTQ+ students, but that does not have to be the case. There are outstanding schools committed to creating safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ+ students - including the 11 schools in Dublin. The positive impact of inclusion and visibility allows students to live healthy lives and thrive at school. Today is about celebrating these schools who have shown leadership and outstanding commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion through participation in the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark. I want to thank the entire school community and, in particular, recognise the incredible efforts of the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark Coordinators and School Principals. Thank you for showing up for LGBTQ+ students and for demonstrating commitment, courage and leadership. Congratulations to these 11 schools for leading the way in Dublin and being one of the first schools in Ireland to receive the LGBTQ+ Quality Mark!"

Speaking at the event David Sneddon (he/him), Vice President, Google Ireland said "Google Ireland and Google.org are immensely proud to support Belong To's outstanding work on LGBTQ+ inclusion within Ireland's education system.

With the support of a Google.org grant, Belong To's LGBTQ+ Quality Mark initiative has empowered incredible schools across Ireland and demonstrates the far-reaching impact of

placing inclusion at the core of education.

We congratulate this year's 'graduates' and wish those currently taking part in the programme the best of luck."

## CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT LUCAN POOL PRICES

Local representatives have raised concerns about the proposed prices for the new public pool in Lucan. People Before Profit representative for Lucan Mark Kerins raised the concerns after figures were released showing that prices at the new pool will be higher than those at the public pools in Clondalkin and Tallaght. The party had previously called for the pool to be managed directly by the council. People Before Profit TD Gino Kenny echoed the concerns raised by local residents and praised the community for its resolve in campaigning for the pool.

Mark Kerins said: "I've lived in Lucan all my life and I've been eagerly awaiting the opening of the public pool. It's really disappointing to see that the prices will be almost the same, or even more than the private facilities in the area. For example, an annual membership for a single adult will cost you €550 at the public facility but only €495 in a nearby private facility.

"This is completely unacceptable when the pool has been built using public funds. People Before Profit has been calling for the pool to be managed directly by the council, or a council-owned entity like in Clondalkin. Our councillor Madeleine Johansson proposed a motion to this effect in 2021 which was completely ignored by council management."

Gino Kenny TD added: "Nearly €13 million of public money has been spent on an excellent facility, only for it to be operated by a private company that will be charging more than any other public pool. The Lucan community have been campaigning for decades for a public pool and these prices are a slap in the face for local people. This just shows why we need public facilities to be operated and managed directly by the council and not private companies."

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# GILLIGAN UNVEILS LATE CLONDALKIN-ITE JONATHAN WADE PAINTING

Local Councillor Trevor Gilligan recently unveiled Jonathan Wade painting, at the event he said "Fellow councillors, ladies, and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to attend this wonderful occasion to celebrate one of our greatest citizens, the painter Jonathan Wade. As you know, Jonathan tragically died in a road accident 51 years ago, at the age of 31.

At that young age, he had established himself as the most exciting young artist of his generation, and the expectation was that he would go on to be a major figure in Irish Art for the rest of the Twentieth Century and beyond. Fate intervened and his development was cut brutally short. But he had been so productive over his short life that he left behind

a rich body of work any artist who lived to old age would have been proud of."

He continued "Jonathan's paintings are included in all the major collections of Irish Art, including that of the Arts Council, and the Bank of Ireland. A number of his works are in the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery in Parnell Square, with another 'Bridge over the Liffey' hanging in Clondalkin Library just 150 metres from here. It is totally appropriate, therefore, that one of his major paintings is now on display here in the heart of Clondalkin where he taught, where he created his work, where he called home. Like so many of our citizens, Jonathan was a proud Clondalkin man, but was not born here. He was born into a working-class family in the Liberties, just off Thomas Street. He left school at 14 to be apprenticed to his father's trade, a butcher. But he didn't like it and moved on. The family moved to Walkinstown. Eventually in his teens he developed an interest in art, and was almost entirely self-taught. He went to a dance in the Castaways, no more than 50

metres behind us here, and met a local girl called Doreen McGuinness. Jonathan and Doreen were married when he was just 21, moved to London, didn't settle, and returned to live in Doreen's family house, along with her sister. It was a small cottage on Knockmeenagh Road and had a shed attached. The shed became his studio, and they lived happily here until they were eventually given a Council house in Michael Collins Park".

