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READ IT, BELIEVE IT, REAL LOCAL NEWS – SERVING CLONDALKIN, BALLYFERMOT AND LUCAN – BE PART OF THE STORY

Investigation
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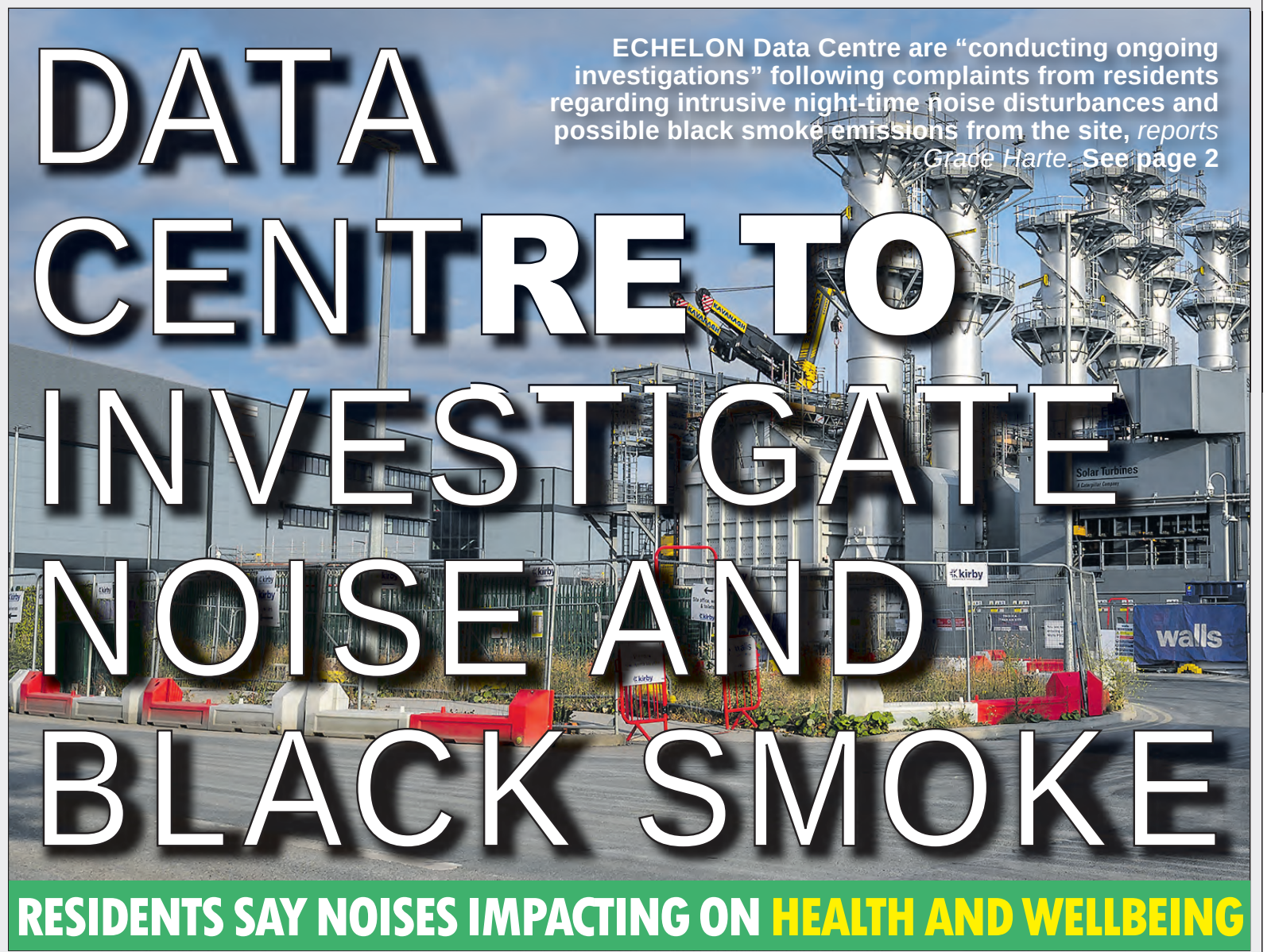
INGE FEELINGS

Faces of the community




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DATA CENTRE TO INVESTIGATE NOISE AND BLACK SMOKE

ECHELON Data Centre are “conducting ongoing investigations” following complaints from residents regarding intrusive night-time noise disturbances and possible black smoke emissions from the site, reports *Grace Harte*. See page 2

RESIDENTS SAY NOISES IMPACTING ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Authority calls for the rezoning of Finnstown and St Edmundsbury lands

NTA should focus on getting public transport right

THE National Transport Authority (NTA) has called for land at Finnstown Castle and St Edmundsbury be “rezoned for residential use as originally proposed” to prioritise housing due to access to existing and proposed public transport, reports *Grace Harte*. See page 10

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Residents say noises are impacting their health and wellbeing



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FACILITY: An artist impression of the Deansrath facility



Funding appeal for Deansrath Family Centre purpose-built permanent facility

South Dublin Mayor says the families and children have an urgent need for a new building

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE MAYOR of South Dublin has called for funding to be made available for a purpose-built facility in Clondalkin to host a local family centre.

Mayor Francis Timmons has written to the Minister for Disability and The Child, Poverty and Wellbeing Office to request a facility that can house Deansrath Family Centre and help them to service the families and children in the local area.

The centre, located on St Cuthbert's Road, has

been part of the community for several decades and is situated within a disadvantaged area of the county.

Mayor Timmons has stated that the proposed three-storey facility in St Cuthbert's Park would cater to the current and growing needs in the Clondalkin suburb, but funding is necessary as a seven-figure sum is expected.

The Mayor said: "I have written on behalf of the Deansrath Family Centre who need a purpose-built facility to meet current and growing needs in some of the most disadvantaged areas in Clondalkin. The cost is envisaged to be [a] €4 million to €6 million investment in our

community."

Plans for the new building include the construction of an early learning centre, therapy and consultation rooms, parenting rooms, computer classrooms, stores, offices, meeting rooms and ancillary accommodation.

There are also plans for the exterior, including a new play area, car-parking, bike-parking and shelters, bin-storage, new vehicular and pedestrian access and gates off St Cuthbert's Road, with perimeter fencing and associated groundworks.

The team at Deansrath Family Centre also operate out of Oakfield Industrial Estate, with

rents noted to be an extra cost on the running of the community facility at the moment.

The Mayor has noted that a new permanent site could prove to be useful for more than just the needs of the occupant, and could act as a community hub for the people of Deansrath also.

"A new facility has the potential to be available for the community for meetings etc and be a community hub facility.

"The planned play area could also be open to children with complex needs at all times and days. More parenting groups and supports could be run. Clondalkin requires this investment."

Successful weekend operation delivers critical pipeline repairs

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

UISCE Éireann successfully completed critical repairs on a 25-kilometre trunk watermain in Saggart over the Bank Holiday weekend after months of preparation.

The national water utility carried out repairs on the Ballymore Eustace to Saggart trunk watermain over the long weekend and completed works within the planned 27-hour window.

From Friday night, more than 300 people worked to deliver the largest repair programme undertaken to date on one of Ireland's most strategically important pieces of water infrastructure – treated water is now flowing through the pipeline following completion.

Uisce Éireann Programme Manager Nicola Butler stated that the weekend's work had taken "months of planning" to deliver.

The programme manager said: "This was a

significant undertaking involving months of planning and coordination, with hundreds of people working around the clock to complete the repairs.

"We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout this operation and for their continued efforts to conserve water, particularly local communities and landowners whose cooperation helped make these works possible."

The piece of infrastructure delivers approximately 220 million litres of treated drinking water every day to homes, businesses, hospitals, schools and essential services, with homes in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow all reliant on it.

Works that took place included the repair of 15 leaks, including five large leaks and the replacement of a damaged section of watermain.

The repairs took place at a time when a six-week hosepipe ban is in place, due to expire at 11.59pm on Wednesday, August 26.

Previous repair works completed on the pipeline in 2024 and 2025 have saved approximately 1.5 million litres of water every day.



GOOD OPERATION: The works in Saggart Photos by Naoise Culhane

Man (20s) seriously injured after falling from e-scooter

INJURIES: The man was travelling on the Belgard Road near Newlands Cross

Incident highlights the potential dangers of e-scooter use

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

A MAN understood to be in his 20s was taken to Tallaght University Hospital with serious injuries on Monday night after he fell from an e-scooter in Clondalkin.

The man fell from an e-scooter while travelling on Belgard Road by Newlands Cross at approximately 7pm that evening.

Gardaí and emergency services responded at the scene and the man was transported to Tallaght Hospital for treatment of serious

injuries that he had sustained.

The road upon which the accident had occurred has since fully reopened to traffic.

Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Francis Timmons noted his worry and concern about e-scooters after the incident in the local area.

Mayor Timmons said: "I am very worried and concerned about e-scooters, ongoing reports of accidents are concerning"

"This latest incident has seen a young man left in a serious condition following a fall from an e-scooter, it again highlights the potential danger of e-scooter use."

Tougher restrictions on e-scooters are set to be

brought in this month, making hi-vis jackets and helmets mandatory for all users of e-scooters, as well as a ban on anyone under 18 using them, up from the current age restriction of 16.

Licensing and registration is also set to be introduced as the status of e-scooters will be upgraded to define them as mechanically propelled vehicles, and the sale of vehicles that do not meet legal requirements for use on public roads will be prohibited.

This follows reports of accidents in the past number of years involving the use of the vehicles.

The number of patients presenting with injuries from e-scooter related injuries at

Tallaght University Hospital nearly doubled over 12 months between August 2023 and August 2024, according to a study by the hospital's Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics.

Up to 201 patients presented to the Emergency Department in Tallaght with e-scooter related injuries in the study's time frame, compared to 105 injuries in the previous 12-month period.

On top of this, Gardaí have seized more than 1,000 e-scooters since the start of the year and recently seized vehicles through Operation Meacán in Ronanstown and Lucan and also seized e-scooters through recent searches in Tallaght and other areas.

E-scooters and bikes seized during day of action by Gardai

GARDAÍ From Ronanstown and Lucan seized a number of electric scooters and bicycles as part of a regional day of action under Operation Meacán.

A number of searches, checkpoints and targeted patrols led to the seizure of non-legally compliant bicycles and e-scooters as well as a suspected stolen bicycle.

Across the Dublin Metropolitan Region, 74 searches were carried out as part of a high-impact Operation Meacán, which resulted in the seizure of 75 e-bikes and e-scooters.

Four scrambler motorcycles, three quad vehicles and seven high-powered electric dirtbikes, known as Surron bikes, were

confiscated by members of an Garda Síochána.

A total of €8,000 in cash and suspected drugs valued in excess of €100,000 as well as a sawn-off shotgun and ammunition were also uncovered during this operation.

To date, five individuals have been arrested, including one man in his 20s who has been detained under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act at a Garda Station in the Dublin Region in connection with the firearm seizure.

A second male was arrested on foot of a bench warrant and three other adult males were arrested and are currently detained for drug-related offences.



Lack of data on water usage of almost 5 million litres by centres

LOCAL: Grange Castle contains one of the data centres

'We don't know what's happening to that water when it gets used by the data centres'

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

A LACK of data on data centres has been questioned following Uisce Éireann's reveal that almost five million litres of public water are used by them every day.

Dublin South-West TD Ciarán Ahern has called for more information and figures to be made available about how data centres operate following the national water utility's response to him that stated that 57 of the 107 fully operational centres in the country use on average 4,789m³, or around 4,789,000 litres of public water per day.

The review identified a total of 30 campuses

where data centres were located with public water supplying 57 units in Dublin, Meath, Cork and Louth.

Some local areas with data centres include Grange Castle, Citywest and Tallaght.

The response also noted that this amounts to less than one per cent of the network-wide daily usage, sitting 0.28 per cent of all water produced, although the average count is almost enough to fill two Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The question was answered prior to the introduction of a hosepipe ban on residents of the country to replenish water supplies.

Deputy Ahern welcomed the data provided to him but called for more information to be shared with the public.

The Dublin South-West TD said: "It seems that the others, the remainder outside of the 57

are getting it from private sources, but again, we don't know how much they're using, we don't know where the water is coming from.

"Equally, we don't know what's happening to that water when it gets used by the data centres, how it's being disposed of, or whether warm water is being returned to our waterways, which could have a damaging effect on ecosystems and things like that.

"There's a lack of data which I find difficult. If you have a lack of data, you can't really analyse a situation as closely as you'd like to.

Nationally, Uisce Éireann produces over 1.7 billion litres of drinking water a day for all users of the network.

The review also analysed water production in the Greater Dublin Area, and found that it averages about 640 million litres a day, with data

centres in the area taking up 0.8 per cent of this total.

Data centres in Ireland are designed to utilise a hybrid of air and liquid cooling and this approach results in minimal to no-reliance on public drinking water, according to Uisce Éireann.

The national water utility added: "It remains government policy to support the development of sustainable data centres by encouraging a conservation and a 'use less' approach where possible.

"Uisce Éireann when engaging with data centre applicants through our connection enquiry process continue to identify and insist as part of any connection agreements that data centres avail of water-efficient technology which minimises their requirement for water in their cooling processes."

Debra Care conference 'has been a real eye-opening experience'

IRISH people living with a rare, genetic skin disease, including a woman from Dublin, have said attending an international conference where they could meet their peers made them feel less alone.

The Debra Care Conference takes place every two years in the United States and brings together individuals with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), families, clinicians and researchers for four days of learning and connection.

Debra, the national charity that supports the on average 300 people living with EB in Ireland, brought 15 Irish EB community members to the event in Los Angeles from July 26-29.

For 22-year-old Dubliner Claudia Scanlon, this was her first ever EB conference.

"It's very cool to see numerous people in a room with dystrophic, simplex, junctional EB – it's been a real eye-opening experience from start to finish," she said.

"I got to meet so many like-minded people who have gone through similar challenges and I definitely want to come back for the next one."

Mum-of-one Amanda Nugent, 48, who was diagnosed at age 37, said travelling to the conference made her feel less alone.

"Ever since I was a child and up until I was 36, I thought myself and my family were the only ones who had EB – how wrong I was," said Amanda from Newbawn, Co Wexford.

Her 13-year-old son Ruaidhrí also lives with EB simplex, along with over 20 relatives in her extended family.

"To come to LA and see all the kids and adults that have all types of EB has been very emotional.

"Getting to talk to them, learn from them and having laughs with them has been the most memorable for me – everyone has been so friendly and welcoming.

"No matter what type of EB we have we are all one here, we are all seen, we are all heard and we are all loved by so many.

"The talks have been so informative, and I feel more empowered for myself, my son and my family through all that I have learned."

Conference sessions are spearheaded by leading EB specialists and address topics such as care management, treatment approaches and practical guidance for living with EB.

"Travelling to the Debra Care Conference with members of our EB community is a first for Ireland and we hope it is something we will be able to facilitate for years to come," said Debra CEO Jimmy Fearon.

"Its programme highlights emerging therapies and advancements towards cutting-edge treatments for this excruciating rare genetic skin disease, which may not yet be available to us here.

"In Ireland, someone might not meet another person of the same age or with the same type of EB in the whole country.

"This conference offers the chance to build an international community, to feel understood and to bring new friendships, as well as insights and ideas, home."



INFORMATIVE: : Representatives from Irish national charity Debra, which supports the on average 300 people living with EB in Ireland, who attended the Debra Care Conference in Los Angeles, USA.

Anti-social behaviour by teens mars clubs' astro pitch access

Area has become a meeting spot for local youths and training sessions have been disrupted

LOCAL clubs are finding it difficult to make extensive use of the Sean Walsh astro pitch thanks to anti-social behaviour on multiple occasions, reports Michael Howley.

Tallaght United are one such club who have been afflicted by this, with the club sending a report to many figures at local and national level.

The condition of the facility itself is poor and fire damage to the playing surface as well as abandoned firework carcasses, bottles of alcohol and other items are regularly found by the team as they head in to train.

The area seems to have become a meeting point for local teens and the club have had several of their training sessions disrupted due to teens not allowing them to move goalposts or looking to go through the personal belongings of the players while they train.

This boils down to what is the biggest ongoing issue according to Tallaght United which is the lack of security at the facility, a magnetic lock is easily opened by children as young as 11-12 years old and with no permanent security presence the youths essentially are given free rein.

While there has been short-term success with local community guards being able to move the children along, often the groups will return within the hour and get back to their original behaviour.

"In the immediate term, just to have someone there to control access on a manual basis, literally with a lock and key every hour come along and move people along. Just to keep an eye on that, we've found once someone is there in a position of authority it's much easier. Having more engagement from the community guards also."

"It's not just the damage being done to the astro, it's become a safe haven now for all sorts of anti-social behaviour, drinking and smoking that kind of stuff. It's not a nice environment to be in, we're trying to attract new players in and at the other half of the pitch you have kids screaming and roaring, trying to take footballs and going after the lads' gear."

The club has made a number of suggestions for long-term action that can be taken, with TD John Lahart visiting the facility.

"The crux of about 95 per cent of the problem is access. The lock that's there at the moment is four or five magnets barely holding on."

Tallaght United are not the only club who have faced issues with the behaviour in the park, Old Bury FC have reported similar issues to *The Echo*.

"At the start, the pitches were great. It was a facility that was badly needed for the area and the initial weeks and months were fantastic.



NOT NICE: Seats pulled out of dugout

Slowly we started to see an issue with the gate lock. We were going up and it wouldn't be locked properly, the council were made aware of it early on. The lack of a lock led to anti-social behaviour, you'd be going up to the pitch and there would be a bunch of youths around the pitch."

"Look, if they were up there playing football there would be no issues, I don't think anyone would have any issues with that. Slowly but surely we saw things creeping in like nets being pulled down, alcoholic bottles and smokes."

"The last couple of months have gone a bit crazy with burn marks on the pitch itself. The nets are being pulled down constantly, everytime we are going up there is something wrong with the pitch, and every time we go up you're being met by a group of youths that don't want to move or get off the pitch. We're paying our hard-earned money to rent it."

"We have no issue doing that as it is a good facility, but you're constantly getting kickback from people on the pitch not wanting to move off it."



ISSUES: Firework on the pitch

Ammunition and firearm seized in Garda Crumlin raid

A FIREARM and ammunition were seized by gardai following a search under warrant of a domestic residence in Crumlin on Friday.

The operation, conducted by the Serious Crime Units in Coolock and Sword Garda Stations, supported by the Armed Support Unit (ASU), is part of ongoing investigations targeting the activities of organised crime groups.

Gardaí say during the course of the search, a firearm and five rounds of ammunition were seized.

A male, aged in his 30s, arrested as part of this investigation was charged and appeared before the Criminal Courts of Justice.

The firearm seized is now subject to technical analysis.

Investigations are ongoing.



SEARCH: The gun seized by gardai

Laboratory in Tallaght sticks it to the Sagrada Família Basilica in Barcelona

Henkel contribution, a high-performance structural adhesive, stays true to original vision

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

“The Sagrada Família is one of the most recognisable buildings in the world, so it’s incredibly rewarding for Henkel and Loctite

A LABORATORY tucked into Tallaght Business Park has been helping to stick the Sagrada Família Basilica in Barcelona together.

The chemical manufacturer’s laboratory, located within the Whitestown Industrial Estate has been part of the global push by the company to provide glue that has helped to hold the internationally renowned architectural work-in-progress together, with the six central towers using an adhesive partly created in the local area.

Henkel has contributed a high-performance structural adhesive, Loctite EA 9497, and carried out extensive testing and validation, while providing dedicated technical expertise, and continuous supply tailored to the project’s evolving needs.

Gaudi may not have foreseen such a development in the realisation of his design, but a Henkel head has noted that its input does not stray from his vision.

Henkel’s Head of Innovation & Application Engineering, Dr Niamh O’Reilly, noted that the building is one of the most recognisable sites in the world, and that the contribution of the adhesive product made in Tallaght has painted part of the century-plus long story of the famed basilica.

Dr O’Reilly said: “The Sagrada Família is one of the most recognisable buildings in the world, so it’s incredibly rewarding for Henkel and Loctite to have played an integral part in the construction of the central towers.

“This project shows how modern technology can help solve practical challenges while staying true to an architect’s original vision.

“Following intensive testing by an international team of more than 20 specialists, Henkel provided an adhesive solution that could meet the demands of the project, and we’re proud to have helped bring this important milestone to life.”

A modular construction approach has accelerated processes at the site compared to traditional methods, with the adhesive playing a key part.

In total, 24 tons of Loctite adhesive have been used, with around 30 kilograms applied per panel on average.

The six central towers benefitting from Loctite comprise 826 panels and more than 2,100 stone elements.

Henkel Executive Vice President Mark Dorn said that the project embodies what the company does.

Mr Dorn stated: “The Sagrada Família shows what’s possible when the right partners come together. We make it happen by delivering solutions that perform where it matters most.”

The project, 144 years in the making, continues to move forward, with parts from all over the world adding to its grandeur, perhaps most importantly Tallaght (to some).



MATTERS: Henkel Tallaght supplied 24 tons of Loctite adhesive

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Robber is identified on camera footage after being unmasked

With 64 previous convictions, accused claims to have undergone a 'sea change' in his life

A BRAVE Paddy Power worker helped unmask a repeat robber by pulling at his face covering during a €2,000 raid enabling gardai to identify him from CCTV, a court has heard, reports *Fiona Ferguson*.

Charles Darcy (38), who has a previous conviction for attempted murder, carried out the betting-shop robbery just five days after taking part in a knife-point carjacking in Dublin 8.

Darcy, of John's Lane West, Dublin 8, pleaded guilty to robbery of car keys and unauthorised taking of a car at John's Lane West on November 17, 2025. He entered a plea in relation to production of a knife on the basis of common design.

He further pleaded guilty to robbery at Paddy Power, Bluebell, on November 22, 2025. Darcy has 64 previous convictions, including attempted murder of his brother-in-law, assault, possession of a realistic imitation firearm, possession of a firearm in suspicious circumstances, aggravated burglary, violent disorder and possession of drugs.

Dublin Circuit Criminal court heard Darcy claims to have undergone a "sea change" in his life and wishes to attend drug treatment after spending much of the past 26 years in and out of custody.

Judge Jonathan Dunphy said he was not prepared to "roll the dice" by immediately releasing Darcy to attend residential treatment. He commended Darcy's efforts but said these were very serious offences.

"Even without words the CCTV paints the picture," he said, referencing the footage shown in court.

He ordered a probation report and adjourned the case until October 9 for finalisation.

Garda Shane Monaghan told Tessa White BL, prosecuting, that the injured party in the carjacking and his father were attempting to park a rented car. They spoke to two men, Darcy and a co-accused, and asked for directions in parking and making payment.

After the father and son park and go to a pay machine, Darcy and his co-accused, peer into the car and attempt to gain entry. The injured parties return and begin removing their belongings when they hear running and see the two males they had interacted with.

Darcy, who was wearing gloves and a face covering, attempted to grab the keys, while the injured party's father shouted for help. A knife was pulled out at this stage.

Darcy denied having the knife and claims it was his co-accused. The garda told the court that the co-accused claimed during interview it was Darcy who had the knife and not him.

The keys were handed over and the co-accused drove off, while Darcy ran away before being picked up. Gardai reviewed CCTV footage and recognised Darcy.

He was arrested and interviewed in February 2026 but nothing of evidential value emerged.

The father and son did not make victim-impact statements, but at the time the younger man described himself as being fearful that they could be seriously harmed and feeling traumatised.

Garda Monaghan also gave evidence in relation to the second robbery five days later.

The court heard a young woman was working alone at the time of the robbery, with her colleague on a break. There were a few customers in the premises but it was not busy.



She was on the phone at the counter behind a plastic partition when she saw gloved hands coming through the screen. This was Darcy with his hood up and a "coronavirus mask" on.

Another unidentified male with Darcy was holding a customer at knife point, while Darcy gained entry to behind the counter area and the safe area.

On the CCTV footage the young woman is seen attempting to repel Darcy and throwing items at him and his co-accused. She pulls at his hood and facemask several times and succeeds in partially removing it. At one point Darcy holds up a chair but does not throw it at her.

Approximately €2,000 was taken from the cash register. Darcy was identified from the footage.

The young woman was distressed when gardai arrived and had not returned to work at the time of making her statement. She did not make a victim-impact statement.

Darcy was arrested in the foyer of the Criminal Courts of Justice where he was attending court in relation to other matters. The stolen rental car was recovered some months later by gardai.

The garda agreed with Keith Spencer BL, defending, that Darcy had encountered resilient individuals in both cases and that it was through the bravery of the bookie's employee that Darcy had become unmasked and identified on CCTV.

The garda agreed he was aware of Darcy's "recent sobriety" and his pledge to change his life.

Mr Spencer said Darcy has a significant poly-substance addiction problem and these crimes were committed to get money to fuel that addiction. He said he has a difficult history and

has been in and out of custody since he was a young man.

He said Darcy's life has been punctuated by brief periods at liberty and the rest in custody. He said he is unable to stay sober on release and returns to prison.

Mr Spencer said Darcy has had a recent awakening, with the help of his sister who is committed to helping put him on the right track. He said his sister said she has seen a change in him that she had never seen before.

He submitted this is the first time Darcy has attempted to take the steps of attending counselling and availing of supports. He said Darcy has decided to walk a different path and wants to attend residential drug treatment. He

has been attending courses in prison with a view to gaining employment on release.

He handed in letters from family members to the court. He said Darcy has pledged to a different way of life but the truth will only be apparent on release and it remains to be seen if he can stay out of prison. He said therapeutic supports will have to be put in place.

He asked the court to take into account his early guilty plea and take the view he has made big strides in remaining drug-free.

Judge Dunphy said it was in Darcy's interest to stay in contact with the services he has been engaging with and remanded him in continuing custody to October. He said he was "not making any promises" about the eventual outcome.

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Female councillors get phone calls with sexually explicit comments

One councillor noted that the calls seem to be scripted and very similar to others

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

FEMALE councillors in areas like Tallaght, Lucan and across South Dublin have received “disturbing” phone calls from an individual in recent weeks through a private number.

Several phone calls were answered which led to unsettling conversations including sexually explicit comments that have affected some of the responders, and these calls have been reported to the gardaí.

If left unanswered, the calls continued to pepper the phones of the female councillors.

Councillor Niamh Whelan noted that she has received plenty of these calls in the past week and noted that they appear to be “scripted”, or very similar to one another, based on conversations with other councillors who answered.

Cllr Whelan described receiving a call at nine o’clock one night that she did not respond to, and then later answering the phone in the morning and speaking with the individual, who gave the same name to several affected councillors, as well as location.

Cllr Whelan noted that the call related to a “confession” and that the caller wished to be “challenged.”

The Tallaght Central councillor said: “I hung up the phone, then my phone rang 31 times, one after the other and I actually had to turn the phone off . . . then over the past couple of days, the phone has been ringing again sporadically with private numbers.”

She has not engaged with a call since, but Cllr Whelan is not the only person affected by these persistent calls in the local area.

Cllr Louise Dunne received a call two weeks



Cllr Whelan



Cllr Casserly



Cllr Dunne

ago, and she struggled to sleep the night after hearing what was said.

Cllr Dunne discussed it with other elected representatives and they came to the understanding that being a female representative was key to why they were targeted with the calls.

The Tallaght South councillor said: “I’ve had to have my phone on airplane mode. I’m literally just after switching it on there – I only turn it on when I need to.”

Cllr Vicki Casserly also responded to a call and noted that she has operated differently since.

Cllr Casserly added that the calls do not appear

to show any kind of party preference, and that the issue is impartial in that sense.

The Lucan councillor noted that the calls do not put her off public life, but that it has altered her approach.

“For any of us that have experienced the calls, it is changing the way we approach things.”

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‘NTA should focus on getting public transport right’ - Cllr

Authority call for rezoning of Finnstown Castle and St Edmundsbury lands

By **Grace Harte**
grace@echo.ie

THE National Transport Authority (NTA) has called for land at Finnstown Castle and St Edmundsbury be “rezoned for residential use as originally proposed” to prioritise housing due to access to existing and proposed public transport.

In June, councillors chose to reject the land at a special council meeting whilst the Finnstown Castle site was notably excluded from rezoning, following deliberations among councillors.

The NTA noted that the “development of these lands would align with the principle of consolidating development within the existing built-up area in locations served by existing and proposed transport services and therefore should be prioritised.”

Councillor Liona O’Toole has been at the forefront of protests against the rezoning of St Edmundsbury in recent months and voiced her opposition to the NTA proposal.

“I strongly disagree with this recommendation. The NTA should focus on getting public transport right for the residents already living in Lucan and Adamstown.

“Our communities continue to experience overcrowded buses, insufficient capacity, gaps in services and a transport network that has not kept pace with our rapidly growing population.”

The NTA listed the number of transport links that service the area, including three

UNSATISFACTORY:
St Edmundsbury
‘should be rezoned’



“Our communities continue to experience overcrowded buses, insufficient capacity . . . and a transport network that has not kept pace with our rapidly growing population

buses which provide 14 services at peak hour; 12 to the city centre and two serving Liffey Valley Town Centre and Interchange.

The Authority also pointed out that the area is also very close to Adamstown Station, which provides four rail services in the AM Peak Hour.

This level of services proves that the area “may benefit from medium-high level of

service using the NTA Public Transport Accessibility Level tool analysis”, according to the NTA.

Cllr O’Toole argued that elected councillors should be the ones to “decide where further development should go based on the full needs of our communities, not transport accessibility alone.”

“Public transport accessibility should not

be used to justify thousands of additional homes while current services and essential infrastructure remain under enormous pressure.”

TII has confirmed that it has no observations to make on the proposed material alterations.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Chapelizod Hill two-way cycle track to make for greater safety

By **Grace Harte**
grace@echo.ie

THE Chapelizod Hill Road Active Travel Scheme has entered the Public Consultation phase, allowing members of the public to have their say on the proposed plans.

Currently, the stretch of road on Chapelizod Hill is a one-way road that travels uphill and attracts a high volume of cyclists or e-scooter users.

Councillor Ray Cunningham highlighted the number of cyclists and e-scooter users that are forced to use the footpath or travel downhill into oncoming traffic, due to the lack of cycle lanes.

It is possible for these road users to travel uphill on the road, but it is a steep and narrow lane that doesn’t allow cars to safely overtake.

In order to cater to more road users, scheme will provide a dedicated northeast-bound (downhill) contraflow cycling route, allowing cyclists to travel safely in the opposite direction to southwest-bound (uphill) vehicular traffic.

The two-way cycle track will run for 0.13km on

the northern side of Chapelizod Hill Road and the remaining part of the route will be a mix of a protected one-way cycle track and cyclists sharing the road which vehicles along with traffic-calming measures.

The Chapelizod Hill Road Active Travel Scheme is approximately 0.4 kilometres and extends from the Chapelizod Hill Road/Kylemore Road junction to the Chapelizod Hill Road/Lucan Road (R148)/Laurence’s Road junction.

Cllr Cunningham referred to the greater level of safety that will be provided by the construction of these cycle lanes, saying:

“The proposed two-way cycle lane on Chapelizod Hill Road makes a lot of sense, separating pedestrians, cyclists, and cars.”

The scheme will form part of a broader network of sustainable transport infrastructure in the area and aims to make it easier and safer to walk, wheel and cycle between Ballyfermot and Chapelizod.

The Public Consultation Phase will remain open for submissions until September 3.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

MAKES SENSE
Chapelizod Hill
Road Active Travel
Scheme



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Gardai investigate shooting incident in St Killian's Park

GARDAÍ are conducting an investigation following the discharge of a firearm at a vehicle in St Killian's Park, Clondalkin on Tuesday, August 4.

A man in his 40s was conveyed to Tallaght University Hospital to be treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Gardaí and emergency services attended

the scene following report of the incident, which occurred at approximately 08:55pm.

The scene is currently preserved for technical examination and Gardaí are appealing for any witnesses to this incident to come forward.

Any person who was in the vicinity of the St Killian's Park area on the evening of

Tuesday between 8pm and 9pm and who may have camera footage, including dash-cam, is asked to make this footage available to Gardaí. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Clondalkin Garda Station on 01 666 7600, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any Garda Station.

Investigations are currently ongoing.

Village Network apply for judicial review of Part 8



Residents and businesses concerned over enhancement scheme

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

TALLAGHT Village Network Chairperson Jacqueline Kelly confirmed that the Network has applied to the High Court for leave to seek judicial review in relation to the Village Enhancement Scheme.

Tallaght Village Network is a collaboration of local residents and businesses established to represent the interests of those who live and work in the area and the application relates to the statutory decision-making process concerning the Part 8 Tallaght Village Enhancement Scheme.

The Part 8 was passed at a council meeting in June following months of debate on the topic, including demonstrations and public meetings.

The removal of parking spaces for residents, introduction of a bus gate and changes to traffic in the area were some of the most prevalent concerns raised by residents and businessowners throughout the public

consultation period and build-up to the vote.

The National Transport Authority had also raised concerns with the version of the Part 8 that went out for public consultation.

However, South Dublin County Council Road Maintenance Senior Engineer Gary Walsh and Chief Executive Colm Ward noted that amendments were made following the submission and that the NTA are satisfied with these changes.

The purpose of the application from Tallaght Village Network is to ask the High Court for permission to bring judicial review proceedings.

The court will determine whether leave should be granted and, if so, any subsequent proceedings.

Chairperson Jacqueline Kelly said: "Tallaght Village Network has taken this step following legal advice.

"As the matter is now before the High Court, it would not be appropriate to comment on the substance of the case.

"We will respect the judicial process and allow the Court to determine the issues before

it."

The council hope to deliver the enhancement scheme in tandem with the BusConnects works to be carried out in the village and acquire a contractor to begin works on enhancements in Q1 2027.

The Tallaght/Clondalkin to City Centre Core Bus Corridor received planning permission back in October 2024 from An Comisiún Pleanála and the first contract was awarded for works last summer.

The 15.5km corridor will better connect the local areas to the city centre, with the Tallaght section set to commence from the junction of Old Blessington Road/Cookstown Way and is expected to be routed along Belgard Square West, Belgard Square North, Belgard Square East, Blessington Road, Main Road, Old Greenhills Road to the junction of Greenhills Road and Bancroft Park before following Greenhills Road towards the city.

As the matter is now before the courts, Tallaght Village Network will not be making any further comment on the legal issues unless and until it is appropriate to do so.

Echoopinion...

E-scooters are unfit for purpose

REPORTS of another incident with e-scooters in the local area only underlines the thoughts of many people – that they are unfit for purpose.

The prevalence of e-scooters across areas of Tallaght and Clondalkin is not unlike many other areas in Dublin and the rest of Ireland, but that does not mean those who use them are not at risk.

A young man was taken to Tallaght hospital recently for a fall at Newland's Cross, and is said to be seriously injured.

Legislation to restrict the use of e-scooters to adults and the need for hi-vis helmets has come far too late.

These vehicles are much more higher-powered than they are viewed as by authorities and the Government and constant incidents and near misses reported on serve to showcase the dangers they pose.

They're seen as a more sustainable form of transport than cars but with such high speeds possible on these vehicles and so little protection for the users, it is such a risk to take one anywhere.

Their prevalence has led to popularity among young people as well, and kids can be seen whizzing around on them in towns and estates, and its no surprise that studies are showing that kids are going to hospital more as a result of related injuries.

The country is striving for active travel options to offset emissions but they must be sensible alternatives, not e-scooters.

Too many data centres

THERE are too many data centres in Dublin, and all the recent talk about them has only reminded people of that.

107 data centres are currently located in Dublin, including at campuses in Clondalkin and Tallaght, with more on the way.

Over 7,000 gigawatt hours of electricity was used by data centres in 2025, per the CSO with Dublin postal districts like Dublin 22 and Dublin 24 among the top of the bunch, and the report noted that it had been a strong increase from a decade previous.

A report from Friends of the Earth noted that data centres have drained €715 million from the Irish economy, and could drain a further €1.6 billion euros from households over the next decade.

The consumption of well over four million litres of water a day can also be thrown into this.

These figures are stark, and they show you a glimpse of the future that could be in store – trending upwards as more centres enter the local and national economies.

Discussions in support of these centres describe their importance in the economy going forward, but those in charge will not be the ones who suffer.

Instead, it will be the families and households struggling to stay under their roofs while costs rise from the continuing increase in electricity consumption and water while more sites are set aside for these monolithic structures full of power, which certainly isn't for the people.

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‘Fun-loving’ father found with over €90k in criminal cash

Accused claimed he had no option as he had a sizeable debt from another conviction

A “FUN-LOVING” forklift driver and convicted drug dealer has been jailed for possession of over €90,000 in criminal cash, reports Declan Brennan.

On November 23 last, gardai set up a surveillance operation on foot of confidential information that Dubliner Clinton Byrne (44) was to take possession of a large amount of cash on behalf of a criminal organisation.

Gardai from the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau followed Byrne taking a taxi to an underground car park in Fortunestown, Citywest, where they observed an unidentified man putting a bag in the back of the taxi before walking away.

The taxi was stopped a short time later on the N4 near Palmerstown.

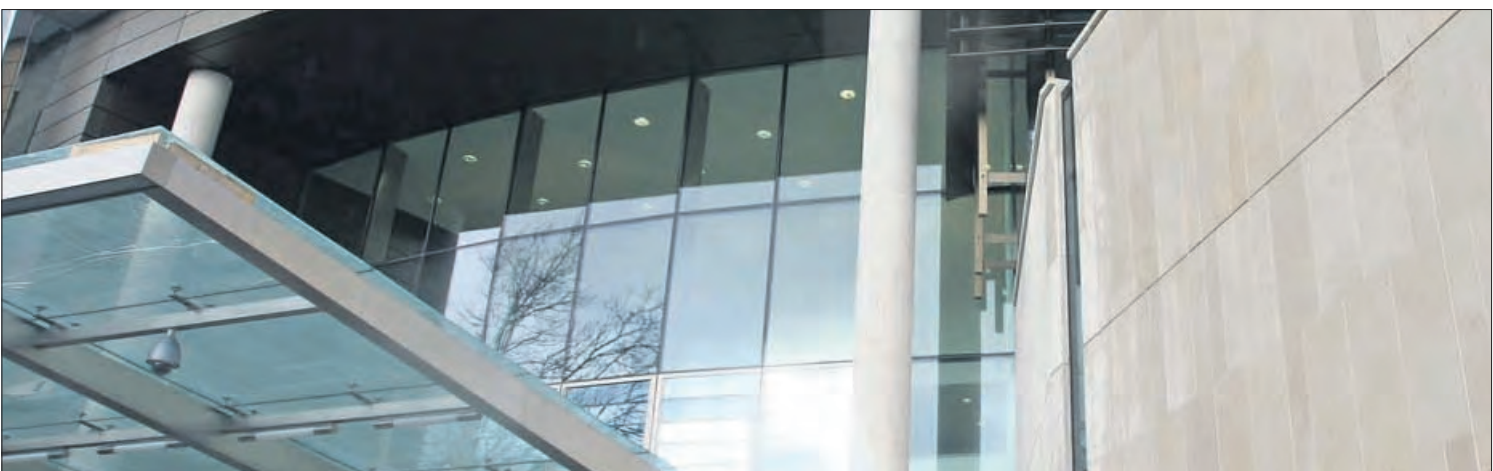
A Lidl bag containing a large package of cash wrapped in plastic was found in the backseat footwell of the taxi, Detective Garda Ronan O’Reilly told prosecuting counsel Jane Murphy BL.

Gardai arrested Byrne. In his fourth interview, he provided a prepared statement in which he stated he was not a member of a criminal organisation, did not participate in any conspiracy and had no option but to bring money from A to B as he had a sizeable debt from another conviction.

In April 2023 Byrne was caught moving €280,000 worth of heroin at a place in Clondalkin and received a sentence of four-and-a-half years’ imprisonment with the final six months suspended on strict conditions.

He was out on temporary release when he committed this crime, with his sentence release date on April 25 last.

Det Garda O’Reilly told Ms Murphy that



gardai did not accept Byrne’s explanation of events.

He later agreed with defending counsel Sarah-Jane O’Callaghan, BL, that it was reasonably possible that what Byrne said was true and that he was under pressure and had drug debts.

Byrne, of Kilmartin Ave., Tallaght, subsequently pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of €90,220 in criminal proceeds.

In a handwritten letter to Judge Dara Hayes, the father of two said he was on his way home when a man approached him, showed him a photograph of the home of Byrne’s mother and told him he had a job for him to do.

In the letter, Byrne states that he tried “pleading my case” with this man and told him he was “on the straight and narrow now” and his only priority was taking care of his family.

He wrote that he was told the job “was nothing to do with drugs”, that he was simply to grab “a small amount of money” and he would never see the men again after that.

Ms Murphy told the court that this version of events was never put to the garda witness and that it was in conflict with the State’s evidence. Judge Hayes said he was reading it as an account of the point at which the pressure was put on the defendant.

Ms O’Callaghan asked the court to consider a Probation Service report which described Byrne as a “fun-loving”, “charismatic” man who used bravado to aggrandise himself. Ms O’Callaghan said this behaviour got her client into trouble.

She said that in around 2020 her client became addicted to gambling and, later, cocaine and quickly accrued a large debt. She said this led to

him committing the drug-dealing offence in 2023.

Counsel said her client was in the past “very anti-drugs”, having seen the effects of drugs on his own family growing up. She said he had worked consistently as a forklift driver since he was 17 and was a devoted father.

Judge Hayes said the offending was aggravated by the fact that it was carried out while Byrne was on temporary release from custody and that he has a previous conviction for drug dealing.

He said he could take into consideration admissions Byrne made at the scene of the crime, the steps he has taken towards rehabilitation, his remorse and his personal circumstances.

He suspended the final year of a four-and-a-half-year prison term on condition that Byrne keep the peace and engage with the Probation Service for a year after his release.

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The FOLD

SDCC

Over 200 submissions received for Old Bawn Road active travel

The scheme is part of the Active Travel corridor with proposed junction upgrades



By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

MORE than 200 submissions were submitted for the non-statutory public consultation for proposed active travel improvements on the southern side of Old Bawn Road.

222 submissions were received in relation to the consultation which discussed potential improvements to three junctions located near Old Bawn and Firhouse, including the Killinenny Road junction, Kiltipper Road junction and Firhouse Road West junction.

The scheme is part of the Active

Travel corridor as adopted in Cycle South Dublin Programme.

The proposed junction upgrades include protected T-junctions with full signal control at the Kiltipper Road and Firhouse Road West junctions.

The larger Killinenny Road junction by The Old Mill is proposed to become a “protected junction with three traffic lane approach on Old Bawn and Firhouse Road and two-lane approach on Killinenny Road and Bohernabreena Road”, according to the local authority.

Councillor Niamh Whelan expressed concern over “really invasive reductions” to roads and called on South Dublin County Council to take submissions on board.

Cllr Whelan said: “I express my concern around the direction they’re taking with active travel and the really invasive reductions to the roads they’re making.

“I always say at the outset, I’m absolutely in support of providing safe infrastructure and safe travel for everybody, pedestrians, cyclists, car users, but I just think that the way that this has been rolled out and the massive amounts of road taken up, which is just making journeys longer for people in cars, which defeats the purpose of what the scheme is supposed to do...

“...I really hope they take what’s in the submissions on board.”

The Tallaght councillor noted her support for active travel infrastructure but noted chaos that may be created by changes, and noted that the number of incidents reported at those junctions were not high.

According to the Road Safety Authority, there were four serious collisions and eight non-serious collisions between Firhouse Road West and Oldcourt Road from 2016 and 2023, with injuries across all modes of transport noted, from pedestrians to cyclists and motorists.

Surveys identified safety issues for vulnerable road users at the existing junctions, particularly students from Firhouse Community College near the

Killinenny Road junction, with one count in May 2025 totalling 6,400 pedestrians and cyclists on footpath and cycle lanes over 24 hours.

Bus gate signals have also been proposed on the Firhouse Road approach to Old Bawn Road to give priority to bus movements to move into the right turn pocket ahead of general traffic.

The next steps include completion of preliminary design and a public consultation for the final design of Old Bawn Road Active Travel Scheme between the N81 and Killinenny Road.

Submissions will be reviewed and incorporated in the preliminary design where appropriate.

Annual Park Family Fun Day takes place in Ballycragh Park

THIS Sunday, Ballycragh Park will be splashed in colour as the annual Park Family Fun Day returns this year with a colour dash.

From 12pm until 2pm, everyone is welcome to head to Ballycragh Park for an afternoon packed with fun, laughter and community spirit.

The South Dublin Mobile Library can be found parked up on the day to ensure keep each and every book worm fed during the summer holidays.

Live music and a live DJ will also be featured on the day, as well as a plenty of children’s entertainment.

Everyone is welcome on the day, especially furry friends, who are encouraged to join in on the teddy bear picnic which will include games, competitions and spot prizes before the team from the SDCC Mobile libraries host a teddy bear story time.

The colour run will be split into three categories, to ensure everyone who wants to take part can do so with

ease.

The first wave will include the Park Running Programme participants, who will complete their final Colour Dash and receive their medals and certificates from Coach Dara.

Wave two will see a gentle, inclusive Colour Dash for children and adults with additional needs or sensory sensitivities, to create a relaxed and welcoming experience for everyone.

The third wave is open to the whole community and will welcome everyone who wishes to join in.