The Clondalkin representative concluded "He died on the 21st January, 1973. He was returning from visiting his mother in Walkinstown. It was a frosty night, and his motor bike skidded on an icy pothole. At that time he was working as a part-time teacher in this building, which was then Coláiste Chrónáin, or Clondalkin Vocational School. It is therefore highly appropriate that a sample of his work should be on show in this building, highly appropriate that the people of Clondalkin will have access to this important work by this important artist. I want to congratulate all those

who have been involved in this project: our hostess and manager of Clondalkin Education Centre, Elaine Vince O'Hara; Helen Taylor, the Principal of Deansrath Community College who so generously released the painting for exhibition here; the two people who have

been driving the project, Thyges Kavanagh and Jack Harte; Scotus Press who have been driving the effort to have Jonathan Wade rightly recognised as an artist of world stature, and they are represented here by Clondalkin man Pat Pidgeon".



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## LOCAL GROUP RAMS ARE ALL FIRED UP

Recently Newcastle based group RAMS hosted Dublin Fire Brigade officer Keith Brunkard who gave a presentation to all their members on the issues of home safety and personal safety. Officer Brunkard emphasised to members the importance of fire safety,

lighting candles, leaving cookers unattended and open fires without a fireguard. As all the members nodded in agreement, and knowing all the answers, it was so good to have all the knowledge reinforced to all. The distribution of safety leaflets was greatly received by the members. The information was so informative to all the men.

Officer Brunkard greatly emphasised the importance of leaving the room when a chip or frying pan is on even for a minute or leaving cooking pots on the cooker if doing other chores. The "goodie bag" was a joy to receive, and to the delight to the members. Officer Brunkard spent time talking to members afterwards and answered any concerns members had. The RAMS Vice Chair, Mr Jim Nolan thanked the Dublin Fire Brigade for taking their valuable time to address the members of RAMS.

The group were all advised to purchase fire alarms, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms for their homes.



Pictured Officer Keith Brunkard with RAMS member Michael Baneham from Tallaght

## PROGRESS ON TENANT-IN-SITU SCHEME BUT STILL "TOO SLOW" SAYS COUNCILLOR

People Before Profit Councillor Madeleine Johansson has welcomed progress made on the tenant in situ scheme but claims it's still "too slow".

She made the comments following the March County Council meeting where it was revealed that there are now 8 staff members working in the Housing Procurement Team. South Dublin County Council has a target of acquiring 150 homes under tenant in situ in

2024. Councillor Madeleine Johansson said: "I have been helping a number of tenants who are facing eviction on grounds of sale and the landlord is willing to sell the house to the council. The problem for tenants is that the process is very slow and many end up having to overhold and stay beyond their eviction date without knowing whether or not they will have to move out."

"This is extremely stressful for people whose only

other alternative might be emergency accommodation. There is also a lack of communication from the council to tenants and landlords about the process and this is causing some landlords to pull out because they think they can get a quicker sale on the private market. "Hopefully with more staff members working on this the process can be speeded up and more tenants be able to stay in their homes and become council tenants."

## O'CONNOR WELCOMES COUNCIL GRANTS

Tallaght Councillor, Charlie O'Connor, has welcomed the decision made at the March meeting of the Council, to grant aid to a number of local organisations under the Community Development and Community Grants programmes. The organisations included Ard Mor Community Support, Jobstown Community & Youth Centre and Killinarden Community Council. Councillor Charlie O'Connor congratulated the three groups on the success of

their applications and wished them continued success with their endeavors on behalf of their communities.

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# MAYOR OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY LAUNCHES COUNCIL'S 5 YEAR TOURISM STRATEGY

The Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Alan Edge, launched the Council's new five year tourism strategy at an event in Tallaght Stadium last Thursday. The document is intended to guide the activities and work programme of South Dublin County from 2024 to 2029. Underpinned by extensive stakeholder engagement within the county, and at regional and national level, as well as extensive research, the strategy provides a clear direction for all tourism stakeholders.

Speaking at the event the Mayor said "As the cultural and economic landscape continues to evolve, the importance of strategic planning for tourism cannot be overstated. South Dublin County, with its rich history, diverse communities, and stunning landscapes, stands poised to become a beacon for visitors from home and abroad, eager for all the authentic experiences that the gateway to the Dublin Mountains has to offer."

He went to say that 'this comprehensive strategy reflects our commitment to unlocking the full potential of South Dublin County as a vibrant and sustainable tourist destination. By embracing innovation and fostering collaboration between local stakeholders, we aim to create an environment where tourism not only thrives but also contributes significantly to the well-being of our communities.'

The strategy aims to plan sustainably for the next phase of the county's tourism evolution, position South Dublin to capitalise on its strongest assets, build on the previous tourism strategy and ensure that tourism supports inclusive economic growth in South Dublin.

The Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council Colm Ward outlined the Council's ambition to spearhead the future development of tourism in collaboration with local businesses and communities as well national and regional partners. "Our €100million planned investment in tourism under this strategy, including for projects such as the Dublin

Mountains Visitor Centre, Tallaght Heritage Centre, 12th Lock along the Grand Canal, and The Castle Stables and Courtyards at Rathfarnham, along with our active travel network incorporating the Dodder, and Grand Canal, and Canal Loop Greenways, demonstrate an ambitious but sustainable approach to tourism", he said.

"We all know the economic impact and job creation that tourism can bring, but aspirations for growth are, of course, accompanied by a commitment to nature, culture and heritage as well as community engagement. Collaboration with our key partners, has been integral to shaping a really relevant strategy that reflects a shared commitment to elevate tourism in South Dublin in a sustainable and authentic way."

As a base line study, the Council discovered that the estimated value of tourism in South Dublin County totals €140m a year to the County, with an estimated 3,780 jobs based on tourism. This returns up to €32.2m to the Irish Exchequer annually. The council expects that during the period of the strategy revenue will grow up to €216million, with up to 5,427 jobs based on tourism.

Over 80 people attended the event at Tallaght Stadium to mark the launch of the Council's new five year tourism strategy on Thursday 22 February. Representatives from Fáilte Ireland, The Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) and the Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions (AVEA) joined representatives from the local tourism industry to hear Mayor of South Dublin Cllr Alan Edge launch the comprehensive document which reflects the Council's commitment to unlock the full potential of South Dublin County as a vibrant and sustainable tourist destination.

Councillors from across the County were also present to hear the Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council Colm Ward say that major investments in projects like the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, Tallaght Heritage

Centre, 12th Lock along the Grand Canal and the Castle Stables and Courtyards at Rathfarnham, along with the council's active travel network incorporating the Dodder, and Grand Canal Greenways, demonstrate the Council's dedication to sustainable experiences whilst preserving the County's authenticity.

The launch event hosted by the Council's County Promotion Unit, also provided an opportunity for visitor attractions and activity providers to showcase their offering to those present with an opportunity to network. The OPW were present to highlight the spectacular offerings at their two sites in South Dublin; Rathfarnham Castle and Pearse Museum in St Enda's Park., whilst activity providers Zipit and Rafting.ie provided information on the thrills available at their sites. The Dublin Mountains Partnership provided information on the Dublin Mountains Way, a 42km walking route across the mountains from Tallaght to Shankill.

The Chlann Chrónáin volunteer tour guides from Clondalkin were present to highlight the tours and events they organise in and around the Round Tower Visitor Centre, whilst the Civic Theatre featured their extensive cultural and entertainment programme. Sports fans were also catered for with a stand hosted by Tallaght Stadium, Grange Castle Golf Club, and Shamrock Rovers FC, who brought the FAI Premier Division League trophy with them.