Stewart’s Foundation Sensory Bus, a fully fitted mobile sensory vehicle will appear for the day to provide a safe, welcoming and non-clinical environment where individuals can self-regulate, relax and experience the therapeutic benefits of multi-sensory equipment.

Artisan Irish ice pop company, Kahuna Pops, will also be in

attendance to ensure everyone is kept cool for the day, as well as Park Perks Coffee Shop, which will be open with delicious cakes, cookies and refreshments.

Those who wish to attend should note that there will not be parking will be available at the Park Community Centre or along the main road on Sunday.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



Council looks the other way with 60k speed sign

SILLY: Parkland Road with the wrong-way sign

For two years a road sign has been in need of repair and turned the wrong way

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

A 60 KMPH sign on Parkland Road, Ballycullen had been turned around the wrong way for the past two years without repair, according to a local resident who branded it “ridiculous.”

Stephen Redmond has been living in the area since 1998 and noted that he had been in

contact with the council since November.

The local authority confirmed the signage was corrected and the sign is facing the right way. He questioned the level of service being provided to the area by the local authority.

The signage is located metres behind other signage that states that the same route near homes and Ballycragh Park is 30kmph slower.

The 30kmph sign states that the area is a slow zone, reflecting the residential nature, and that cars should be wary of children playing.

Mr Redmond said: “It’s been like that now for several years . . . it’s ridiculous.”

He decided to email about the issue due to the length of time the sign had remained facing the wrong direction.

A problem with the growth of trees, leading to the breaking of small branches and disguising of the public path was also raised.

This process often leads to the locals choosing to create an alternate path to walk in their nearby surroundings.

Mr Redmond noted that this occurs every year and has been brought to the attention of the council before.

“The whole summer, the path becomes impassable.”

The resident understands that the council has a lot of things to do and prioritisation is utilised, but feels the work done in his local area is too infrequent.

The local authority said they will make arrangements for foliage to be cut back.

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Tributes to Glen sung by local buskers at Luke Kelly statue

Hansard was the founder of the Frames and began his career by busking on Dublin streets

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

LOCAL buskers from Clondalkin and Tallaght were amongst the group that performed by the Luke Kelly statue in Dublin city last Thursday evening to pay tribute to the late Glen Hansard.

The Oscar- and Grammy-winning Irish musician died at the age of 56 following a motorcycle accident in Lucan last Wednesday morning.

Hansard was the founder of The Frames, one half of The Swell Season and a well-known figure internationally – he had begun his career by busking on Dublin streets at the age of 13 and is a key figure for people in the Irish music scene in the years since.

Clondalkin’s Sadhbh Keane and Colm Gavin, as well as Tallaght’s Luke Clerkin were among the singers present at the sing-along to remember an important person on the Irish music scene.

The buskers who performed some of Hansard’s hits, as well as a few with a strong connection to the musician, had all met him along the way.

Sadhbh Keane told *The Echo* that the get-together was “a really special way” to remember the man.

Sadhbh said: “It was a really special way to remember Glen. Glen was all about bringing musicians together and musicians coming together for a cause, so it was really special.”

Glen organised the annual Christmas busk events on Grafton Street that have seen the likes of Bono and Dermot Kennedy step out alongside him and perform for the people in aid of



SADNESS: Colm Gavin and Sadhbh Keane were inspired by the Oscar-winning singer songwriter
Photo by Liam Murphy

“It was a really special way to remember Glen. Glen was all about bringing musicians together and musicians coming together for a cause, so it was really special . . .

the Simon Community.
Sadhbh met Glen every year for the

past few years at the busk and noted that he was “always helping younger musicians to get a leg-up.”

One of the song’s performed by the group near the Gaiety Theatre was ‘Heyday’, by Clondalkin’s Mic Christopher, who was closely associated with Glen.

Hansard had organised and performed at several tribute concerts dedicated to his fellow Irish musician.

Mic’s fellow Clondalkin man Colm Gavin has been inspired by both artists, and developed a connection with Hansard after he also began busking in Dublin city.

Colm has been taking part in the famous Christmas busk since 2012, and recounted when he first met him.

Colm said: “I started out as a busker and he would pass you on the street,

and one thing about him was that he was really inclusive.

“So, if there was something happening that he felt you’d want to be a part of, if he bumped into you on Grafton Street, he’d say, ‘look, there’s this thing tomorrow at four o’clock, just turn up in your car and be there’.

“That’s really the type of guy that he was.”



PAYING TRIBUTE: Group shot of the artists



SPECIAL: Sadhbh Keane says Glen ‘was always helping young musicians’

Vandalism, clamping, and perennial parking problems in Citywest

ANNOYING: A car clamped in Citywest

‘I think people are breaking windows and wing mirrors just out of frustration’

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

PARKING problems in Citywest are not getting any better, with incidents of vandalism and more reported as the situation gets ‘messier.’

Cars belonging to people in the area are being vandalised and clamped as options remain thin for residents’ vehicles.

Residents feel as if the local authority is ignoring them and noted that they have yet to receive responses, including through local councillors.

One local resident said: “There’s been a couple of people in the residence group that have said their cars have been broken into but nothing taken.

“I think people are breaking windows or breaking wing mirrors just out of frustration or anger.

“It’s just getting a bit more messy.”

The problem was previously reported on by *The Echo* in June and parking nightmares were described then, and the issues have

yet to be relieved.

Back then, it was reported that cars were parked on footpaths, clamps were being taken off cars by owners and strongly worded notes were left on windscreens as a result of parking shortages and disputes in the area, including ones with threatening language.

Residents received texts informing them that the Carrigmore Woods area was off-limits without a permit, which has left those looking for a space with less options.

Many of those who have taken up housing at new developments with limited parking spaces advertised have done so as they cannot be picky, according to a local resident.

From this disparity between the amount of cars in the area, and the parking spaces provided for those living there, the frustration has blossomed.

Now, some residents are parking in front of spaces already occupied, which is leading to chaos for other residents.

“My mam went for work there a couple of weeks ago, and when she went down to the car, there was a

guy who had parked in front of her . . . they’re left with no choice, they have nowhere else to leave their car.”

The local resident feels as if the issue in Citywest is “being ignored” by the local council, and noted that multiple queries and representations have been sent their way on the matter.

In the area, double yellow lines have been painted, which prohibit parking, and the residents are unsure of where they had originated, but have not received a response from the council.

Public transport in the area has left something to be desired and, for residents, there feels as if there is no end in sight, and no support.

“It’s frustrating because you’re trying to flag local issues and problems in the community . . . you’re trying to improve the areas that you’re living in, and there’s just no support.

“It feels as if the local authority doesn’t care much for the issues that are causing a knock-on effects in the local area.

“You feel a little bit hopeless.” South Dublin County Council has been contacted for comment.



NO SUPPORT: A car on a footpath

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Blue Heroes swing around to The Square to watch new Spiderman film

‘It’s great to get them out of the environment of the sickness and just to do an everyday activity’

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

MANY of Tallaght’s Little Blue Heroes as well as members of their family were treated to a movie screening of the new Spiderman film at Movies@The Square on Thursday.

There are 16 Little Blue Heroes in Tallaght, and many of these came out to see Spiderman: Brand New Day alongside their families, in a move that was described as “a treat” for the young children.

Little Blue Heroes Foundation supports children aged 1–15 years living in Ireland who have serious, life-threatening, or life-limiting medical conditions, including severe genetic disorders, childhood cancers, neurological conditions, and serious organ diseases.

Tallaght Person of the Year, Sergeant Emer Lamon noted the 60 children and families were more than deserving of a day out.

The Tallaght Person of the Year said: “It was just to have a little treat for our Little Blue Heroes in Tallaght, and their parents and siblings as well.

“They’re all obviously heroes in our eyes, and they just deserve a little treat.”

The heroes saw one of the world’s most recognisable heroes swing into action on the big screen, in the brand new film that had only come out the day before.

The idea was thought up by Sgt Lamon and Fiona Power of The Square as a way to let the children enjoy some time out.

The families had the screen all to themselves, with popcorn and drinks also provided to the children.

“They were comfortable being there because they all know each other as well. So even if a child was acting out or causing noise, like there was nobody getting irritated around by it as well



SPECIAL DAY OUT: Blue Heroes at the cinema and (right) Emma Dolan, and Callum with Keith and Evie Purdy

because the space was ours and they were free to be themselves in that space as well.”

A lot of the time, these children demand a lot of time and effort from their parents due to their illnesses or conditions.

Sgt Lamon noted that the siblings of the heroes also deserved the treat and added that they are often helping out their parents in providing care, and need this time as much as

their brothers and sisters.

As for the Little Blue Heroes themselves, she stated that it was great to get them out of their usual environments to do something fun.

“They’re kids as well. They enjoy the things that every other child enjoys as well, and it’s great to get them out of the environment of the sickness and just to do an everyday activity that everybody else enjoys as well.”



Sensory Safari’s Family Fun Day a great success for children of all abilities

‘One of the proudest moments was employing three young people with additional needs’

SENSORY SAFARI Adventures, a self-funded group set up by parents of children with additional needs, hosted a Family Fun Day on July 3 for members of its Autism Support Group.

Held at the Belgard Community Centre, the event featured a wide range of accessible activities, giving children of all abilities the chance to play, explore and enjoy the day together.

One of the parents involved in the group, Grace Ritchie, explained the importance of inclusive groups such as Sensory Safari for children who are on the spectrum, as they provide valuable days out and the chance for all children to socialise with one another.

“My son has special needs, and I take him to the local Fun Days in the community centre when they’re on but sometimes he doesn’t like it, sometimes it’s too loud or it’s too noisy or there’s too many people.”

Sensory Safari came to be following a group of parents from Dublin 24, who all agreed on the lack of activity days for children with autism or additional needs.

The group was founded by Charlotte Cahill, from Tallaght, whose daughter Cyra was diagnosed with autism three years ago.

“I established the group after seeing first-hand the lack of inclusive opportunities available for children with additional needs and their families.

“As a parent, I wanted to create a safe, welcoming space where every child could feel accepted, included and able to enjoy childhood without barriers.”

Charlotte was overwhelmed by the support on

the day and incredibly proud of the opportunities that Sensory Safari has offered for those with additional needs.

“One of the proudest moments of the day was employing three young people with additional needs to work alongside our team.

“Providing meaningful opportunities is something we are deeply committed to, because true inclusion is about more than simply attending an event – it is about being valued, contributing and having the same opportunities as everyone else.

“They did an incredible job and showed exactly what can be achieved when people are given the chance to succeed.”

This year, Charlotte received funding from the Firhouse Credit Union to ensure Sensory Safari is able to keep up its valuable service and run its weekly events without any financial worry.

Grace Ritchie spoke about the impact that this funding has on each parent in the group and explained that in some cases, there are parents with multiple children with additional needs who frequent days out that are hosted by Sensory Safari.

“It’s a safe place for them to have friends and be out and not stuck at home. Very few of them are verbal, so they would be isolated to their own company a little bit. So, it’s nice to see them out, making friends and having a good time.”

Charlotte hopes that this year’s Fun Day is “just the beginning” for Sensory Safari and is looking forward to “continuing to create opportunities where every child and every family feels they truly belong.”



FUN DAY: Charlotte Cahill with daughter Cyra

‘Massive inequality’ of taxes on inheritance is castigated

Mayor of South Dublin County Council slams inheritance tax rules and calls for changes

By James Roulston Mooney
jamesrm@echo.ie

THE upcoming budget has been cited as a time for change the “massive inequality” of the national inheritance tax system, with people currently taxed up to a third of the value.

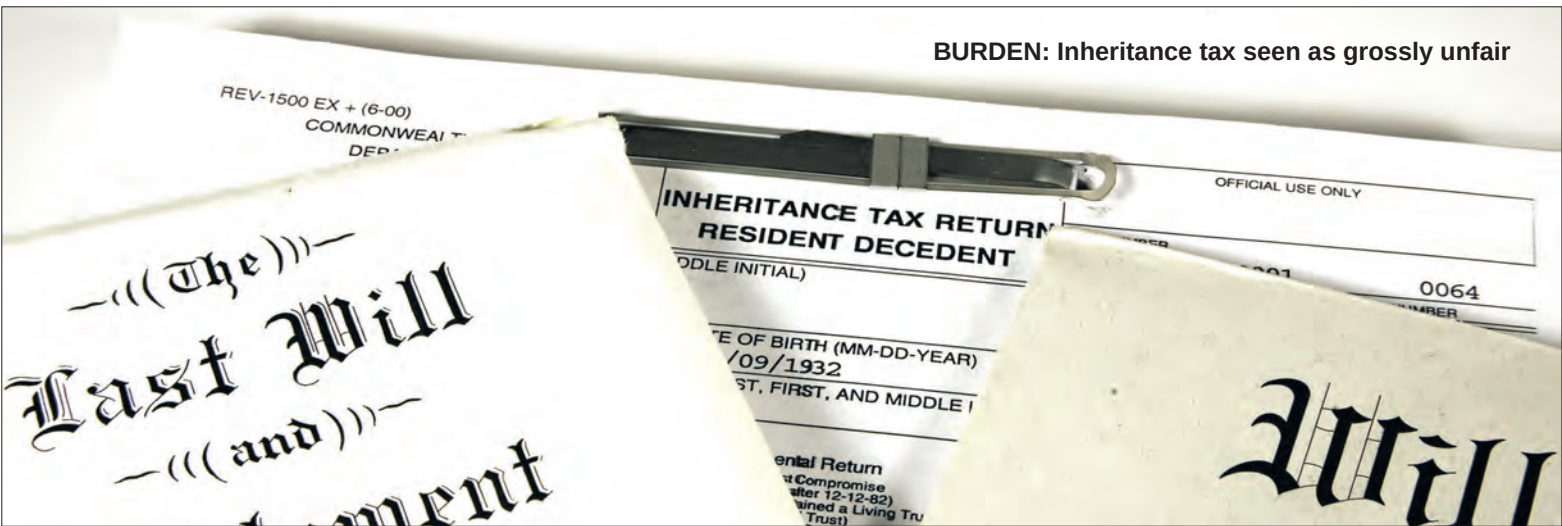
The Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Councillor Francis Timmons has called for changes to the current system for inheritance tax in the country, Capital Acquisitons Tax (CAT).

Calls for reform come after the Summer Economic Statement weighed up reform of inheritance tax rules for people who want to leave their estate to a relative.

CAT is a tax on gifts and inheritances – people may receive gifts and inheritances up to a set value over their lifetime before having to pay CAT.

However, once due, it is charged at the current rate of 33 per cent, and Mayor Timmons has deemed this “not fair or equitable.”

Mayor Timmons said: “It is currently not fair or equitable. We must see equality, fairness and justice for the families and loved ones of an estimated one million childless citizens and over



BURDEN: Inheritance tax seen as grossly unfair

177,000 cohabiting couples, in how our inheritance tax laws are applied.

“We cannot continue to have the massive unfairness in how inheritance tax laws are applied.”

Thresholds rely on the relation the person inheriting has to the person passing down goods or funds, and there are three groups to categorise this with thresholds as high as €400,000.

Group A relates to the children of the testator or disponent or a parent with an absolutely interest of an inheritance, and the threshold is set at the highest value.

Group B refers to parents of the disponent who take a limited interest of an inheritance, a brother or sister, or a niece or nephew, with the threshold at €40,000.

Group C’s threshold is €20,000 and is mainly tied at those with less

immediate relationships to the disponent – it includes benefits taken by uncles, aunts, grand-nephews, grand-nieces, cousins, in-laws and friends.

A benefit received by an uncle or aunt from a nephew or niece is also Group C, despite the opposite being part of Group B.

Mayor Timmons described the current makeup of CAT as “a massive inequality” and urged the government to think about altering the current system with Budget 2027.

“This massive inequality and discrimination needs to end. The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality needs to act immediately and in conjunction with the Department of Finance.

“The upcoming budget offers an opportunity to introduce fair and equitable inheritance tax laws.”

Businessman who took over Gala Cinema car park ignored notice to quit and broke into site

A BUSINESSMAN who stayed past his lease at a Ballyfermot car park has been ordered to leave pending a full trial, just months after a High Court injunction was sought.

The car park behind the old Gala Cinema building on Ballyfermot Road, owned by Kaifan Ltd, is claimed by the owners to have been taken possession illegally by a former tenant, Thomas Kearney, at the end of February.

Kaifan stated that Mr Kearney stopped paying rent in 2020 and ignored a notice to quit, then broke back into the site after its agents had retaken it.

Mr Kearney is claimed to have illegally taken possession of the car park behind the Ballyfermot

Homesavers on Thursday, February 26, a day after Blackwater Asset Management had taken possession for the owner of the building in front. The car park is situated behind the former Gala Cinema building, which closed in 1980 after 25 years, and was also previously a snooker and bingo hall.

The former tenant was given three months’ notice in October 2025 to vacate the property before Blackwater took possession at the end of February.

Justice Liam Kennedy said Kaifan Ltd had a strong case based on the written agreements signed in 2018, including a lease for the site for four years and nine months valued at €25,000 a year and more, while the judge also noted that Mr Kearney did not deliver a defence.

Mr Kearney stated that he believed he was entitled to rent-free occupation of the site along with free utilities, and the ability to sub-license it.

The court heard that Mr Kearney allowed more than 20 licensees to trade from the car park, earning €30k to €40k a year through this practice.

Justice Kennedy said the defendant’s explanations did not line up with contemporaneous documents.

The judge found the delay in enforcement action “curious” but did not support the defendant’s claim of a rent-free arrangement.

SDCC

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

ACHT NA MBÓITHRE, 1993, ALT 75

DÚNADH SEALADACH AR BHÓTHAR AN TEAMPAILL GHIL, RÁTH FEARNÁIN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 16

Chun oibreacha riachtanacha bóthair a éascú, tá ordú déanta ag Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas chun cuid den bhóthar seo a leanas a dhúnadh go sealadach:

Ainm an Bhóthair:

Bóthar an Teampaill Ghil, Ráth Fearnáin, L402 (ag an acomhal le hAscaill Shorcha Ní Churraoin agus ar feadh 25 méadar d’Ascaill Shorcha Ní Churraoin ón acomhal).

Ó:

Dé Luain, 17 Lúnasa 2026.

Go:

Dé Céadaoin, 19 Lúnasa 2026.

Am an Dúnta:

10:00am go dtí 4:00pm.

Malairt Slí:

Lána an Táilliúraigh R113, Bóthar na Gráinsí R822 agus Bóthar Shruethán Liam R115.

Fad na Malairte Slí:

5.1 km.

Coinneofar rochtain áitiúil ar bun.

Rochtain éigeandála 24 uair an chloig le coimeád i gcónaí.

ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75

TEMPORARY CLOSURE, WHITECHURCH ROAD, RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN 16

South Dublin County Council has made an order to temporarily close a section of the following road to facilitate essential roadworks:

Road Name:

Whitechurch Road Rathfarnham L4020, (at the junction with Sarah Curran Avenue and 25 meters of Sarah Curran Avenue from junction).

From:

Monday 17th August 2026.

To:

Wednesday 19th August 2026.

Time of Closure:

10:00am to 4:00pm.

Detour Route:

Taylors Lane R113, Grange Road R822 & Willbrook Road R115.

Detour Length:

5.1km.

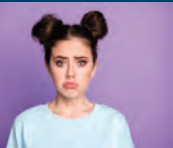
Local access will be maintained.

24hr emergency access to be maintained at all times.

Web: www.sdcc.ie

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Nature on our doorsteps

Rosaleen Dwyer is the County Heritage Officer at South Dublin County Council – every week she gives us an insight into the natural heritage around us and the beautiful biodiversity of the plants and creatures



A really gruesome bumblebee parasite



CONTROL: The Red-tailed bumblebee is a target of certain Conopid flies

IN NATURE, a wide range of control mechanisms exist that help prevent individual species becoming too dominant over others.

The most obvious is predation, where species hunt and feed upon one another in order to live.

There are also many types of fungal and bacterial diseases and parasites, all of which may kill their host or reduce the strength and ability of the host to reproduce effectively.

Parasitic relationships can be especially gruesome. This is where one species lives inside or on another species, feeding on the host which may or may not survive the event.

One such relationship occurs between a particular species of fly and a bumblebee.

With its bands of light yellow and black colours, this fly looks wasp-like. It has, however, only 1 pair of wings, unlike wasps which have 2 pairs. The fly also, does not have the long individual antennae of the wasp.

This fly is one of the group of flies known as the

Conopids. While these flies do not have regularly used common names, they are sometimes referred to as ‘thick-headed’ flies, due to the relatively large size of their heads. They have also been referred to as being ‘bee-grabber’ flies, because of what they do to unsuspecting bees.

One particular Conopid species will wait patiently on a flower. When its target, a Red-tailed bumblebee, passes by, the fly launches into the air and grabs the bee. In mid-flight, the fly very quickly makes a little cut in the bumblebee’s body and inserts an egg inside before releasing the bee.

When the fly’s egg hatches inside the unfortunate bumblebee, the larva lives as a parasite by feeding on nutrients in its host’s body until the insect finally dies.

The fly, however, has not finished with its host yet. The larva then makes use of the empty bee corpse by using it as a safe place in which to make its cocoon. It overwinters as a pupa in the carcass, where it develops into a new adult fly ready to emerge the following spring.



PREDATOR: The adult Conopid fly feeds on pollen and nectar



ALL INCLUSIVE: Mayor Cllr Francis Timmons with ‘well-behaved’ Hallie, Lucy, Annie and Sophia

‘The highlight was seeing the joy and

By **Grace Harte**
grace@echo.ie

CHAIRPERSON of Integration of All Children in Ireland, Yemi Ojo, and her team of volunteers welcomed children from all around Jobstown to this year’s Social Inclusion Summer Camp.

The year 2026 marks the 22nd year of the camp, which was first set up in 2004 by Yemi and her husband, Elder Tius Ojo as an affordable alternative to mainstream summer camps – it has been a roaring success ever since.

The camp offers local kids the chance to learn new skills, such as jewellery making and arts and crafts as well as lessons in music and cookery, in a friendly and welcoming environment.

There was also an exciting trip to Caragh Open Farm on the cards this year, where the camp-goers were given the chance to get up close and personal with a whole heap of animals across five acres of farmland.

Held in the Jobstown Community Centre, the two-week long camp wrapped up with a talent show and awards ceremony where camp-goers were awarded for their good behaviour and participation over the course of the camp.

Awards included Volunteer Team Leader of the Year, Best Behaved,

Most Sociable, Most Helpful, Most Valuable Participant of the Year and Most Improved Participants, to name just a few.

Yemi Ojo spoke of the gratitude she feels after 22 years of running the Camp, for parents and children alike, saying:

“For me personally, the highlight of the 22nd Annual Summer Camp Anniversary was seeing the joy and the happiness on the children faces and the positive feedback from the parents.

One parent told Yemi of the struggles she has had trying to get her son into summer camps previously – she has found it difficult due to the fact he is non-verbal.