At the core of the strategy is five strategic priorities which will ensure South Dublin County can build on success and realise its potential as a thriving visitor destination within the Dublin region. The previous tourism strategy set the scene and put in motion a number of significant tourism projects, and the majority of these seven pipeline projects will be completed during the lifetime of the strategy. Projects such as the Dublin Mountain Visitor Centre, the Tallaght Heritage Centre, and the Dodder greenway will contribute to the range of compelling attractions



Pic: Lafayette Photography

and activities in the County.

The new strategy also identified six new catalytic projects capable of contributing to the transformation of tourism in South Dublin. These new projects included the Lucan

House opportunity study, identifying an optimum use for creating a compelling and exciting tourism hub in Lucan, to exploring opportunities for visitors to stay overnight in the South Dublin area, in turn generating spin off economic

opportunities, to developing a bus service linking urban areas and transport hubs such as the new Tallaght transport interchange with key hubs such as the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre and activity providers in the Dublin Mountains.

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## SOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR RESIDENTS IN ESTATES YET TO BE TAKEN IN CHARGE

Figures shared at the most recent council meeting, indicate that out of 112 live Taking in Charge applications approximately 60% of developments in South Dublin County Council's database, are not being actively progressed by developers. Lynn Tierney, local election candidate for the Social Democrats is highlighting the long delays that residents in those estates face and the effects of these delays.

"The average time for estates where the developer is engaged in the Taking in Charge (TIC) process is 33 months. The reality is that many other estates in our area face significantly longer than that to have the TIC

process completed, with some not yet completed 15 years after being built".

As Ms Tierney seeks to represent the concerns of residents, she highlights the pressing issues those residing in such estates can face. "Residents living in estates which are due to be taken in charge (TIC) are experiencing significant challenges in some cases. Conversations I've had with local residents have revealed a range of issues, from potholes and graffiti removal to dampness and rodent infestations. The inability of South Dublin County Council to install signage in these estates for officially registered neighbourhood watch schemes also creates concerns regarding community safety and security.

As a resident of an estate not taken in charge, I sympathise with those who have had negative experiences. While I acknowledge that some developers and property managers are commendably responsive to residents' queries, I find it unacceptable that residents in some estates have to endure such prolonged periods without the basic

amenities and services they deserve.

Residents I've spoken to feel that, despite repeated calls for support from their council and elected representatives, they continue to be stuck in limbo.

If elected to South Dublin County Council, I would work to find solutions that offer practical support to residents facing these barriers in the interim. I would like to see greater community engagement from South Dublin County Council with residents on issues which, if TIC, would be under the remit of the council. Engagement could involve hosting information sessions or workshops to educate residents about the TIC process and also to empower and support them to advocate for the needs of their estates with SDCC support. If elected I would aim to explore other collaborative solutions.

Lynn Tierney invites residents to a public meeting on Tuesday, April 9th, at St. Finian's Hall in Newcastle. The meeting will explore themes of effective planning to meet the needs of a growing population.



## SCOIL CHRÓNÁIN WELCOMES AMAZON DONATION



A primary school in Rathcoole has received a donation of €1,500 from the team at Amazon's fulfilment centre in Dublin. Scoil Chrónáin is an all-Irish primary school that encourages a love of Gaelic and its culture through education, music and Gaelic games. The school promotes harmonious development for students from their first year at school to their last. The donation from Amazon will go towards increasing the resources available for digital learning, including an additional number of devices available for students. Darragh Kelly, General Manager at Amazon's fulfilment centre in Dublin, said "We're proud to support Scoil Chrónáin with this donation. Having visited the school, it was fantastic to meet Seán Ó Sé Vice Principal and see in person the passion for teaching and developing IT and coding skills. The students' energy is infectious and I'm glad this donation will support such an important initiative."

Seán Ó Sé, Vice Principal from Scoil Chrónáin, added "Thank you to Darragh and the team

at Amazon in Dublin for this donation. Your support will help all of us here at Scoil Chrónáin to continue enriching our young pupils with the skills and knowledge necessary to become well-rounded members of the community."

The donation to Scoil Chrónáin was made as part of Amazon's programme to support the communities in and around its operating locations in Ireland. Since opening its doors in 2022, the Dublin fulfilment centre has supported many community organisations locally, with donations totalling over €40,000. Charities supported by the team at the fulfilment centre include Cliona's Foundation, Jigsaw and LauraLynn Children's Hospice. The Amazon fulfilment centre in Dublin, the first of its kind in Ireland, opened in August 2022 providing more than 500 new permanent jobs. The 630,000 square foot centre at Baldonnell Business Park in Dublin holds millions of items that are picked, packed and shipped to customers across Ireland and the rest of Europe.

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# PETITION FOR SECOND RATHCOOLE/ NEWCASTLE EXIT ON N7

Local Fine Gael Cllr Shirley O'Hara has launched a petition for residents and businesses to make their views known to the leadership of Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the need to upgrade junction 4 on the N7 (Newcastle/Rathcoole

Cllr Shirley O'Hara said "One of the biggest issues raised when I speak to residents and businesses in Newcastle and Rathcoole is the chronic traffic congestion at rush hour. It harms businesses.

causes stress for workers and is a safety hazard for residents. It is now over a quarter of a century since Junction 4 on the N7 was built. The County Development Plan includes in its Six Year Road Programme an indicative route for a future second Newcastle/Rathcoole exit on the Naas Road. However, the delivery of this is not solely within the remit of the council as to whether such a project can be assessed, designed and delivered”

Speaking about the role the local council and councillors play in respect of roads projects, Cllr O'Hara added "Often residents and businesses say, 'why doesn't the council just build a new exit?' With a big road such as the N7 the situation is more complex. While the councillors have approved an indicative location for a new exit at Tootenhill and link road to both the Kilteel Road and Greenogue, the council does not have a final say on whether such a project goes ahead. This power lies with Transport Infrastructure Ireland".

for funding for a transport study. I am hosting a meeting next week, Monday March 25th with representatives from local businesses and community to outline the campaign for the new road and the steps that need to be undertaken to progress the project."

Cllr O'Hara concluded "The traffic gridlock in Newcastle and Rathcoole at rush hour can only be unlocked with a reconfiguration of the road network. We have had massive development locally, both residential and commercial, with enormous development levies and rates paid by developers and businesses towards local infrastructure, including the road network. "As a community we need to present a united front; businesses, residents, politicians and the local council, to Transport Infrastructure Ireland in demonstrating the urgent need and a clear demand for an extra exit for Newcastle and Rathcoole on the N7".

***Cllr Shirley O'Hara will be hosting a public meeting in Rathcoole Community Centre at 7.30pm on Monday March 25th.***



## GOVERNMENT FAIL ADULTS WITH ADHD

Mark Ward TD, has criticised the Government's failure in ADHD care for adults. Deputy Ward was speaking following a parliamentary question response which highlighted the lack of additional funding allocated to the National Clinical Programme for ADHD in Adults. Additional funding was sought in 2023 and 2024 but this was not granted by Government. Waiting times for these services can be as long as 4 years.

Teachta Ward said “The Government has neglected the National Clinical Programmes in Mental Health for two years in a row. No additional funding was given to these programmes in budget 2023 and 2024. “ADHD in adults is one of the four National Clinical programmes for mental health. “By not giving additional funding, this vital programme has not been able to deliver the 4 additional teams needed to deliver ADHD services adequately across the state.

“The parliamentary question that I received stated that funding was sought for both years but not granted. Due to the demand on the services, 2 additional posts per site in operation were also sought but this was also not granted. “In a separate parliament question I received, clinical capacity in across the teams in operation ranged from 40% to 75%. “This response highlights some of the negative impacts of undiagnosed and untreated ADHD. These include increased rates of suicide, repeated self-harm, road traffic accidents together with difficulties in both finding and keeping a job, succeeding in 3rd

level education, managing money and personal and social relationships.