Testimonies like these are what motivates Yemi to work harder each year to deliver the best summer camp possible for the children of Jobstown.

“What keeps me going is the love for children, family support, passion, commitment, positivity, words of encouragement from parents/guardians – never give up on your dreams.”

“Not in a million years did I think it would go on for 22 years – no way! I didn’t even think it would last for two years. Passion and the love for children kept us going every year with the support of my family and dedicated volunteers.”

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme



and happiness on the children’s faces’



TOPS: Eva White
with Mayor Cllr
Francis Timmons

SÍOL programme is rolled out locally

SOUTH DUBLIN County Council (SDCC) is currently in the process of identifying eligible projects within Clondalkin and Tallaght for the SÍOL Programme to provide funding for infrastructure in disadvantaged areas.

The SÍOL programme, launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht Dara Calleary TD, aims to improve the lives of Clondalkin communities, including Moorfield, Clondalkin Cappaghmore, and Clondalkin Rowlagh.

The programme – SÍOL, ‘seed’ in English, stands for Sceim Infheistíochta ag Obair Le Chéile, and this translates to the ‘Working Together Investment Scheme.’

SÍOL, in its first year, is also being rolled out in a select few areas of Tallaght, including Jobstown, Kiltipper and Killinardan.

SDCC is calling for those involved with projects within these areas of the county to apply, if eligible, before August 12.

Eligible projects include community safety projects, public realm works, projects to support health and wellbeing initiatives, and projects that support access to education and training in community settings.

Proposed projects must be ready to commence on approval with landowner consents and planning permission in place at time of application.

A total of €5 million has been assigned to the programme for 2026 which will support these six disadvantaged areas in South Dublin as well as several others around the country.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Irish dancing, copper crafts, old photos and ukulele magic

HERITAGE DAY returns to Ballyfermot with a bang this year on August 15, running in conjunction with National Heritage Week, and with a whole heap of local artists and musicians added to the bill.

Ballyfermot Library will host the “a great day for all the family”, with the likes of traditional Irish musicians Ballyer Trad Hub and Caoimhe and Friends taking to the stage on the day.

This year marks the 23rd year of Heritage Day, which is organised every year by the Ballyfermot Heritage Group.

Music won’t be the only source of entertainment, as Tono and Wally are showing off a Copper Craft Exhibition for those interested in the crafts.

History buffs will get their fix too, as an Old Ballyfermot Photo Display will be set up in the library to offer a trip down memory lane.

A three-time World Champion Irish dancer, Lily Reilly will be making an appearance on the day alongside fellow dancers Grace and Finn, who promise to put on a show.

Running from 11am, the Jukes of Ukes Ukulele Group, Anto Bradley, Matt and Tom ‘The Legends’ and Ballads with Sean Coleman will keep the library rocking until 4.30pm, with more special guests due to drop by on the day.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

Ballyfermot Heritage Day

Saturday 15th August

Ballyfermot Library 11am – 4.30pm

Entertainment & Light Refreshments

The Best of Ballyfermot Talent

A Great Day For All the family

Copper Craft Exhibition by Tono & Wally

Juke's of Ukes Ukulele Group

Some of the artiste Appearing With Special Guests Dropping in throughout the day

Ballads with Sean Coleman

Grace and Finn with Lily Reilly - 3 times World Champion Irish Dancer

Music with Anto Bradley

matt & Tom The Legends

Caoimhe & Friends

AthGhaelú: Logainmneacha na hÉireann a Thabhairt Ar Ais sa Saol Laethúil

AthGhaelú: Restoring Irish Place Names to Everyday Life by Pól Ó Meadhra

TÁ BORRADH mór tagtha faoin spéis sa Ghaeilge in Éirinn le blianta beaga anuas. Tá níos mó daoine á foghlaim ná riamh, tá fás ag teacht ar na meáin Ghaeilge, agus tá daoine óga ag úsáid na Gaeilge níos minice ar líne agus sa ghnáthshaol.

Ceann de na hiarrachtaí is nuáí a bhaineann leis an athbheochan seo ná AthGhaelú, feachtas a sheol Conradh na Gaeilge le déanaí a spreagann daoine chun na leaganacha Gaeilge de logainmneacha a úsáid in áit na leaganacha Béarla a tháinig chun cinn thar na blianta.

Tá an feachtas seo is déanaí de chuid an eagrais tar éis dul i bhfeidhm go mór ar an bpobal. Is é príomhaidhm an fheachtais ná logainmneacha, lena n-áirítear bailte, cathracha, contaetha agus áiteanna éagsúla ar fud na tíre a chur ar ais i ngnáthúsáid an phobail arís. In áit ‘Dublin’ mar shampla, tá daoine á spreagadh chun ‘Baile Átha Cliath’ a úsáid agus mar an gcéanna le ‘Cork’ a athrú go ‘Corcaigh’ agus ‘Belfast’ mar ‘Béal Feirste’ srl.

Tá bríonna doimhne ag logainmneacha na hÉireann sa Ghaeilge, agus is minic a chailltear na bríonna sin sa Bhéarla. Déanann na hainmneacha cur síos ar ghnéithe tírdhreacha, ar stair áitiúil nó ar sheantraidisiúin a bhaineann leis an gceantar. Mar shampla, tagraíonn “Baile Átha Cliath” do bhaile in aice le háth a deineadh le cliatha, agus ciallaíonn “Corcaigh” áit bhog riascach.

Le himeacht ama, deineadh Galldú ar go leor ainmneacha Gaeilge chun iad a dhéanamh níos éasca do chainteoirí Béarla, agus sa chuid is mó de na cásanna caillleadh an bhrí bhunaidh ar fad. I go leor cásanna, ní léiríonn na leaganacha Béarla bunbhrí ná bunús na logainmneacha Gaeilge.

Bhí ról lárnach ag Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis na hÉireann sa phróiseas seo. Sna 1820idí agus go háirithe sna 1830idí, dhein an foras seo tionscadal mór mapála ar fud na hÉireann.

Ceann de na gnéithe ba thábhachtaí agus ba chonspóidí den obair ná logainmneacha Gaeilge a chaighdeánú i bhfoirmeacha a bheadh oiriúnach do mhapaí oifigiúla Béarla. Deineadh iarracht fuaimneanna Gaeilge a chur in oiriúint don Bhéarla. Deineadh amhlaidh le hainmneacha na n-aibhneacha agus na sléibhte.

Tar éis na hoibre seo, ba iad na leaganacha Béarla a bhí á n-úsáid go hoifigiúil den chuid ba mhó. Le meath na Gaeilge, a tharla go forleathan i ndiaidh thréimhse tubaisteach an Ghorta Mhóir, d’imigh na hainmneacha ársa ó chaint na ndaoine chomh maith.

In ainneoin go bhfuil na Sasanaigh imithe ón gcuid theas den tír le breis is 100 bliain anois, tá sé suntasach nár deineadh aon iarracht an scéal a chur ina cheart ó shin le leith, seachas an corráit anseo is ansiúd, ar nós Dhún Laoghaire i mBaile Átha Cliath agus Cóbh i gCorcaigh. Leis an togra seo, áfach, tá deis againn cuid den dochar sin a chur ina cheart.



Léiríonn AthGhaelú treocht níos leithne ar fud an domhain. I go leor tíortha, tá pobail dhúchasacha ag tabhairt ainmneacha traidisiúnta ar ais mar chuid d’iarrachtaí teangacha agus cultúir dhúchasacha a athbheochan.

Tá gluaiseachtaí chomhchosúla le feiceáil sa Bhreatain Bheag, in Albain, i gCeanada agus sa Nua-Shéalainn, áit a bhfuil na teangacha dúchasacha ag fáil níos mó feiceálachta arís sa saol poiblí.

Dúirt Uachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge, Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin; “Níor aistríodh ár logainmneacha - athraíodh iad trí phróiseas coilíneach a scar daoine ó bhrí a dtírdhreacha féin. Is é atá i gceist le hAthGhaelú ná na hainmneacha sin a thabhairt ar ais in úsáid laethúil agus iad a aithint mar chuid bheo dár bhféiniúlacht. Féachann muid pobail eile, sa Bhreatain Bheag mar shampla, ag glacadh céimeanna lena logainmneacha dúchasacha a fhréamhú sa ghnáthshaol chomhaimseartha agus ní mór dúinn amhlaidh a dhéanamh anseo. Trí logainmneacha Gaeilge a úsáid inár saol laethúil, táimid ag áthcheangal leis an teanga, leis an tírdhreach, agus leis na scéalta a mhúnláíonn muid ar fad.”

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoi do logainm féin, tabhair cuairt ar logainm.ie. Chun Gealltanais Logainmneacha a shíniú nó chun páirt a ghlacadh san fheachtas, tabhair cuairt ar cnag.ie/athghaelu.

AthGhaelú: Restoring Irish Place Names to Everyday Life

There has been a significant increase in interest in the Irish language in Ireland in recent years. More people are learning the language than ever before, Irish-language media is expanding, and young people are using Irish more frequently online and in everyday life. One of the latest initiatives connected with this revival is AthGhaelú, a campaign recently

launched by Conradh na Gaeilge which encourages people to use the Irish versions of place names instead of the English versions that later developed.

This latest campaign by the organisation has made a strong impact among the public. The main aim of the campaign is to return place names, including towns, cities, counties and various locations throughout the country, to normal everyday use. Instead of using “Dublin”, for example, people are being encouraged to use “Baile Átha Cliath”, and similarly to replace “Cork” with “Corcaigh”, “Belfast” with “Béal Feirste”, and so on.

Irish place names carry deep meanings, and these meanings are often lost in their English forms. These names frequently describe features of the landscape, local history, or ancient traditions associated with an area. For example, “Baile Átha Cliath” refers to a settlement beside a ford made using hurdles, while “Corcaigh” means a marshy or wetland place.

Over time, many Irish names were anglicised to make them easier for English speakers to pronounce, and in many cases their original meanings were completely lost. In most instances, the English versions no longer reflect the original meaning or history behind the Irish place names.

The Ordnance Survey of Ireland played a central role in this process. During the 1820s, and particularly throughout the 1830s, the organisation carried out a major mapping project across the country.

One of the most important and controversial aspects of this work was the standardisation of Irish place names into forms suitable for official English-language maps. An effort was made to adapt Irish sounds and spellings to the English language. A similar process was applied to the names of rivers and mountains.

Following this work, the English

versions became the official forms used by the state. With the decline of Irish, which accelerated significantly after the devastating period of the Great Famine, many of these ancient Gaelic names also disappeared from everyday speech.

Despite the fact that the Irish state has existed for over 100 years and that its Constitution recognises Irish as the first official language of the state, it is notable that no major effort has been made since then to address this issue, apart from occasional examples such as Dún Laoghaire in Dublin and Cobh in Cork. With this initiative, however, there is now an opportunity to address this historical legacy.

AthGhaelú reflects a wider international trend. In many countries, indigenous communities are restoring traditional names as part of efforts to revive their languages and cultures. Similar movements can be seen in Wales, Scotland, Canada and New Zealand, where indigenous languages are once again gaining greater visibility in public life.

Speaking about the campaign, the President of Conradh na Gaeilge, Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin, stated: “Our place names were not translated; they were changed through a colonial process that separated people from the meaning of their own landscapes. AthGhaelú is about bringing those names back into everyday use and recognising them as a living part of our identity. We see other communities, in Wales for example, taking steps to root their indigenous place names in contemporary everyday life, and we must do the same here. By using Irish place names in our daily lives, we are reconnecting with the language, the landscape, and the stories that shape us all.”

To find out more about your own place name, visit logainm.ie. To sign the Place Names Pledge or take part in the campaign, visit cnag.ie/athghaelu.



Serious Crime Unit seizes over €70,000 worth of drugs in raid

Gardaí also uncovered ammunition, five e-scooters and one e-bike during search

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

MORE THAN €70,000 worth of drugs, as well as ammo and more were seized at an address in Tallaght on Monday night.

The Serious Crime Unit attached to Tallaght Garda Station conducted a search at an address in the local area as part of investigations into the sale and supply of drugs in the area.

During the search, Gardaí uncovered drugs with an estimated street value of over €70,000 and various other items.

Gardaí also seized ammunition, drug paraphernalia, €3,835 worth of cash, five e-scooters and one e-bike during their search. Investigations are ongoing.

Gardaí also carried out a high-impact day of action under Operation Meacán on Tuesday in which they seized thousands of euro worth of drugs and multiple vehicles, and arrested a man in his 20s.

The operation set up in December 2023 focuses on the use of electric motorbikes, e-scooters and e-bikes for criminal activity including drug distribution, money-laundering, transporting firearms, drug-related intimidation and other serious offences.

The high-intensity policing operation is a targeted collaborative approach by Divisional Crime Units, supported by Community Engagement Areas throughout the region, intended to meet the objectives of Operation Meacán.

Gardaí also engaged with members of the public in the Dublin Region on current regulations in relation to motorcycles, e-bikes, e-scooters as well as the new regulations due to come into effect this month.

The Government recently approved new regulations that will increase the minimum age for using e-scooters to 18, and make helmets and high-visibility clothing mandatory for users.

The incoming changes are set to be delivered after several high-profile incidents and tragedies involving young people.

Fixed-charge notices for all e-scooter offences will rise to €100, and the price to release a detained e-scooter will go up from €40 to €80, with an extra charge €30 per day after the first day.



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at www.occochlain.ie to make an appointment

AS PART of *The Echo* celebrating 46 years, we're celebrating you, and local faces and places. Over the last six years we've shared the stories of local people, and remind ourselves of the great community spirit alive across local areas. This week, Ken Doyle talks to Adam Kavanagh from Fettercairn.



DOING GOOD: Adam Kavanagh has packed an incredible amount of community work into his young life

The Echo – celebrating community for 46 years



HAPPY: Home schooling helped a lot

GENERALLY speaking, these pages – dedicated to the Faces of Our Community – feature someone who has spent years and years giving of themselves for the greater good in their area. We recently realised that it was about time that we gave some flowers to one of our younger volunteers. That’s what we will endeavour to do this week with our 18-year-old subject, Fettercairn’s Adam Kavanagh.

I don’t mind admitting that it sends a shiver down my spine when I realise that I’m no less than three times Adam’s age. By the time I’d reached his age my accomplishments amounted to a mediocre Leaving Cert and a mop of long hair which was fashionable at the time and is now a medical impossibility.

Adam has packed an incredible amount of great community work into his young life and he is impossibly modest and self-effacing about it. Hopefully his story will inspire people of all ages to roll up their sleeves and do a bit for their own locales.

That story begins in Fettercairn where Adam has spent his entire life so far. As he will attest, school was something of a mixed bag.

“I really enjoyed Primary School,” he begins. “I went to primary school locally and got on really well. I just struggled with the transition to secondary school and found things very difficult there.”

A pretty major complication and obstacle that Adam was forced to overcome was the fact that he has autism.

“The total overhaul of my daily life really took its toll on me. I ended up suffering really badly with anxiety and depression and things got so bad that I really didn’t feel like I could attend anymore.”

Luckily, Adam has an extremely supportive and understanding family, and with his mum Lisa leading the way, a home-schooling solution was formulated. Lisa had experience working with autistic children so she

was just the woman to organise it. Adam would then do all of his schoolwork at home, following the curriculum he had been doing in school.

“It was certainly much better and I almost did my Leaving Cert. I actually managed to get onto a PLC (Post Leaving Cert) course and I flew through that. I passed with flying colours and I was proud of the achievement, I suppose.”

Around this time, Adam was dipping his toe into the community work waters and found it suited him well. He is the grandson of Fettercairn legend Maria Mulligan who has run youth clubs and groups for years in the area.

“When I was very young, I started helping my grandmother out at her clubs and it was always a fun and fulfilling experience. I got a taste for it and through the youth club I got the chance to help out with two local football clubs Mark’s Celtic and Jobstown FC. I’m a big football fan, so I loved that. I’m still involved with Jobstown and now I’m helping out my sister (more on whom later) run the girls academy. I’m enjoying it more than ever.”

When we spoke, Adam had just finished working at a summer camp at Sandymount School, a school for children with complex needs. He was a hit with everyone involved and they’ve now recruited him as a sub-teacher helping out whenever he’s needed.

Adam has also worked on programmes run by the Gardaí and Dublin Bus and he’s just recently won the Garda Youth Award for Individual Young Volunteer in the Dublin South Division. In case, it’s not coming across, Adam is a very generous and impressive individual.

He now runs his own youth club for children with autism and this is entirely his own baby. He recognised the need for such a club, so where most of us would complain about its absence, he just took a look at the situation and made it happen.

So, what does a young man like Adam do at the age of 18? Well I’m delighted to tell you that come September, he will be studying Community and Youth Work in Maynooth.

This is not only a good thing for Adam personally, but I have no doubt that Fettercairn and other communities will see the benefits of Adam’s hard work and hopefully his

example will inspire others.

I ask Adam who is his greatest influence in his life and he instantly says “my sister Ciara”.

“She’s my best friend and biggest supporter. She’s got the altruistic spirit which seems to run through the family and I’m very proud of her. It’s nice to get a chance to thank her in the paper.”

As our meeting comes to a close I

ask Adam if he has time for any hobbies and he tells me, “Well football really. I played a fair bit when I was younger and hopefully at some stage in the future I’ll get the old boots on again.”

It’s at this point that I must regretfully point out that he’s a United fan. So it turns out he’s not perfect after all!

Just kidding. Thanks Adam.



ACTION MAN: Adam now runs his own youth club for children with autism

Knocklyon apartments to go ahead despite local objections

Planning authority says that the development would not injure the visual amenities

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

NEW HOUSING in Knocklyon will move forward following the decision to uphold the planning authority's granting of permission despite an appeal on behalf of a nearby resident.

The proposed development is a new detached two-storey building for two two-bedroom apartments on lands at Castlefield Avenue, Knocklyon adjoining Mimosa Castlefield Avenue, despite a third-party appeal from BPS Planning Consultants Ltd on behalf of a person living on Old Knocklyon Road.

The appellant recommended refusal for reasons addressing flood risk, character and streetscape, overdevelopment, precedent, loss of light and outlook, and overbearing impact.

Support for the appeal was received from the Castlefield Manor Residents Association and the owner-occupiers of Knocklyon Castle – the latter claimed that the granted application provided to South Dublin County Council did not adequately assess the safeguard the setting and visual integrity of the protected structure and recorded monument.

Other issues raised included a similarity between the accepted application and previous rejected ones, traffic access and the precedent the observers felt would be set.

The protection of existing street trees and a road layout, as well as limits to boundary walls and gates heights have been requested by An Coimisiún Pleanála in their report.

The report also states: "It is considered that the proposed development is acceptable in principle at this location.

"The design, scale and massing of the development would be acceptable in the streetscape and would not seriously injure the visual amenities of the area.

"The flood risk to the development can be adequately managed in accordance with IE4 Objective 1 and the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009), as revised by Circular PL2/2014, and the development would not cause unacceptable adverse flood impacts elsewhere."

Subject to conditions placed on the application, the national planning body deem the development able to exist without seriously injuring the residential amenities of property in the vicinity or endangering public safety via traffic hazard "and would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."

OBJECTION: Loss of light was one of the appellant's reasons for opposing the Castlefield Avenue development



Salvation Army staff 'desperate' to get housing for those living at their facility

STAFF at the frontline of Ireland's housing crisis have told how they desperately try to advocate for long-term residents living in emergency accommodation in Dublin.

Anthony Byrne, service manager of The Salvation Army-run Houben House in Harold's Cross, said he was approached this week by a man whose family has lived at the facility for five-and-a-half years.

"I met him in a corridor after work and he told me he had applied for choice-based lettings, which are pinned on the notice board, and asked me 'can you do anything to help?'"

"This man and his family need to be housed, he works full-time and has three young children."

The Christian church and charity was responding to the recent Department of Housing homeless statistics for June, showing that there are now 1,863 homeless families in Dublin alone, including 4,102 children.

Mr Byrne said the man and his family are not exceptions – another family who first entered Houben House six years ago were finally housed this week.

He advocates for families by contacting council officials but admits he is 'very limited' in what he can do.

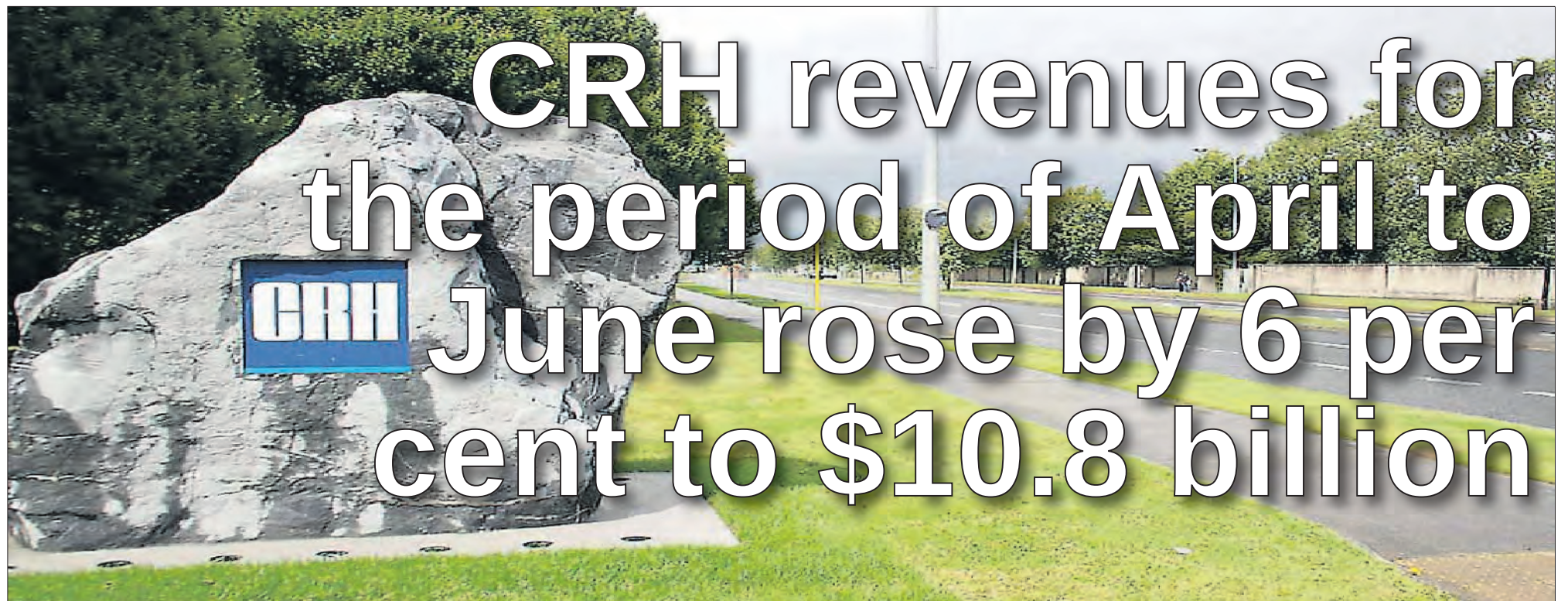
"Every time I see him I'm asking him 'are you still living here?' I'm just waiting to see if he's housed and he needs to be."

To alleviate the pressure on families during the summer, The Salvation Army organises a wide range of activities to keep children and teenagers entertained.

One of the biggest providers of homeless accommodation in the capital, The Salvation Army provides 250,000 bed nights per year in its five individual and family homeless centres across Dublin.

ADVOCATE: Anthony Byrne, service manager of Houben House in Harold's Cross





CRH delivered a strong Q2 performance driven by good commercial execution and further contributions from acquisitions

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

RATHFARNHAM-BASED CRH has seen an increase in revenues in the second quarter of 2026, with a growth of six per cent on the same period last year

The building materials providers who are listed on the New York Stock Exchange stated that its revenues for the period of April to June rose by 6 per cent to \$10.8 billion, up from \$10.2 bn.

The company noted that this growth was driven by positive pricing momentum, good underlying

demand, and contributions from acquisitions.

CRH CEO Jim Mintern noted the second quarter showing from the company was "strong."

Mintern said: "We delivered a strong Q2 performance driven by good commercial execution, favourable underlying demand and further contributions from acquisitions."

"Our unmatched scale, connected portfolio and leading performance supported higher profits and margin expansion against an inflationary cost backdrop."

"We remain focused on active portfolio management, completing three non-core divestitures, while reallocating capital into higher-growth, connected businesses."

Net income of \$1.5 bn was 13 per cent higher than the prior year, driven by strong operating performance and gains on divestitures during the period.

Adjusted EBITDA of \$2.6 bn increased by 7 per cent over the prior year, reflecting disciplined commercial execution, strong performance improvement initiatives and contributions from acquisitions.

CRH's net income margin of 14.0 per cent and adjusted EBITDA margin of 24.4 per cent were both ahead of the prior year.

CRH has been active when it comes to acquisitions recently, taking over several businesses in high profile deals, including US-

based construction engineering company Arcosa for €8.5bn

Mintern added: "Backed by our robust balance sheet and financial capacity, we agreed the \$8.5bn acquisition of Arcosa, which will reinforce our position as the leading aggregates and critical infrastructure player in North America."

"Notwithstanding current geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainties, we remain encouraged by the underlying demand across our key markets and are pleased to reaffirm our guidance for 2026 net income, adjusted EBITDA and diluted EPS, leaving us well positioned to deliver another year of growth and value creation."

Two new applications for developments at Crough's pub on Cookstown Road

TWO new applications have been put forward for developments at Crough's pub on Cookstown Road calling for two additional floors to provide apartments.

One of these applications proposes an extension to existing staff accommodation and plant room on the second floor of the existing building by 218sqm, as well as two additional floors to provide nine new apartments in a five-storey building (including basement level).

The other calls for the demolition of the existing

staff accommodation facilities and the construction of six one-bed units, alongside the call for nine units on two new floors, totalling a prospective 15 units within the building.

The provision of bicycle parking spaces has also been requested; 11 have been requested in the application that calls for an extension to existing staff accommodation facilities, while 15 have been requested in the one requesting the current facilities to be demolished and replaced by new units.

Permission had previously

been granted in 2020 for the proposal to extend the existing accommodation and deliver the apartments on additional floors with the 11 bike spaces.

New lift and lobby area to the rear to service all 5 floors, as well as a new pedestrian entrance to the eastern boundary, a bin store and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development are also included in the applications.

Identical applications were put forward to the planning authority by applicant

Palmgrey Limited in April, only to be withdrawn after a week.

Palmgrey Ltd are noted to have owned the property since April 2017, with nine applications made regarding the site since that date, including a certificate for exemption to deliver nine apartments above the pub in 2019.

Permission was also granted in 2025 for the change of use and refurbishment of the second floor existing staff accommodation to two two-bed apartments.

DEVELOPMENTS: Crough's Pub



Profits went down in 2025 at JYSK as revenues went up

The opening of the Belgard Road store and more played a factor in the latest figures

By James Roulston Mooney

jamesrm@echo.ie

PRE-TAX profits at the Park West-based Irish arm of the Danish furniture retailer JYSK decreased by 84 per cent last year while revenues rose.

The latest filings from Jysk Ltd, with a head office located in Park West Business Park, Cherry Orchard, show that profits went down as revenues increased by 22 per cent up to €85.09m after they opened new stores around the country, including one on the Belgard Road in Tallaght in October 2025 – the company currently operate 27 stores nationwide.

Pre-tax profits to the end of August 2025 show a sharp decrease from the figure of €3m filed in the previous fiscal year, falling to €491k, and landing at €404k after tax.

Operating profits of €473k and net interest made up the figure prior to the corporation tax charge of just under €87k.

Revenues grew €15m from the figure of just under €70m posted in the last fiscal year report.

The directors noted in the report that the expansion of services such as the opening of the Belgard Road store and more played a factor in the latest figures.

Numbers employed increased from 287 to 310, with 236 in administration and staff and 74 in management, while staff costs increased from €9.86m to €11.55m.

Shareholder funds totalled €7.7m at the end of August 2025, a figure that includes accumulated profits of €2.28m, while cash funds dropped from €5.55m to €1.91m.

Founded in 1979, JYSK operates 3,600 stores and online stores in 48 countries across the globe, and employs 31,000 people.

PROFITS: Pre-tax profits down at JYSK



More than 26,000 people availed of Skillnet initiatives

MORE than 26,100 people and 6,000 businesses in Dublin availed of Skillnet Business Networks and national initiatives to develop skills improve competitiveness and prepare for the future in 2025, reports James Roulston Mooney.

Figures from the Skillnet Ireland Annual Report, reveal the national agency for workforce development delivered over 232,000 training days to companies based in Dublin last year.

51 per cent of those who undertook training were men and 49 per cent were women, while those aged 30 to 39 availed of upskilling supports more than any other age group.

Commenting on the uptake of Skillnet Ireland supports from businesses in 2025, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, said: “The engagement of more than 23,000 businesses in Skillnet Ireland programmes during the year demonstrates a clear recognition

that skills development is essential to driving productivity, growth and competitiveness.”

In 2025, over 23,000 businesses received upskilling and training programmes amounting to 84,515 workers right across the Irish economy.

Contributions from businesses represented €26.5 million or 36 per cent of the total investment into upskilling for enterprises of €74m’ 85 per cent companies in Dublin that upskilled their employees with Skillnet Ireland in 2025 were small and medium-size enterprises.

The greatest uptake came from the services sector followed by technology, food & drink, financial services, retail, legal and health.

Companies based in Dublin undertook upskilling programmes with more than 50 of the 68 Skillnet Business Networks based on the sector in which their company operates, or with one of the networks in their region.

Chief Executive of Skillnet



INITIATIVES: Mark Jordan (Chief Executive, Skillnet Ireland), Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, and Brigid McManus (Chairperson, Skillnet Ireland)

Ireland Mark Jordan said: “The impact reflected in our 2025 Annual Report is a testament to the strength of the partnerships that underpin the Skillnet Ireland model.

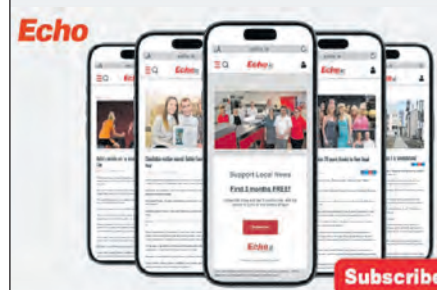
“We greatly value the engagement and commitment of our enterprise partners, industry bodies, and higher education institutions, whose collaboration ensures that skills development

remains responsive to real business needs.

“As the nature of work continues to evolve, Skillnet Ireland remains committed to working alongside our partners to deliver industry-led upskilling that supports enterprise growth, enhances workforce capability and strengthens the competitiveness and resilience of the Irish economy.”

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Ballymount based Certa to play a key role with RNLI

The energy and fuel supplier has been appointed as RNLI's official supplier for next three years

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

BALLYMOUNT-based Certa has been appointed as the RNLI's official fuel supplier for the next three years and has been designated as its official charity partner for the coming year as well.

The energy and fuel supplier will play a key role in helping the RNLI to promote water safety and to raise funds to continue its lifesaving work in Dublin and will supply fuel to all 46 RNLI stations across Ireland, while also supporting the plan to transition its entire fleet to HVO renewable fuel into the future.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a charity that operates lifeboat search and rescue, lifeguards, water safety education and flood rescue in Ireland and the UK.

Certa, which is part of DCC Energy plc, operates Ireland's largest network of pay@pump forecourts and home heating depots including Certa forecourts in Ballymount, Dundrum, Liffey Valley and Certa depots in Kilternan and Greenhills.

Head of Sustainable Fuels at Certa Laura Byrne welcomed the developments: "Certa is proud to support the search and rescue service that the RNLI provides in Dublin.

"The RNLI is a natural fit to become our Official Charity Partner as we are both part of the local communities not only in Dublin but across Ireland.

"Certa is also delighted to be appointed as the RNLI's

Official Fuel Partner. We understand that maintaining fuel supply is critically important to the rescue service that the RNLI's volunteer crews provide 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year."

Certa will raise significant funds for the RNLI by donating 1c per litre from every online order for home heating oil throughout August.

A similar donation campaign will be made across its forecourts and depots throughout November with select sites having specially branded 'donation pumps' to donate 1c per litre from every transaction.

Customers will also have the option to make separate donations to the RNLI at Certa's 49 pay@pump forecourts and 21 local depots and on its website.

The RNLI will also make use of the digital advertising units across the Certa network to promote water safety initiatives throughout the year. Certa's Volunteering Day Programme.

RNLI Fundraising and Partnerships Lead Killian O'Kelly said: "We are delighted to partner with Certa and look forward to working with the team in the year ahead.

"Last year, RNLI lifeboats at our 46 stations including the five in County Dublin, launched 967 times with our volunteer crews bringing 912 people to safety, 17 of whom were lives saved. 280 of those launches were carried out in the hours of darkness.

"Each year we see how quickly things can change on the water. Our crews are always ready to respond, but we can only do what we do thanks to the generosity of others."

NATURAL FIT: RNLI charity operates lifeboat search and rescue



Advertorial

Safco Fine Foods Basil Pesto is going nationwide in Lidl

Safco Fine Foods founded by Mohammed Rashid in 2012 based in Clondalkin is going nationwide in Lidl. The fresh basil pesto will be sold in Lidl from September 2026.

Following the success of the launch of their beetroot hummus range in all Irish Aldi stores, Safco looks forward to the release of their next product on the consumer market. Made with all natural ingredients this pesto is part of the Lidl Kickstart campaign and will be available in all Lidl stores across Ireland from September 10th. "Safco was created to deliver healthy vegetarian food that doesn't compromise on taste and quality".

Safco is proud to give back to local communities through working with Muslim Sisters of Eire, Tig Linn and Tallaght Committee Group to feed the homeless. Safco is motivated to support local communities by sponsoring and supporting local schools and football teams.

"We have worked incredibly hard to get to this point. To see our product on the shelves of one of Ireland's biggest retailers, available to families across the country, is something we are truly proud of. This is just the beginning for us."



Plans for funeral home in Rathcoole unveiled

CHANGE OF USE:
Dunhallow House

No embalming services are expected to be provided at the location, with approved location off site

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

PLANS to deliver a funeral home in Rathcoole near the site of an approved residential development have been unveiled.

The funeral home is proposed to be delivered at Dunhallow House on Main Street, a protected structure, through a change of use

from the existing office status, along with a proposed 1.53sqm extension at ground floor level and use of the plaza located at the front of the building as a hearse set down area.

Applicant Brian McElroy is noted to have taken out a lease on part of the property, including the street-facing protected structure.

The cover letter included in the application states: "There is no funeral home in Rathcoole, Saggart or Newcastle. This proposed funeral home would be a beneficial addition to the local

communities and it is to be noted that Dunhallow House is located near to the local churches in Rathcoole."

No embalming services are expected to be provided at the location, with an approved location off site noted to play host to this.

The entire building is proposed to be used as a funeral home with ancillary offices.

The full site is owned by Ciaran Reilly, who has consented to the delivery of a funeral home. Planning permission has already been granted

for a 12-home development to the rear of the Dunhallow House building with 18 parking spaces, attributed to Mr Reilly, and the plans to use the plaza in front of the building as a hearse set down area is a proposed alteration to these residential plans.

The original plans for the plaza included landscaping works and no access by vehicle intended, with access to and from the residential development at the rear of the property located to either side of the plaza.

Permission granted for extension of the Red Cow Luas Depot

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

PERMISSION has been granted for the 1,367 sqm extension of the Red Cow Luas Depot, which will include new maintenance lanes and a new central control room.

The Red Cow depot is the main depot for the Red Line service since the tram was first run in September 2004, and the existing control centre at the site oversees all Luas operations.

The upgrade to the depot is expected to take three years to complete, according to the TII website and is understood to have a budget between €25m and €50m expected to be attached to it.

To create the new control room, an extension to the first floor of the building is sought, while the extension of existing maintenance lanes three and four is also sought, alongside the proposed new additions.

The new central control room at the local depot will be complemented by escape stairs and a lift.

The two new maintenance lanes will bring the depot's total to eight and their inclusion will be complemented by the extension of two existing lanes at ground floor level, numbered three and four.

A visual assessment report shows changes to the parking area located behind the depot including new pedestrian marking, as well as the extension's planned shape and exterior.

Solar panels will be installed at the depot also, in both the new and existing areas along with the provision of a new ESB substation and all associated site development and ancillary works.

A Glint and Glare assessment is to be carried out, given the location of the site within Tallaght Hospital solar safeguarding zone and proximate to Baldonnell solar safeguarding zone, and will be submitted for agreement by the Department of Defence and Tallaght University Hospital.



GRANTED: Red Cow Depot

Proposed outdoor games at the Black Lion Inn

Pub seeks Section 5 exemption to allow for social games like darts to be played outdoors

By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

AN application has been made for a Section 5 exemption to allow for traditional and social pub games like darts to be played outdoors at The Black Lion in Clondalkin Village.

The application put forward to the planning authority calls for an exemption to be given and the provision and playing of traditional and social pub games, including darts, pool, shuffleboard, table football and similar activities within the permitted 203 sqm beer garden pavilion at the pub on Orchard Lane.

Greenwin Ltd had previously failed to get permission to allow live music at the beer garden.

No change is proposed to the established public house/restaurant use, the permitted use of the pavilion as a beer garden, the approved operating hours or the physical structure of the pavilion.

The beer garden is situated to the rear of The Black Lion Public House and forms part of the overall public house and restaurant premises.

In a cover letter prepared by agent Frank Ennis and Associates, the proposal is claimed not to interfere with conditions two, three and four of the structure's granted planning permission.

The conditions note that the use of the pavilion is for beer garden only and it shall close at 11pm every night with operational noise limits in place to protect the residential amenities of properties in the vicinity.

The cover letter states: "The proposed pub games would take place entirely within the continuing use of the pavilion as a beer garden ancillary to the public house/restaurant. No change to the approved closing time or the applicable noise limits is proposed.

"The proposed activities do not include the use of the pavilion as a music club, nightclub or live music venue and will not involve amplification for music, television or presentations."



OUTDOOR GAMES:
Black Lion

63-home residential development for Adamstown

DEVELOPMENT:
Adamstown 63
homes



By **James Roulston Mooney**
jamesrm@echo.ie

A 63-home residential development to be built on 0.9 hectares of land within the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone has been approved.

The new 6,096sqm development will be located on two "physically separated, yet proximate sites" at Adamstown Castle and Adamstown Square, according to the application from Clear Real Estate Holdings Limited.

Plot A measures 0.14 Ha and the main development site is generally bound: to the north by Stratton Court; to the east by Adamstown Park; to the south by

Adamstown Avenue; and to the west by Stratton Drive.

Plot B measures 0.76 Ha and the main development site is generally bound: to the north by Adamstown Avenue; to the east by Castlegate Vale and Castlegate Downs; to the south by sports surfaces associated with Adamstown Community College, an all-weather sports pitch associated with Adamstown Community Centre and undeveloped lands; and to the west by Adamstown Park.

Plot A will host the construction of a new four-storey apartment building sized at 1,208 sq m comprising 15 apartments; eight one-bed units and seven two-bed units.

Plot B will see the construction of 48 duplex units made up of 24 two-bed units and 24 three-bed units in four three-storey

buildings that make up 4,888 sqm.

The development will also include foul and surface water drainage connections, 6 car parking spaces, a new access road at Plot B connecting Castlegate Vale to Adamstown Park, bicycle parking, ESB substations, hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments, balconies/terraces facing south, east and west green roofs, public lighting, bin storage and all associated site and development works above and below ground.

The granting of permission comes after a call for further information to be provided in May, including requests for more attention to be provided to the layout and visual impact of the blocks, as well as a revised layout of roads that showed that large vehicles such as refuse trucks could enter the site.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That **South Dublin County Council**, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004 (No. 44 of 2004), as amended, proposes to make Bye-Laws in accordance with Phase 2 of the National Speed Limit Review, namely the:

South Dublin County Council Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2026.

The purpose of these Bye-Laws is to implement special speed limits on public roads within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council.

The public consultation period will run from **06/08/2026** to **04/09/2026** (inclusive).

The draft bye-laws maps of the proposed amendments are available for inspection during normal office hours from 06/08/2026 to 04/09/2026 (both dates inclusive) at the following locations:

- County Hall, South Dublin County Council, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

The accompanying maps are available to view on South Dublin County Council's Consultation Portal at: <https://consult.sdblincoco.ie>

Submissions or observations relating to the above-mentioned Speed Limit Review may be made:

- Online through the Consultation Portal;
- By post clearly marked **"South Dublin County Council Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2026"** and addressed to:

**Senior Executive Officer
Planning and Transportation
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24**

The closing date for submissions is 5.00 p.m. on 04/09/2026.

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Interactive comedy game show WiFi Wars comes to the Civic theatre

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

FROM classic TV game shows to zen-like word puzzles, from retro video games to modern first-person shooters, WiFi Wars has something for everyone in its truly original whistle-stop tour of all the ways you can have fun in public.

The entire audience competes, both as teams and as individuals, on games, quizzes and more that are magically beamed into their smartphones and tablets using WiFi Wars' Guinness World Record-Breaking tech.

This tech was developed in residency at London's prestigious Royal Institution.

Hosted by comedians Steve McNeil and Rob Sedgebeer, 'WiFi Wars' is the award-winning must-see show that is like "nothing you've seen before".

Steve has previously served as team captain on the hit TV show 'Dara O'Brian's Go 8 Bit', and Rob is a Chortle 'Legend of Lockdown' award winner.

As teams and players thrive and fail, each show's unique narrative emerges hilariously in real time, with freshly minted heroes becoming local legends in every place they visit.

It is vital that every player bring a smart device (phone or tablet); essentially, they just need something with a touchscreen and a web browser installed.

Players are also encouraged to make sure their devices are charged and they do not need to download an app or install anything in advance; Steve and Rob will get them all set up when they arrive.

This week, *The Echo* sat down with Steve to discuss 'WiFi Wars' performing in the Civic Theatre at 7pm on August 29; for booking details, check civictheatre.com, i.e.

What can you tell us about 'WiFi Wars'?

It's a live interactive comedy game show where the whole audience competes on games, puzzles and quizzes using their smartphones and tablets! We've got a bit of everything, from word puzzles to classic TV game shows, from retro video games to modern first-person shooters. We do our utmost to make sure the show genuinely has something for everyone, whatever your age or experience.

What was your inspiration behind this show?

Back in 2013, I was doing the early live version of what became my TV show Go 8-Bit, and Rob approached me with some cool new tech he'd invented where the whole audience could control the paddles in a massively multiplayer version of Pong. He very kindly let us use it in the live (and then TV) show, and the two of us developed the concept further, with it eventually turning into its own thing, 'WiFi Wars'!

What has been your favourite part of working on this production so far and why?

We're lucky to have had so many incredible experiences over the last 13 years of doing the show, so it's hard to pick one! Breaking Guinness World Records, developing the show at the Royal Institution (and regularly appearing in their Christmas Lectures), performing to over 3,500 people at Arena Birmingham and even a sold-out Sydney Opera House earlier this year as part of the Comedy Festival there! It's a true pleasure to get to bring our toys to people all over the world and see them enjoying them, together, just as much as we do!

What have been some of the biggest challenges you have encountered in this production so far, and how have you navigated them?

With 'WiFi Wars', the biggest challenge is – unsurprisingly – setting up the tech required to allow thousands of people to simultaneously connect to us and have games instantaneously beamed to them all. Thankfully the tech has come a long way in the last decade, which makes things a lot easier for us. Your phones are more powerful, wifi network hardware has improved immeasurably, and things like 5G and Starlink make huge outdoor events far easier to deliver. As to how we navigate them, every show is unique, and it's just a case of finding the right tools for each job!

What is next for you? Do you have any other plans or projects in mind for the rest of 2026 after this performance?

We've been on the road now continuously for almost four years, and we've already got dates in the diary all the way through 2027, so we just keep doing what we do and hopefully bring the show to more and more new people. This is our first time bringing the show to Ireland, and the hope is that

PLAY GAMES, PUZZLES & QUIZZES AGAINST FRIENDS & FAMILY

WiFi WARS

INTERACTIVE COMEDY GAME SHOW

XXXXXX

BRING A SMARTPHONE TO PLAY, NO APP REQUIRED

LATEST DATES & TICKETS: wifiwars.co.uk/shows

SEP 06 BIGGLESWADE, The BIGG Theatre	OCT 23 SALISBURY, Salisbury Arts Centre	DEC 05 CHELMSFORD, Chelmsford Theatre
SEP 13 BRISTOL, The Wardrobe Theatre	OCT 24 WATFORD, Palace Theatre	DEC 06 CAMBRIDGE, Cambridge Junction
SEP 20 STAFFORD, Gatehouse Theatre	OCT 27 LICHFIELD, The Hub at St Mary's	DEC 18 LONDON, The Royal Institution
SEP 26 BANGOR, Pontio Arts and Innovation Centre	OCT 28 LUTON, Hat Factory Arts Centre	DEC 19 READING, South Street
SEP 27 HERTFORD, Beam	OCT 29 BIRMINGHAM, MAC Birmingham	DEC 20 BIRMINGHAM, MAC Birmingham
OCT 02 BATH, The Rondo Theatre	NOV 01 SUDBURY, Sudbury Quay Theatre	JAN 16 ABERGAVENNY, The Borough Theatre
OCT 03 FAREHAM, Fareham Live	NOV 07 POOLE, Lighthouse	JAN 23 ROCHDALE, Heywood Civic
OCT 09 LONDON, The Royal Institution	NOV 08 ISLE OF WIGHT, Quay Arts Centre	JAN 24 BISHOP'S STORTFORD, South Mill Arts
OCT 10 AYLESBURY, Waterside Theatre	NOV 15 FAVERSHAM, The Alex	JAN 31 SOUTHELD, Palace Theatre
OCT 11 LANCASHIRE, Chorley Theatre	NOV 21 GUILDFORD, G Live	
	NOV 22 HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, The Old Town Hall	

Details correct at time of going to print

enough people will come along that we can come back again soon and do a lot more dates in a lot more locations! So, if you like the look of what we do, please come along, and bring your friends!