“Recently, I highlighted the lack of funding for ADHD Ireland’s UMAAP, a programme that helps to understand and manage ADHD for adults. This shamefully came following no request of a pre-budget submission by the HSE. “In a separate parliamentary question response, I received waiting times for these services can be as long as 4 years. “When the consequences of lack of diagnosis and treatment are this serious, Government cannot continue to withhold funding for these vital services.

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**DAILY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR EMPLOYMENT** Dear St. Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of

providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with Fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety over my present inability to support my family. Please help me to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from my heart, and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessing from God. Amen P.M

**MIRACLE PRAYER** Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will

be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. With grateful thanks to Our Lady for favours received. And thanks to the Sacred Heart for favours received. I.B

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succour me in this necessity; there are none that can withstand your power. O, show me herein you are my Mother, O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3 times) Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times) G.L

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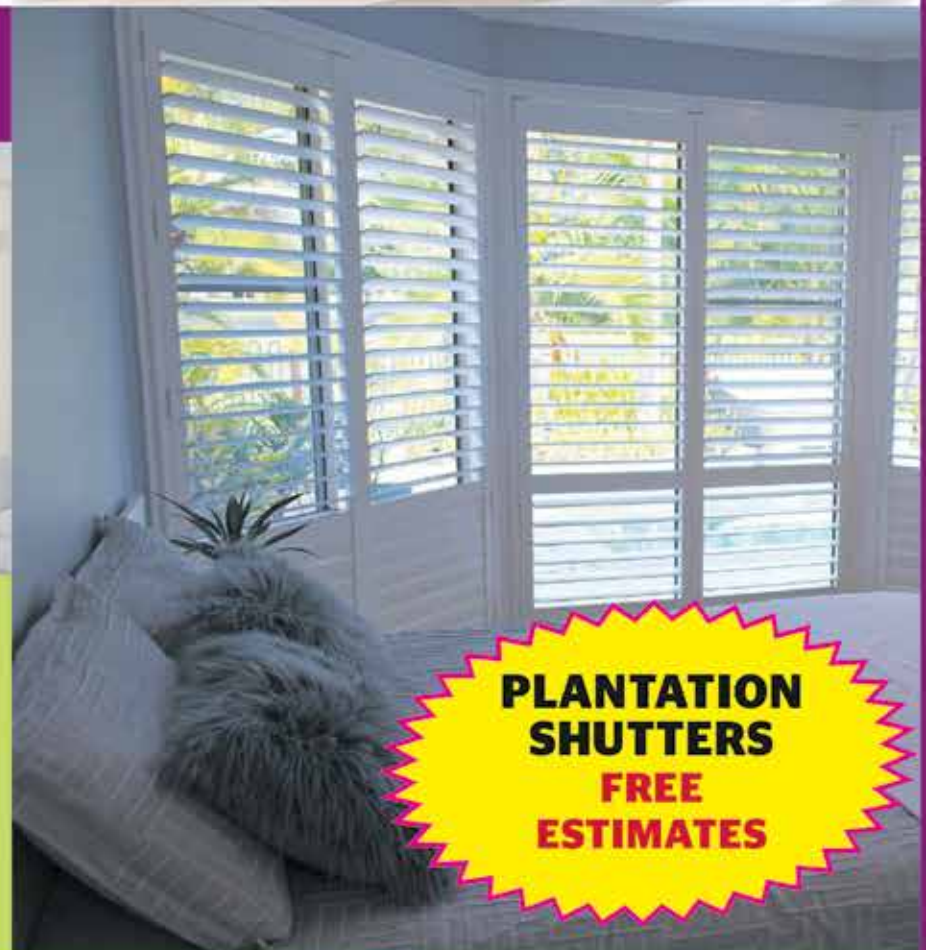
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