Who would you like to thank for

helping to make all of this possible?

As it's me, Steve, doing this interview, I have to thank Rob, who invented and operates all the tech used in the show. Without him, I'd just be a strange man shouting at people on their phones.

Kevin Doyle as Elvis

with The Way It Was 12 Piece Orchestra

22ND & 23RD AUG | 8PM | MUSIC

See www.civictheatre.ie or contact Box Office (01) 462 7477



Rovers Fans

ROVERS V KF EGNATIA UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email reception@echo.ie or call 01-4685350.
You can view *The Echo* Photography Policy on echo.ie



George, Tomo, Eamonn and Derek



Gaye, Naomi and Thiago



Malcolm and Nikki



Ollie, Carter and Andy



Stephen and Zkie



Harry and Robert



Tommy and Louise



Egnatia fans

Martin's Paintings exhibition at Rua Red

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"IT IS a nice thing to do," explains Tallaght's Martin Finn regarding giving his art as presents to family and friends.

Martin is a Tallaght-based artist and a valued member of DoubleTAKE supported Arts Studio, having joined 3 years ago.

This is Martin's first solo exhibition, showcasing his hard work, dedication, creativity and love of paint and colour.

He is proud of his work and delighted to exhibit on the Rua Red cafe wall as his art is "nice and I would like people to see them."

Martin always looks forward to his colourful start to his week. He enjoys meeting and chatting to people downstairs at reception and in the cafe.

He also enjoys time with his friends in the studio and creating paintings. He starts off each session with his valued cup of coffee to help with his inspiration.

After a chat and a coffee one will often see Martin settle into his painting, becoming fully absorbed in slowly applying each painted brush stroke.

Martin started painting stones during the COVID pandemic. He then went on to join the studio and spent time exploring different mediums and interests.

He loves painting with big brushes and in the last year has taken to canvases. His favourite colours are red, purple and black.

It is evident from his artwork in this exhibition that he has branched out to explore

more colours and has created colour combinations with his brush strokes and marks.

Martin often gives art to his sister Jean, with whom he has a close relationship.

Some of the work in this exhibition has a name in the title. These are paintings Martin has kept to gift to new friends he has met in the studio and in Rua Red.

"Anyone who is fortunate enough to be gifted a piece from Martin should count themselves very lucky," beams, DoubleTAKE Artist Mentor Caroline Hyland.

The 'Martin's Paintings!' exhibition launched in Rua Red on July 27, and the paintings will be available to view on the cafe wall until August 21.

There is a visitor's book available at reception for anybody who wishes to leave a comment, and some of Martin's paintings are available for purchase.

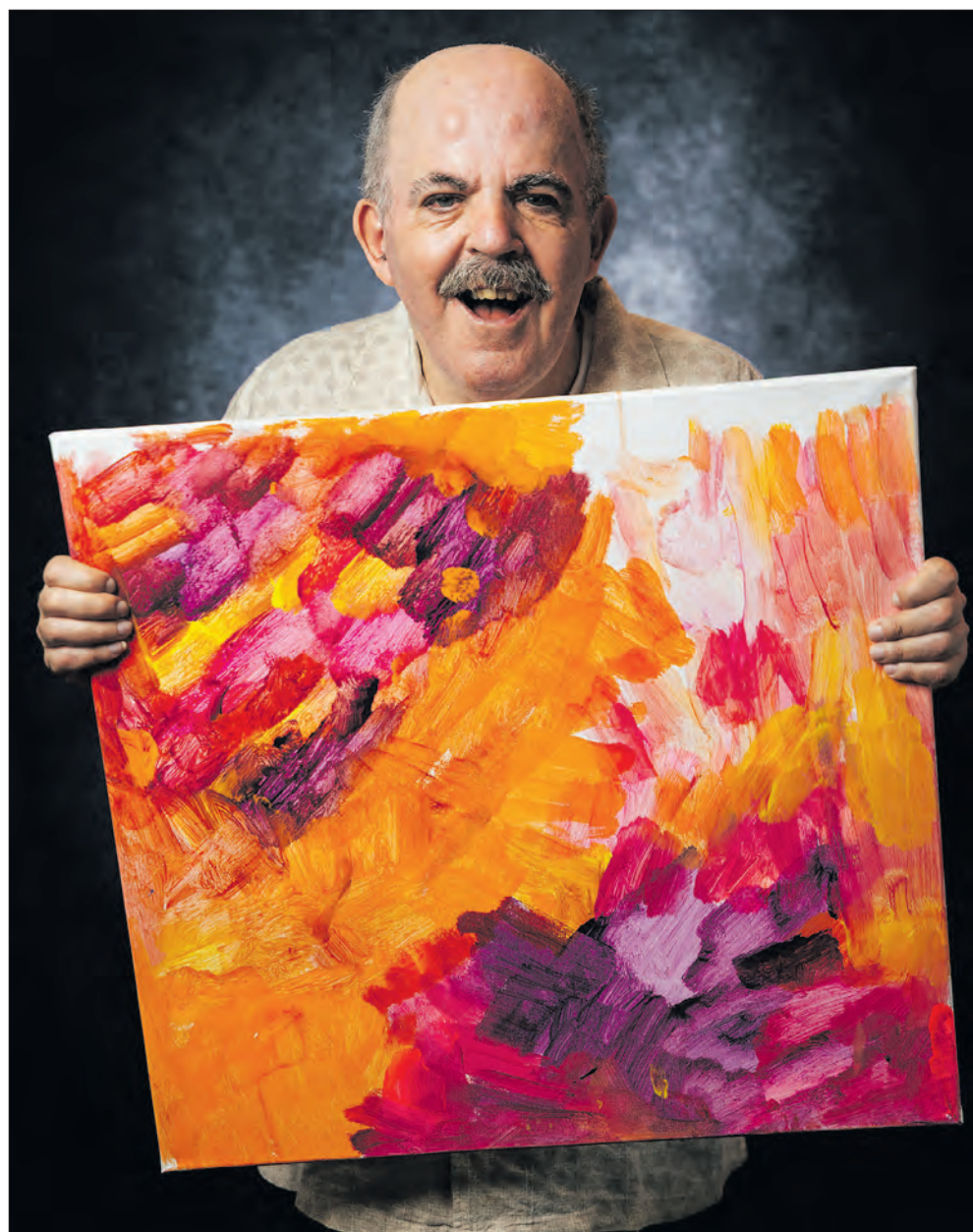
For more detail, enquire at reception.

Rua Red Cafe is open from 9:30am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays and 10am to 3pm on Saturdays.

For more detail about DoubleTAKE Supported Arts Studio, visit tallaghtarts.ie or check DoubleTAKE's Instagram page.

Martin Finn

Photo by Conor Keegan and Leo Kearney from Tallaght Community Arts



Keith McLoughlin performing 'Give Me a Sign' with Sabina Vostner at the 2025 Tipperary International Song of Peace final

Terenure's Keith is finalist in 2026 Tipperary International Song of Peace

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"WE warmly invite everyone to join us in Bansha for what promises to be a very special evening," explains Martin Quinn, Honorary Secretary of the Tipperary Peace Convention.

Terenure's Keith McLoughlin is one of six songwriters from Ireland and the United States who have been selected as finalists in the 2026 Tipperary International Song of Peace.

The winner will be crowned at the eagerly anticipated final on Thursday, August 20, at Templemore Old Church, Bansha, Co. Tipperary, commencing at 7.00pm.

Keith will be taking to the stage with Moldova-born Cristina Movileanu to perform their song 'Something's On My Mind'; he wrote the lyrics while she composed the music.

Other finalists announced include Leslie Bowe, Frank O'Dea, Ceri Earle, Gerry O'Brien, and Don Gnecco.

The evening will also feature the final of the Darby Ryan International Poetry Contest, honouring the legacy of the celebrated Bansha poet Darby Ryan and showcasing original

poetry from writers in Ireland and abroad.

The Tipperary Peace Convention extends its "sincere appreciation" to IMRO for its continued support of the Tipperary International Song of Peace and to Tipperary Credit Union for its valued support of this special event.

Their commitment helps make it possible to bring together songwriters, poets and audiences in celebrating creativity, cultural heritage and the universal message of peace.

According to Martin, the Tipperary International Song of Peace continues to demonstrate that "music is one of the world's most powerful forces for bringing people together".

This year's finalists have produced songs that inspire "hope, compassion and understanding at a time when those values are needed more than ever".

Together with the Darby Ryan International Poetry Contest, the final promises to be a "memorable celebration of creativity, cultural heritage and our shared commitment to peace".

The Tipperary International Song of Peace is supported by IMRO and Tipperary Credit Union.

Tickets for the final are available to purchase on Eventbrite.

Summer Camp Fun

AT LUCAN SARSFIELDS GAA CLUB AT THE 12TH LOCK

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

Photos taken for *The Echo* are available to purchase. Email reception@echo.ie or call 01-4685350.
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U5's and U6's



Darragh, Joe, Molly-Mae and Marcella



Séimí, Maddie, Matthew and Ciara



U7's enjoying the camp



Emily, Iarla, Niamh and Mason



Croía, Matthew, Aisling and James



Joe, Bobbi, Luke and Leah



Colm, Louise, Olivia, Aimee, Abby and Patrick

The Fold - music event at Rua Red

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"Most artists aren't often afforded the opportunity to perform in their locality, and this is something I wanted to provide with this event," explains Tallaght musician Nick Stanley.

'The Fold', presented by Nick, will bring together established artists, including performers with roots in the local area, to perform in the community which helped shape them.

Alongside these acts, the programme will also feature an emerging young band from the area, creating a platform that connects generations of artists and highlights pathways for new talent.

The line-up for the event is Iveagh, Skinner, Hotgirl, Burglar and Cable Boy. Between them these artists have performed at festivals and venues such as All Together Now, Electric Picnic, The Olympia and Vicar Street and international showcases such as The Great Escape (UK), Supersonic (FR) and Eurosonic (NL).

Set within one of South Dublin County's key public spaces of Corkagh Park, 'The Fold' is designed as an accessible, family-friendly summer event that celebrates local identity and creativity in a community space.

The event site is located next to a cafe which will be available for refreshments throughout the event.

Nick has been an active musician for over

ten years, performing with a range of bands and organising live music events throughout that time.

For the past five years, he has worked with the NOISE Music Programme, supporting young people, aged 8-18, through music education.

He is passionate about bringing people together through music and creating opportunities for communities to connect.

Nick raves that he is "lucky to have some great connections with the organisations based in Rua Red", and they have been a "great" help providing sound equipment and a stage.

He also points out that recruiting the bands was "easy" as Dublin has an "amazing" music scene with some "seriously talented" bands.

'The Fold' was originally planned as a festival to take place in Kilcar in Donegal across multiple venues, but it was difficult to get it funded.

Nick reflects that it is something he would "like to do in the future".

He would like to thank South Dublin Live, in particular Jeanette; Paul McAlerney from SDCC; Ray, the District Parks Supervisor, and the rangers in Corkagh Park; and Bryan and Martin from Rua Red.

Nick would also like to thank Fynch for designing the "amazing" poster and all of the music acts.

This event is funded by South Dublin County Council and forms part of South Dublin Live, an Arts Office initiative.



Skinner
Photo by Niamh Barry

Tales from Acorn Wood at The Civic

By **Ryan Butler**
news@echo.ie

"Your little ones will be bouncing out of the auditorium after the show," beams Jessica Aquilina of NLP Ltd, who are bringing their production of 'Tales From Acorn Wood' to the Civic stage in August.

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's beloved stories are brought to life on stage for the first time in an enchanting lift-the-flap experience.

Packed full of toe-tapping songs, puppetry, and all the friends from Acorn Wood, this "beautiful" show from the team that brought you 'Dear Zoo Live' and 'Dear Santa' promises to be the perfect treat for children of all ages.

Jessica Allan describes it as a "super-fun, puppet-packed show for all the family", while Hannah Rachael raves that it creates a "magical experience for audiences of all ages".

The books "essentially come to life right before their {young audiences'} eyes", according to Adele Harris.

According to the talented

cast members and puppeteers, processes for this show have included many rehearsals and solo practice time, connecting with the rest of the cast, and getting the show on the road.

Another aspect of production has been to make the characters their own, as the show has been performed before by different cast members.

For the cast members, highlights of the production have included working with "such lovely people", seeing the faces of children when their favourite character comes on stage, hearing them laugh, and knowing that in many cases it is their first experience of theatre.

Challenges have consisted of not enough wing space for large set pieces and "being away from home and your loved ones", according to Gabriela Cerda, but the cast supports each other and makes time to call family and friends.

The five puppeteers would like to thank each other, puppet and movement director Grace Goulding, director Ellie Hurt, and musical director Jess Dives for their support and



CIVIC: Jessica Aquilina

collaboration in this production.

Company stage manager Louise Harter, technical stage manager Jessica Pomeroy and family and friends are also acknowledged for their contributions.

'Tales From Acorn Wood' performs in the Civic Theatre on August 25 and 26 at 11am and 2pm; for booking details, check the Civic's website.



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR PARTY SHOWCASE

THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER | 6PM - 9PM

WELCOME DRINK & CANAPES | THEMED FUNCTION ROOMS
EVENT COORDINATORS | PARTY VENDORS
PRIZE DRAW & GIVEAWAYS



10% OFF

PARTY PACKAGES
ON THE NIGHT



SCAN TO REGISTER
YOUR FREE TICKETS

RED COW INN, RED COW COMPLEX, DUBLIN 22 | 01 464 1956 | WWW.REDCOWINN.IE



Sophie, Lauren and Olivia



O'Droighneain family



Sophia and Nicola



Charlene, Paula and Doggy Billy



Kate, Jenny, Erin and Ringo



Martin, Aria, Evie and Kellie



Sarah

Fun Times

AT THE TYMON PARK MARKET LAST WEEK

Photos by **Paddy Barrett**

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Noah



Matti and Avalilly



Cormac, George and Harry



Jackie and Sue with Olivia and Luca



Liz, Laya-may and Kitty

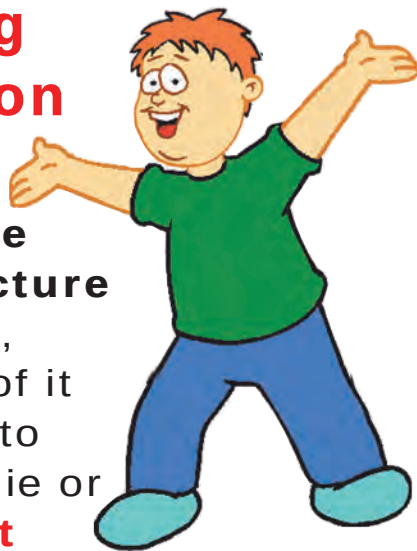
Hope you're all enjoying our

Colouring Competition 2026

Colour in the
windsurfing picture
on page 41,

take a picture of it
and **email it** to
reception@echo.ie or
whatsapp it

to **083 0106275** and
be in with a chance to win a **PRIZE.**



A Word with Echo So...

STREET PARTY

CLUBBERS,
HOW MANY WORDS
(TWO LETTERS OR MORE)
CAN YOU MAKE FROM
THE ABOVE WORDS?

5-20 pretty good! 21-35 excellent!
36 and over - you do realise these
have to be real words, don't you!

1	14	27
2	15	28
3	16	29
4	17	30
5	18	31
6	19	32
7	20	33
8	21	34
9	22	35
10	23	36
11	24	37
12	25	38
13	26	39

BACK TO SCHOOL

Fill in the missing numbers

Math
crossword
6
puzzles

10 -	=	6 +	= 12	+ 2 =	11
-		-		-	
8		3			
=		=		=	
- 1 =		8 + 1 =		+ 3 =	7
- 1 =	2	3 +	= 7	15 -	=
-		+ -		-	
		7 2		8	3
=		=		=	
1 +	=	- 2 =		-	= 2

PUZZLE TIME **CAMPING** — wordsearch puzzle —

Find objects in the picture and in the puzzle

COMPASS FIRE BOAT CAMPER
GUITAR FOREST
ROD BIKE
TENT MAT
LANTERN WATERFALL
MOUNTAINS BACKPACK
VAN

C	O	M	P	A	S	F	I	R	E
G	W	R	O	D	S	T	A	N	B
U	T	E	N	L	W	A	T	E	A
I	N	M	T	A	N	T	E	R	C
T	A	R	S	F	O	R	R	F	K
M	O	U	N	C	A	E	N	A	P
V	A	N	T	N	M	S	B	L	A
B	O	V	A	P	P	T	I	L	C
O	A	R	I	R	E	A	K	E	K
A	T	P	N	S	R	L	M	A	T

SOPHIE, HOW MANY BOOKS CAN YOU PUT IN AN EMPTY SCHOOL-BAG?

THAT DEPENDS ON THE SIZE OF THE SCHOOL-BAG, JOE.

WRONG! YOU CAN ONLY PUT ONE BOOK IN AN EMPTY SCHOOL-BAG...

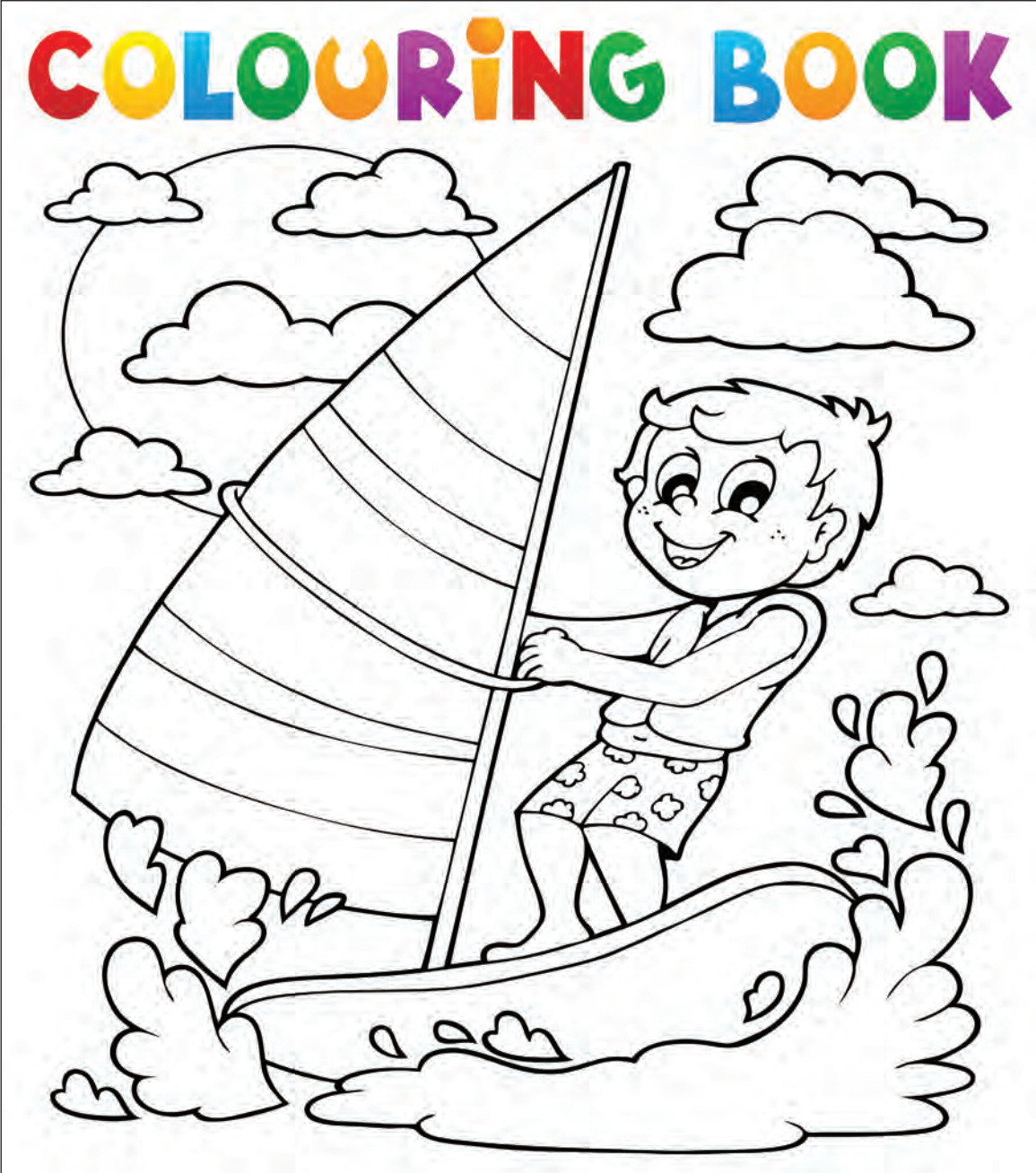
...BECAUSE AFTER THAT IT'S NOT EMPTY!

I USUALLY PUT BOOKS IN MY BAG TWO OR THREE AT A TIME.

OH.

YOU'VE BROKEN A GOOD JOKE, SOPHIE.

These 2 EchoJoe pages of Awesome, Amazon,



LETTER LINK LOG-JAM

A MISSING LETTER ON EACH ROW FINISHES ONE WORD AND STARTS THE NEXT...

BUT WHAT ARE THE LETTERS?

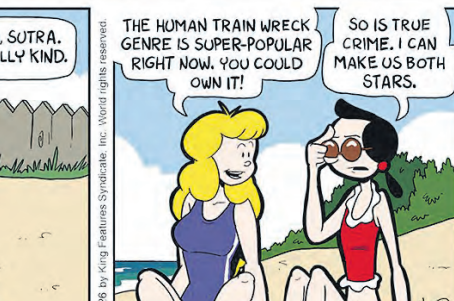
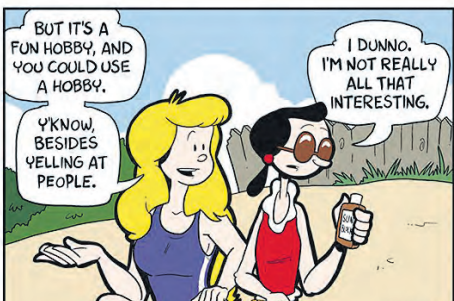
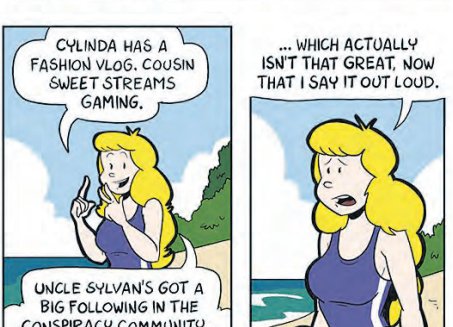
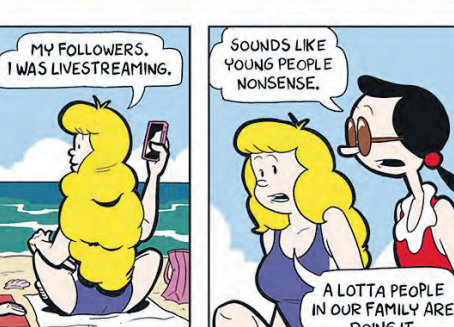
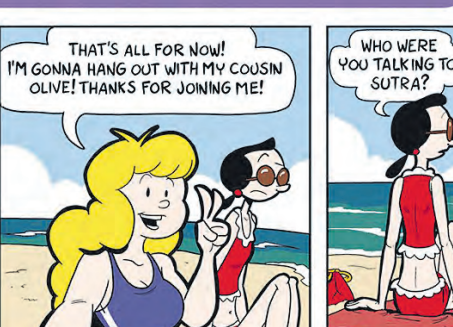
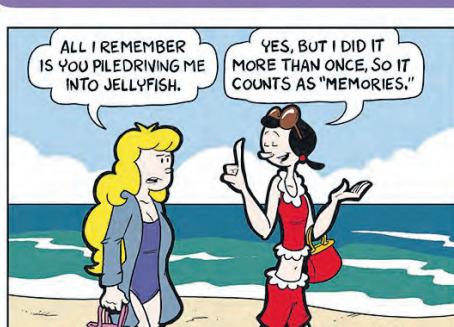
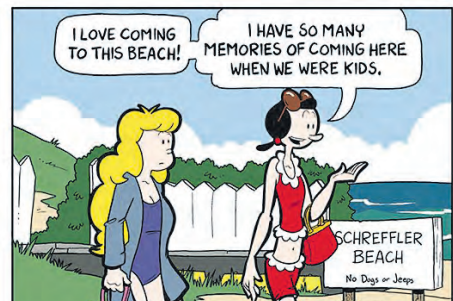
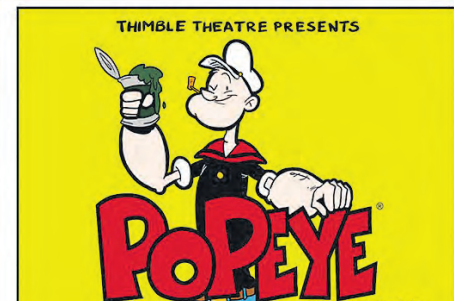
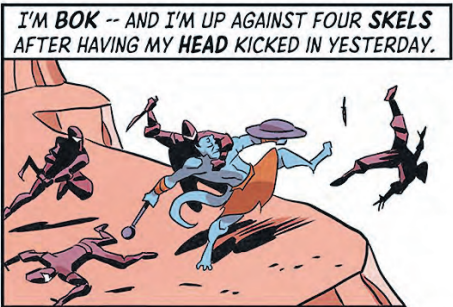
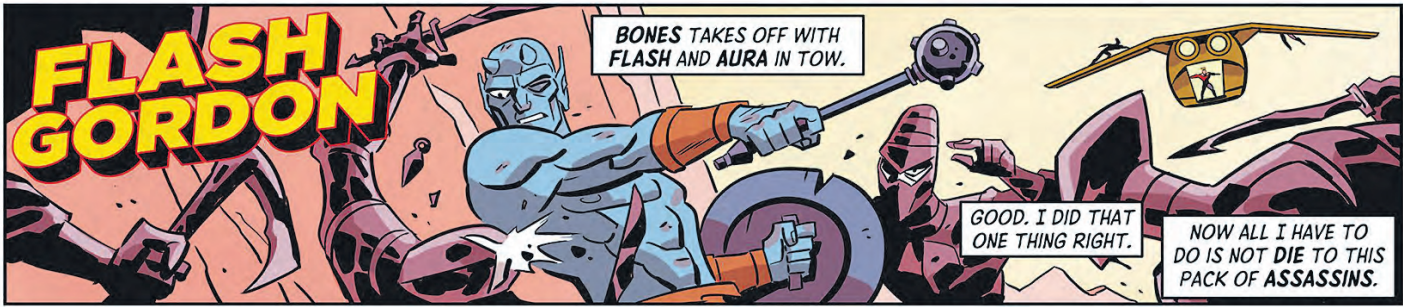
SLA		EEL
PES		ANK
TUR		EAR
NOU		EST
NEA		ALK
TRI		ALM
PAN		ICK
TRI		ING

the missing letters: P, T, N, N, T, P, T, P

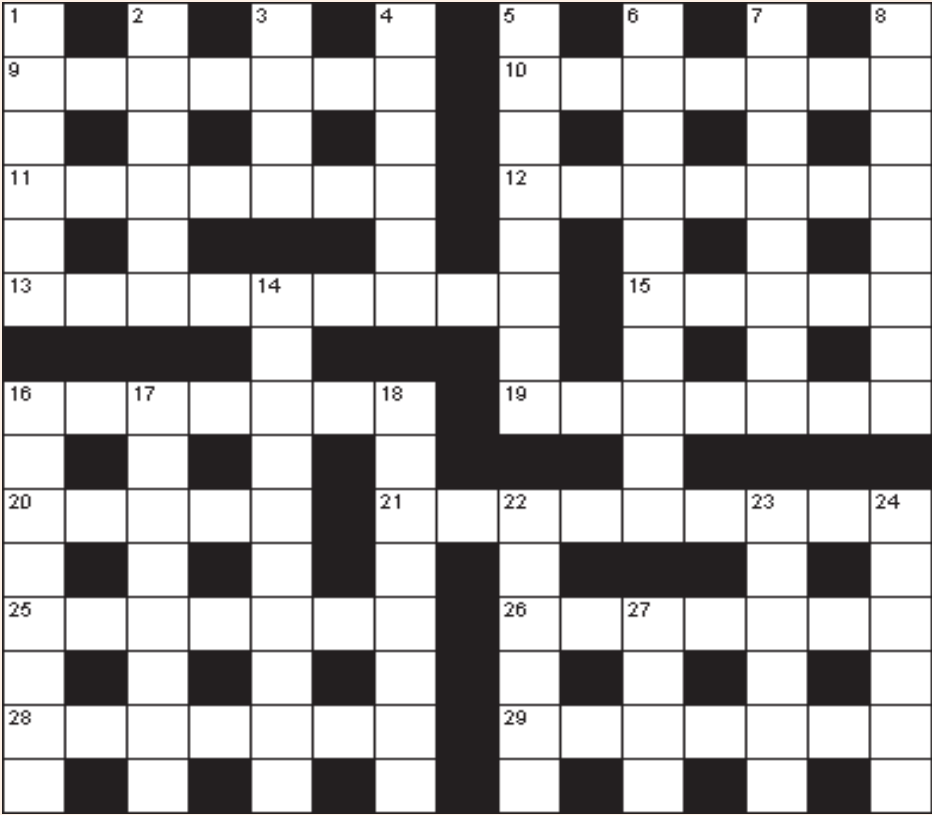
This week's winner!

Georgia aged 6, is this week's winner of the Echo Joe colouring competition. George, your prize will be on the way to you soon.

Each month the picture will change, and all entries stay in for the month so you have lots of chances to win!!



echocrossquiz Q0608

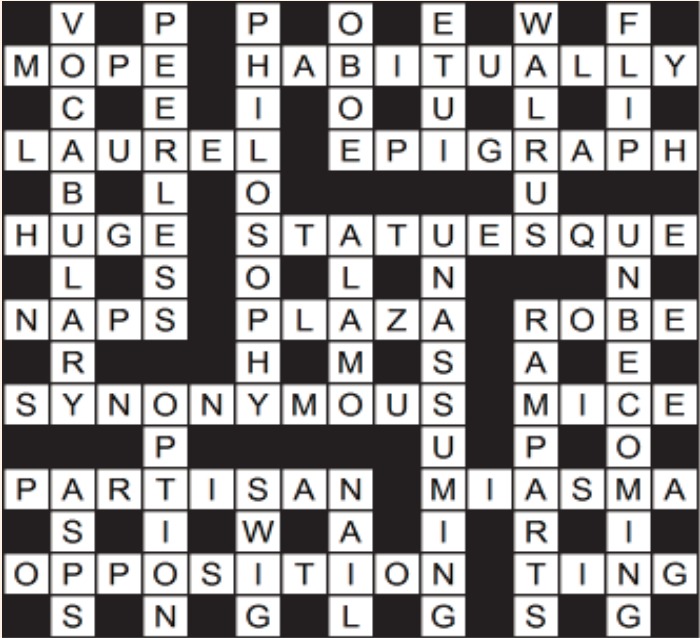


- ACROSS

 - 9. Mesa (7)
 - 10. Aristocracy (7)
 - 11. Precipitating (7)
 - 12. A flask for carrying water (7)
 - 13. Moving stairway (9)
 - 15. Kinswoman (5)
 - 16. Any of the natural numbers (math) (7)
 - 19. Found on a car's exhaust system (7)
 - 20. Fortuneteller's card (5)
 - 21. Procession (9)
 - 25. Syntax (7)
 - 26. Candidate (7)
 - 28. One of the original 12 disciples (7)
 - 29. Inflexible (7)
- DOWN

 - 1. Scant (6)
 - 2. Cassava starch (6)
 - 3. Yachting cap (4)
 - 4. Lump of a precious metal (6)
 - 5. Rainbow (8)
 - 6. Significant (10)
 - 7. Leaving (8)
 - 8. Caribou (8)
 - 14. Valid (10)
 - 16. Intrinsic (8)
 - 17. Bullfighter (8)
 - 18. Registered in a permanent form (8)
 - 22. Easily excused (6)
 - 23. Every year (6)
 - 24. Things that happen (6)
 - 27. Complain (4)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 3007



CAN YOU BEAT THIS WEEK'S CROSSQUIZ?

SUDOKU 1SUDOKU 2

4	5		2	8	6			
					4			
		9						
	4				8			
8			1				2	
	3	6		9				7
		4				9		
6						1		
7				1	4	8		

		1		6		4		
					7		2	8
				9	3			1
		6		1	8	7		
	7		9					4
		8		4				
								5
	2						9	
4	8		6					

ANSWERS

7	1	2	9	3	6	5	8	4
9	6	3	4	8	5	7	2	1
5	8	9	7	1	2	9	3	6
3	6	9	5	4	7	8	1	2
4	8	1	6	2	9	3	7	5
2	5	7	8	1	3	6	4	9
1	7	5	3	9	4	2	6	8
8	2	6	7	1	5	8	3	9
3	9	4	1	5	7	6	2	8
9	4	3	2	8	6	1	5	7

2	8	4	1	5	6	3	9	7
5	7	1	6	3	4	8	2	9
6	3	9	7	2	8	1	4	5
7	8	4	2	9	5	6	3	1
9	2	6	3	4	1	5	7	8
3	1	5	8	6	7	2	4	9
4	6	7	5	1	3	9	8	2
8	5	8	1	9	7	4	2	3
3	9	1	6	8	5	7	2	4
9	4	3	9	6	8	2	4	1

SUDOKU 2SUDOKU 1

Poet's CornerYESTERYEAR

by Gerard O'Keeffe

When I was a kid I
remember
the milkman and his cart
The rattle of the bottles
Often woke me with a start
The noise of the horses
hoofs
On the cobbles in our street
As our neighbourhood awoke
Was a sound you could not
beat
We also had the breadman
The coal man and the like
The guy that sharpened
knives
With the grindstone on his
bike
The pigman came each day

And took away the slops
Messenger boys delivered
groceries from the shops
The binmen arrived
each week it was a dirty job
They really worked hard
To earn their few bob
When you were sick
the doctor called
sometimes twice a day
Allways there to help
And chase our bugs away
Our community worked
together
we all played a part
And those memories
of yesteryear
are allways in my Heart

THE Echo

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Road safety targets still not being met

By Michael McGlynn

THE recent *Road to Safety* report issued by the High Level Group On Road Safety, shows the Government is not succeeding in its primary targets of changing the attitude of Irish motorists when taking to the road.

Four of the primary aims targeted, when the strategy was launched in 1998, required a change in Irish motorists' attitudes.

The aim is to have achieved the targets by 2002 but with five months left the Government is struggling to meet its targets.

The number of vehicles speeding on single carriageway national primary routes was to be cut by 51 per cent to 40 per cent.

The most recent survey to indicate the level of progress on cutting down speed was published by the National Roads Authority (NRA) in 2000.

It revealed 51 per cent of cars were exceeding the general speed limit of 60 miles per hour.

The target of a 25 per cent reduction in alcohol related accidents is still nine per cent short, according to the report.

The wearing of seatbelts was another issue the Government set out to tackle.

The aim is to have at least 85 per cent of Irish motorists and passengers wearing seatbelts by the end of the year.

The NRA carried out a survey on seatbelt use and this showed only 55 per-cent of drivers wore a seatbelt.

With the bank holiday weekend approaching more people



Despite Garda speed checks and Government campaigns, we are still driving too fast on national and non-national roads, according to the latest Department of Environment report on road safety.

will die this weekend on Irish roads than on an average weekend.

Twelve people lost their lives on the roads during the last August Bank Holiday weekend.

This represented the worst figure for weekend motor deaths for 2000.

To date 225 people have been killed on the roads since the beginning of the year.

Some 38 people lost their lives on the road last month.

So far this year, 16 people have been killed in the Garda's Dublin South and West divisions, which cover the area from Blanchardstown to Rathfarnham.

Following a number of recent accidents which resulted in multiple deaths, cou-

pled with a another Government road safety campaign, there was a reduction in the number of deaths.

The accident in Co Monaghan in which five members of the Curtis family lost their lives provoked intensive talk and coverage about road safety.

That week 21 people lost their lives but there was a significant reduction last week when three people died.

The high numbers of deaths on Irish roads have given us one of the worst road safety records in the European Union.

Latest statistics from the EU reveal Sweden is the safest place in Europe to drive in, with 61 road fatalities per million inhabit-

ants.

Portugal and Germany have the worst records with 254 and 210 fatalities per million inhabitants respectively.

Ireland's record was 129 fatalities per million, above the EU average 116 per million.

In 1997, the Swedish Government introduced a road safety scheme called Vision Zero.

The scheme moved the emphasis away from individual road users towards making the whole road system safer.

This means targeting of the traffic system to take better account of the needs, vulnerabilities and mistakes of road users.

The system ac-

knowledges that accidents will happen but the aim of the programme is to manage them so they do not cause serious health impairments.

A lot of investment and resources have been invested by the Government in trying to change motorists attitudes.

This should not be neglected but more emphasis may be needed on developing a safer road system.

It looks like the death toll on Irish roads will remain over 400 for the year. A new strategy may have to be developed to meet the EU's target.

The current strategy doesn't look like it can meet the EU's target of halving the deaths by 2010.

Road Safety

WITH another bank holiday weekend upon us, it makes depressing reading to discover that our attitudes to road safety appear not to have changed. The latest Government report makes it clear that attempts to stop the carnage on our roads are not working – primarily because we are not obeying the law. People still drive too fast, many still drink and drive, they do not wear seat belts for their own safety, and they still drive dangerously. The Government can build as many motorways as they want and the Gardaí can keep arresting drivers who break the law – but if we, the people who use the roads don't change our attitudes, then the tragic consequences will remain with us. The message is simple – obey the rules and drive safely. Otherwise this weekend will produce more death and injury.

Up the Dubs

GOOD luck to Dublin's senior footballers in Thurles this Saturday. Another strong performance should push Kerry all the way and give us all another day out on Hill 16.

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Gardai launch bank holiday crackdown



Gardai are set to target a wide range of road offences.

GARDAI will launch their "Pro Active Campaign" this bank holiday weekend.

The campaign will specifically target aggressive driving such as bumper-to-bumper, overtaking and road intimidation.

Last year's bank holiday weekend resulted in the death of 12 people.

"As with bank holiday weekends we will have numerous checkpoints out at which we will be advising the

motorists against speeding, drink driving and we will encourage them to wear seat belts," said Superintendent Tom Murphy of the National Traffic Bureau. "Again we will be targeting younger people and asking them to slow down."

"The majority of young people are good sensible drivers but there is a hardcore element between the ages of 18 and 24 that abuse the roads."

"We'd encourage

them and other road users to slow down and think of not just themselves, but their families, communities and the innocent people that are injured from road accidents."

The National Safety Council issued a similar plea.

Chief Executive Pat Costello said: "Our appeal to drivers is simple and straightforward - do not risk your life or the lives of others by driving at an inappropriate speed."

Govt can tackle road problems, say experts

By Michael McGlynn

DRAFT European Commission Proposals suggest Ireland will have to halve road deaths under tough new European Union rules.

Will this be achieved under the Government's current strategy, however?

Recent statistics revealed road deaths are down 12 per cent from 1997.

The Government's aim in 1998 was to reduce road deaths by 20 per cent by the end of this year.

Are there other measures or methods the Government can adapt or enforce to try reduce the number of fatalities?

Michael Kemp, chief executive of the Irish Insurance Federation, believes there are.

His federation wants to see: "Improvement in driver training and testing through measures such as establishing a registration and competency testing scheme for driving instructors and cutting the long waiting list for driving tests."

They would also like to see the introduction of a penalty points system.

Liam Connellan, chairman of the National Roads Authority be-

lieves an emphasis should be put on better roads.

"Better roads are safer roads", said Mr Connellan.

"The number of fatal accidents on motorways is much lower on the sections that have experienced development than on sections of the network still awaiting development."

Conor Faughan of the Automobile Association said the Government has failed to implement its five year strategy properly.

"Regrettably, some of the most important components of the strategy have not been put in place yet," said Mr Faughan.

"The most significant of these is the long-awaited penalty points system. It has the potential to be a major deterrent to speeding and other offences."

"Individual gardai have told me anecdotally of drivers willing to collect multiple fines, even in a single day, often with their employers willing to pay them."

"We have a farcical situation where one in four drivers is on a provisional licence. That means over 400,000 drivers need to do the full driving test of whom some 100,000 are in the queue at any one time," he added.

Insurance costs 'still rising' for young people despite equality appeal

By Sharon Geoghegan

DISCRIMINATION is continuing against young drivers seeking motor insurance despite new equality legislation, MIJAG (Motor Insurance Justice for Action Group) has claimed.

David Green (20) from Clonsilla, the first young driver to bring a case to the Office of the Director of Equality Investigations (ODEI) against an insurance company was this week quoted almost £19 more on last year's £4,072.61 premium.

Mr Green drives a 1.4 litre Honda Civic but his insurance has increased despite having an accident free record for the past 12 months.

MIJAG national organiser Mick Murphy said: "Despite an unblemished record David Green is now paying even more for insurance."

"The insurance companies are not playing their part to help reduce the accident levels on our roads."

"Insurance premiums are used in many countries as an incentive to bring about good driving behaviour."

"MIJAG believe that young drivers like David Green should be charged the average insurance premium of £480 when they start driving. This would be a massive incentive to behave in a safe manner on the road."

The case before the Equality Officer was brought last February by MIJAG on



Mick Murphy and David Green.

Photo by Paddy Flannery

behalf of Mr Green following the enactment of the Equal Status Bill 1999.

According to Mr Murphy: "The case was held up because the discrimination happened before the act came into affect in October 2000."

He added that the discrimination is continuing given the latest increased premium charged to Mr Green.

Quinn Direct, the insurance company against whom the case has been taken, has claimed age, lack of experience and a provisional licence were major factors resulting in such a high premium charge.

However, MIJAG noted: "The average insurance premium for a motorist in Ireland is £480. David Green is being charged eight and a half

times that amount.

"David was told that his renewal after one year with a full licence would be £3,554. Not having a full licence does not explain the high premium."

"Lack of driving experience does not explain this extremely high premium. A 50-year-old man with a provisional licence who is just starting to drive would have no difficulty getting insurance for under £1,500 all other things being equal."

"Quinn Direct also say in their reply that David is under no duress to take up insurance with them. Unfortunately that is not the case. He needs a car to get to work as he is a shift worker in IBM and their policy is cheapest he could get."

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family notices

Important Notice

Items for publication for memorial pages must be in by 1pm Friday for next Thursday's paper

Tel: 468 5350

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ANNIVERSARY



Nestor, Frank
In Loving Memory of Frank Nestor.
2nd Anniversary
A loving husband, a devoted father, a proud grandfather and great-grandfather.

*The values you lived by,
The kindness you showed,
And the love you gave to your family,
Remain with us every day.
We miss you more than words can say,
But we are forever grateful for the years we shared.*

Always remembered with love by his wife Josie (Josephine), daughter Jacqueline and her husband Fergus, son Eddie and his wife Alice, son Paul and his wife Tina, grandchildren Lisa, Alan, David, Adam, Aaron, Grace, Leah, Chloe and Jorja, great-grandchildren Danny, Sophia, Esme, Arlo, Ella, Ivy and Penelope & the extended Nestor Family and his many Friends.

ANNIVERSARY



Nugent (nee Higgins), Vera
17th Anniversary occurred 2nd August of our dear Mam.
Late of Nugent's Wool Shop, Tallaght Village.

*Words cannot express the feelings we all share,
With every passing year,
Knowing you're not there,
We hope you're with dad, Peggy and Roy,
And wishing we could be together like years gone by.*

Always missed and remembered by your sons Paul and Dave and all your loving Family. xx

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Berkeley, James (Jim)
78th Birthday occurs 9th August, his 17th away from home. Late of Knockmore Crescent.

*You never said I'm leaving,
You never said goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knew why.
A million times we needed you,
A million times we cried,
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still,
In our hearts we hold a place,
That only you can fill.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone,
As part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.*

To dearly loved ever to be forgotten.
Our hearts are broken.
Happy Birthday, your loving wife Valerie, Shane, Anita, James, Finola and Grandchildren.

Dear Echo customers

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NOVENA

9 Day Novena to St. Anthony.
St. Anthony, I resort to thy protection and aid, as proof of my affection and faith, I offer this candle which shall burn every day. Please comfort me in my difficulties and through thy living in the house of my Saviour, intercede for me and all those I love so that we may always hold God in our hearts and be provided for in our necessities, I beseech thee, St. Anthony, to have infinite pity in regard to the favour I ask of thee (here mention your favour). Please help me to overcome all difficulties which I now leave at thy feet. 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father's. This novena should be said for 9 days in succession. Each day a candle should be lit and a copy of this prayer left in the Church to help another soul in distress and to increase devotion to St. Anthony. This miraculous Saint grants everything no matter how difficult and before the termination of the nine days. But even if your request is granted, the Novena must be fulfilled. Holy St. Anthony pray for us. **G.T.**

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planning notices

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South Dublin County Council
I, Muhammad Asghar intend to apply for Planning Permission for Conversion of existing attic space comprising of modification of existing roof structure, new access stairs, 2no. roof window to the front and 3no. roof windows to the rear of existing dwelling and all associated site works within a Strategic Development Zone at 8 Shackleton Grove, Lucan, Co Dublin, K78 W3X9. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 10am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
Planning permission is sought by Mallikarjun Gaddammedhi for the conversion of roof space to accommodate a bedroom and ensuite shower room, 3 no. Rooflights to front roof slope and 4 no. Rooflights to rear roof slope of existing house at No. 31, St. Helens Drive, Finnstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 Y8C3. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

South Dublin County Council
Noreen and Bryan King wish to apply for planning permission for a single storey rear extension with a pitched roof and a front side single storey extension to existing dwelling, alterations to all elevations and all associated site works to take place at 5 Convent View Cottages, Boot Road, Dublin 22, D22 TY2. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 10am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) ACTS 1963 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 TO 1994

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WEEK ENDING JULY 24, 2026

SD26A/0066W **21 Jul 2026** **Permission Additional Information**
Applicant: Pine Valley Property Holdings Limited
Location: 47/48, Broomhill Close, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: Construction of an extension to the existing industrial building on the side (west) Elevation and the rear (north) Elevation for additional secure storage.

SD26A/0121W **21 Jul 2026** **Permission Additional Information**
Applicant: Vantage Data Centers DUB11 Ltd
Location: Grangecastle Motor Company site, at Profile Park, Ballybane, Dublin 22
Description: Installation of a new culvert to convey the Baldonnell Stream. The proposed culvert will be an approximately 90m long concrete box culvert with overall internal dimensions of 1.1m wide by 1.7m high. And all associated works.

SD26B/0131W **18 Jul 2026** **Permission Additional Information**
Applicant: Laura and Barry Kilbride
Location: 19, The Crescent, Kingswood Heights, Dublin 24, D24 W8EV
Description: Blocking up existing vehicular access at the junction of The Crescent and Kingswood Avenue and modifications of existing main vehicular entrance to be centred on the front of the house, associated kerb dishing and all associated works. .

SDZ26A/0018W **22 Jul 2026** **Permission Additional Information**
Applicant: Independent Site Management Limited
Location: Lockhouse Gate, Seven Mills, Clonburris, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
Description: The installation of 24no. telecommunications antennas enclosed in pairs within 12no. antenna shrouds together with 6no. dishes, 3no. equipment cabinets and all associated equipment at rooftop level. The development will provide high-speed voice and broadband services for all 3 of irelands mobile operators, namely eircom (t/a eir), three ireland and vodafone ireland.

RED26A/0020W **24 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: FAAC Electronics Limited
Location: 4055 Kingswood Avenue, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24, D24 HX79
Description: The proposed development, which constitutes relevant solar energy development, will consist of the installation of a rooftop solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the existing building within the FAAC Electronics Limited premises. The development will have an approximate capacity of 400.32 kWp, comprising approximately 834 photovoltaic panels, within a site application area of approximately 0.669 hectares, together with associated mounting systems, electrical cabling, connection to the existing on-site electrical infrastructure, ancillary electrical equipment and all associated site development works. This development is covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive (EU) 2023/2413) and it is important to note

that the planning application may be subject to section 34D of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. When a notice issues in accordance with section 34D(b), the provisions of article 26A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2025 shall apply.

SD26A/0174W **20 Jul 2026** **Retention New Application**
Applicant: Samual Doran
Location: 12A, Orchardton, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14
Description: Elevation alterations to previously granted application SD19A/0201 to include additional window at ground floor level, window positions altered, omission standing seamed metal canopy and full brick clad throughout on east elevation, addition of small ground floor window on south elevation, change of rear ground floor structure finish from render to brick finish and all associated works.

SD26A/0175W **20 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Affidea Diagnostics Ireland Limited
Location: Units D-03 & D-07, Block D, Belgard Square West, Tallaght Town Centre, Dublin 24
Description: Minor external alterations to existing medical clinic, previously approved under change of use application Reg. Ref. SD17A/0418, comprising, provision of new louvre ventilation panels integrated into the existing glazing system at first floor level on the east, south, and west elevations; Provision of new wall mounted external signage on the west elevation at ground floor level.

SD26A/0176W **21 Jul 2026** **Permission and Retention New Application**
Applicant: Patrick Carney
Location: 21, Pairc Mhuire, Saggart, Co Dublin, D24 A297
Description: Permission for link corridor between original dwelling and dwelling including open porch in rear garden and Retention permission for dwelling in rear garden to be incorporated as extension to dwelling.

SD26A/0177W **23 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: MAN Importers Ireland Limited
Location: Oak Road Business Park, Oak Close, New Nangor Road, Gallanstown, Dublin
Description: Construction of a mostly single storey double height vehicle servicing building with a mezzanine (173sq m) area for additional ancillary admin usage (total GIA 867 sq.m - includes mezzanine); Illuminated building mounted signage; Installation of a separate single storey lightweight aluminium frame building (total area 54 sq m) for use as a dry valeting facility; An external automatic brush vehicle washing machine and associated screen part enclosure; Surface mounted rainwater harvesting tanks (total capacity 36,000 litres) and below ground silt and petrol interceptor and attenuation; A freestanding totem sign. 6. 12 no. electric vehicle exterior charging points and all associated site works.

SD26A/0178 **23 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Palmgrey Limited
Location: Croughs Pub, Cookstown Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: Demolition of the existing staff accommodation on the 2nd floor and construction of 6 no. 1 Bed units; Provision of 2 additional floors to provide 9 apartments, 6 no. 1 Bed units & 3 no. 2 Bed units, resulting in a 5 storey building over basement with a total of 15 apartments; New lift and lobby area to the rear to service all 5 floors; New pedestrian entrance to the eastern boundary, provision of 15 no. bicycle parking spaces & bin store; All ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development.

SD26A/0179 **23 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Palmgrey Limited
Location: Croughs Pub, Cookstown Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Description: Increase floor area of the existing staff accommodation & plant room by 218 sq.m on the 2nd floor; Provision of 2 additional floors to provide 9 apartments, 6 no 1 bed units & 3 no 2 bed units, resulting in a 5 storey building over basement; New lift and lobby area to the rear to service all 5 floor; New pedestrian entrance to the eastern boundary, provision of 11 no. bicycle parking spaces & bin store; All ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development.

SD26A/0180W **23 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: River Island Clothing Co.
Location: Units 68 & 69-70, Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, Dublin, D22 XY04
Description: Subdivision of existing retail unit; separating space back into two independent units.

SD26A/0181W **24 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Brian McElroy
Location: Dunhallow House, Main Street, Rathcoole, D24 K519
Description: Change of use from office to funeral home, a 1.53 sq m ground floor extension to the rear, minor internal alterations, new shop front and signage to front and alterations to the previously approved plans (Reg. Ref SD22A/0323) to now use the plaza at the front of the building as a hearse set down area.

SD26A/0182W **24 Jul 2026** **Permission New Application**
Applicant: Rosemount Properties and Developments Limited
Location: Wit's End, The Rookery, Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16
Description: Construction of 5 no. 2-storey 4-bed detached dwellings; New internal access road and widening of the existing vehicular access from The Rookery; New boundary and entrance gates to Mount Michael House; Car parking, bin stores, landscaped communal open space and boundary treatments; All associated site

Contact *The Echo* to have a planning notification published
Call 468 5350 or email reception@echo.ie

Echo Sport

Deputy Sports Editor: William O'Connor

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Tower's get their campaign going in Inter C'ship

ROUND Towers Clondalkin footballers prepare for their championship campaign as they make a return to the Intermediate Championship after a multi year absence this weekend.

Manager Liam Connolly is aware of the task ahead.

"Definitely we will have to take it game by game, it's been a few years since we were in the Intermediate Championship. Our primary focus is to get back to the next level but there are very good teams in that championship and we have a tough group so we will definitely have to take it game by game."

They have one of the tougher possible match ups on paper at least as their opening game as they take on Naomh Olafs who are among the only Division 2 sides playing in the Intermediate Championship.

"We've played them multiple times over the last few years and it's always a very hard game, it'll be tough to have them away in the first match. We are top four or five teams in division 3 and they are middle of the pack in division 2, if they get Davy Byrne back into the team as well it's going to be hard."

The side have had a strong campaign in the league, though Division 3 has been extremely competitive this year, Towers can only secure promotion if other results go their way though in spite of that they have won 10 of their 14 games played.

Overall Connolly is happy with the campaign so far, particularly given the future looks extremely bright for the club given the young talent at their disposal.

"You can see when you look at the minors and the underage teams, we have very good players on the way coming through. First of all we need to get them into the team, not overdo it and just build them up as players and individuals and try to improve them as footballers. We are building for the future. A lot of managers say they are in a transition phase but we definitely are. We have a couple of u21 teams coming up where we will keep adding players to the team as we move back towards Division 2 and Senior Championship."

Adam wins his third professional fight

Tallaght lad Adam Olaniyan disposes Argentinian boxer in the second round

ADAM Olaniyan won his third professional fight last weekend as he boxed on the undercard of Pierce O'Leary at the 3arena.

It was ultimately a short night for the Jobstown fighter, he dispatched his opponent, Argentinian Jonathan Claudio Saucó in the second round earning the third win of his career after making his professional debut back in April.

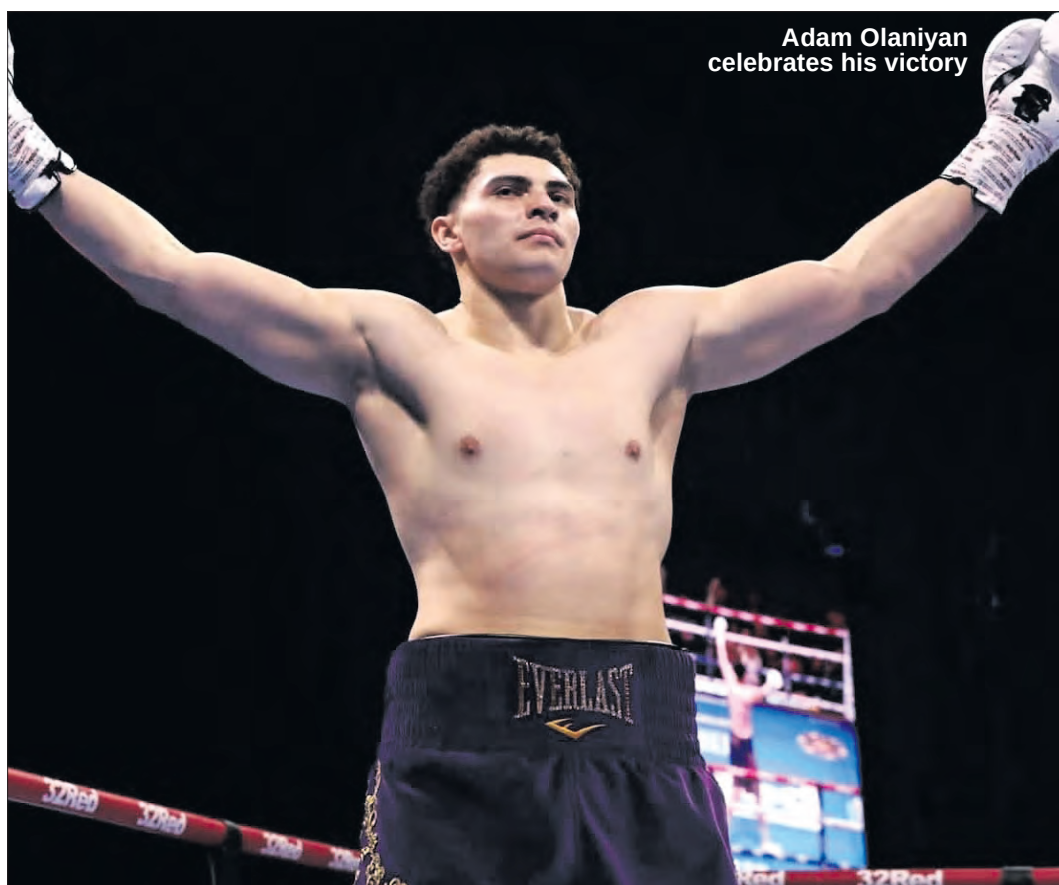
Olaniyan touched on the performance and coming back to Dublin now that he operates out of Liverpool.

"That was a good performance. We had a change of opponent at about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, so not ideal, but I'm ready for anybody. I'll fight anybody. My team wants to build me the right way, so when the time comes, I'm ready for absolutely everybody. "I'm looking forward to Croker, big shoes to fill, the greatest of all time, it doesn't get too much bigger. I haven't seen my brother in weeks, I haven't seen my mom and dad in ages, so it was good that they got in the ring. I was able to give them a big hug. "This is what this sport is about. We get in, we fight, and then we enjoy ourselves with our families, and we embrace these special moments."

He now prepares to tackle his fourth bout which will see history made in Croke Park as Katie Taylor is set to headline the iconic venue in September with Olaniyan on her undercard.

He spoke about the significance of being involved with such an event.

"I wouldn't say an icon, I'd say she is the icon. She's like the sportsperson of Ireland, and to be sharing a card with her, that's also a pinch-me moment because I've grown up watching her. I've watched Katie fight in the Olympics twice, I've watched her in the World Championships. I've seen her at the stadium loads of times when she was still an amateur, just mad stuff like that, and then to now be sharing a card with her, to be fighting on the same card, to be managed by the same manager [Brian Peters], it's a proper full circle moment, really."



Adam Olaniyan celebrates his victory

Blake and Ava come out tops in National C'ships

JOBSTOWN'S Blake Fegan and Ava Mulhall recently emerged victorious at the National U15s and U17s boxing Championships which were held across the last two weekends.

The finals took place in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght last weekend.

Blake Fegan had three bouts across the course of last weekend winning all three to take the national U15 40kg title.

The win marks his fourth Irish

national title and recently won the schoolboy nationals in April.

He now will be put forward for selection for the European Championships which will take place later on this year.

The continued development of Fegan is a great source of pride for the club as the young fighter has been with Jobstown since he was a small child.

Ava Mulhall impressed in the 44kg division putting on a dominant performance in the

semi final to force a second round stoppage before winning a 4/1 decision in the final bout to earn a gold medal.

This marks her second national title this year and also won a silver medal at the Four Nations.

She will have the opportunity to add to her impressive medal tally as she is also eligible now for selection to the European Championships after her impressive performances.



Blake and Ava



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Jobstown boxer Tiffany Spencer receives the Active South Dublin Sport Star of the Month Award from Bryan Malone, Sales and Marketing Manager, Plaza Hotel, Darragh Conway, Active Cities Officer and William O'Connor, News Editor, *The Echo*

June Sports Star of the Month

TIFFANY SPENCER

TIFFANY Spencer of Jobstown Boxing Club has been named as Sports Star of the Month for June after an impressive win at the Haringey Cup earning herself a gold medal. The competition is among the most prestigious in amateur boxing and was held at Alexandra Palace in London. On her way to a gold medal, Spencer overcame the National Canadian Champion who was a previous World Bronze Medalist in the semi final. The final saw her face an English national champion, the bout ended early due to a bad head clash after the first round though Tiffany had won the round on all the judges scorecards and was awarded the victory, securing the gold medal. Spencer spoke on plans for the rest of the year. "I'm getting ready for the National Championships which take place in a few weeks time and then hopefully go for the European Championships again and upgrade the bronze medal to a gold medal". Scan the QR code to watch the video.



June Team of the Month

Kilnamanagh U16 soccer team

KILNAMANAGH U16's boys side have been named as Active South Dublin's Sports Team of the Month for June following the conclusion of an extremely successful season. The side picked up silverware in the Fionn Dooley Cup as well as winning the league title with victories over Belmont and Grenada respectively. Captain Matthew McLoughlin touched on the success of the team this season. "This year was a very good year, we won the Fionn Dooley memorial cup and the league as well. We've had great success, a lot of effort has gone in from all the lads especially the coaches, it wouldn't be possible without them so we just want to give a big thanks to them." Scan the QR code to watch the video.





Kilnamanagh U16 players Luke Donegan, Matthew McLoughlin with manager Derek Lynch receive the Active Sports Star of the Month Award from Bryan Malone, Sales and Marketing Manager, Plaza Hotel, Darragh Conway, Active Cities Officer and William O'Connor, News Editor, *The Echo*

Rugby

Tallaght Rugby Club name new Head Coach

TALLAGHT Rugby Club have named Ciaran Rudd as their new head coach for next season.

Rudd has been a longtime member of the club being a player since age 16 after not having an option to play rugby in school he was forced to look elsewhere.

A native of Millbrook, Rudd has been involved in coaching for a number of years in the club spending years as the assistant coach for both the women's and the men's team.

"I realised it was something that I really enjoyed doing. It would have been an ambition once I became the assistant coach that I'd eventually end up doing this."

Tallaght managed to stay in Division 8 last season after overcoming adversity throughout the year.

The future is bright for the club with a number of talented players now coming through the youth system and filtering into the senior side.

"You can see the work that's been going on with the youth over the last five or 10 years, it's amazing. It started really young with them as minis but they've just always been progressing and now there are a couple of teams there that are just a couple of years off reaching that senior level. We're dying for them to come through now and build that bridge because there was a long time there where we didn't have the youth structure to help the senior team with players coming through. We've definitely taken a big interest in that and we are excited for what's coming through now."

Rudd has ambitions of maintaining the league position as well as hopefully making a run at a trophy in his maiden campaign.

"As a group we have to sit down and discuss, for me if we have the squad there, the numbers, the buy-in and the attitude it would be going after a cup and trying to finish high in the league. We are never far off silverware. We definitely have the talent there and the potential, it's just evaluating from when we start where we are at and hopefully we can set a goal like that."

"The core we do have is great and you can see the potential there. There were a number of matches last year where maybe we didn't have the numbers or other issues and we did way better than you might expect. Huge potential with the core but it's all about getting the buy-in from the players and hitting the ground running."

Athletics

Tallaght athletes finish Track and Field in style



Tallaght athletes who did the graded meet



Tallaght AC members David Callaghan and Alan McCabe

SEVERAL Tallaght athletes rounded off their track and field season in style at the final Dublin Graded meet in Santry last week.

After qualifying through the earlier rounds of the women's 100m heats, Tallaght were well represented in the final boasting 50% of the field.

Sami Pearse won the race with a time of 12.70 seconds, Carlota Malaga Moran finished sixth with 12.95, Beauty Ikpefua seventh with 13.02, Divine Olorunleke in eighth with 13.26 and Jola Pearse in tenth with 13.41.

In the earlier 100m heats, Amaya Mitchell and Alisha Akamelu recorded times of 13.75 and 13.80 respectively in

Grade "C" while Mawandy Mbhele recorded a time of 18.84 in her Grade "D" contest.

In the grade "D" men's contest Darcy Owens came out on top with a time of 11.94 with Derek Kennedy in ninth overall with a time of 12.63.

At the battle of Clontarf Leinster 10 mile Road Race Championships on Sunday, David Callaghan won silver in the M35 category after crossing the finish line in 0:58.56 while Alan McCabe recorded a time of 1:13.31 for fourth in the M65 category.

All attention will now focus towards major international competitions with Dubem Amah the first in action where

he competes at the World U20 Track and Field Championships in Oregon.

He takes part in the 200m this Friday at 21:10 Irish time and will be hoping to make it into the semi finals in the early hours of Saturday morning and from there, a world final.

Tallaght will also be well represented next weekend at the European Athletics Championships which take place in Birmingham between the 10th and the 16th of August. Four of the clubs athletes were selected to represent Ireland as part of the 47 person strong team. Rhasidat Adeleke will contest the 200m after her superb performance at the recent National Championship win

in Santry and also has been included in the women's 4x400m relay squad.

Sean Aigboboh will contest the Men's 200m while Israel Olatunde takes part in the 100m.

Both men have been included in the Men's 4x100m relay squad along with team mate Ryan Mulholland, a fantastic achievement for the club to have three members in the relay team.

At the end of August Beauty Ikpefua and Abdullahi Adeleke travel to Aberdeen, Scotland to take part in the shotput and 4x100m relay respectively to compete in the Scottish U18 championships as members of an Irish U18 developmental team.

Motorsport

Daire makes his debut in Mugello

TALLAGHT native Daire Flock recently made his debut at Mugello, Italy and ended what looked to be a promising few days ultimately in frustration.

The event began with a steep learning curve on Thursday as Flock tackled the complex layout of the track for the first time.

The initial pace looked solid and with further preparation over Friday, Flock peaked perfectly in time for Saturday's races.

Under intense pressure in Qualifying 1, the Tallaght teenager utilised data adaptation and immense focus to slash two full seconds off his Friday lap times securing a hard fought P10 grid position.

Qualifying 2 saw that the result had been no fluke and he managed a P12 finish on this occasion.

The first race saw Flock saddled with a difficult car setup, causing him to drop down to 14th place early on.

Refusing to give in, Flock displayed exceptional racecraft and physical stamina to fight all the way back to a commendable 10th place finish.

The momentum carried into the second race where Flock executed a flawless launch to rocket forward, gaining four positions on the very first lap to climb into eighth place.

His forward charge was brutally halted when the error of an opponent



Daire Flock was in action in Italy

triggered an unavoidable T-Bone incident which forced his race to end early.

While leaving Mugello with a

damaged car is an incredibly frustrating result, Flock's ability to find massive chunks of time and carve through a highly competitive field proves the

young Irishman's underlying pace.

Flock now looks towards the next round in September at Circuit de Spa Francorchamps.

Soccer

Kilnamanagh sign new players

KILNAMANAGH AFC recently announced several signings ahead of the upcoming 2026/27 season.

Jay Kelly joins the club as an established Leinster Senior League player after previous spells with

Bluebell, St Francis and Jobstown Celtic.

Brian O'Meara signs from Crumlin United, a strong physical midfielder, O'Meara also is a technically capable player with goalscoring ability.

Matthew Roze Anderson has resigned from the club after establishing himself as one of Kilnamanagh's key performers last year and even earned himself a call up to the Leinster Senior League

representative squad.

Jack Pearce is another young player joining the squad after time spent with Jobstown as well as Carlow Kilkenny United while Bobby Ellis resigns.

The 16 year old has spent time in

the Kilnamanagh underage set up and made his debut for the senior side just last year. Marin Cernechi also joined the club with the defender adding to the Kilnamanagh backline ahead of the upcoming season.



Rovers one game away from guaranteed €3 million

Pico Lopes has a go for Shamrock Rovers during Tuesday evening's match. Photo by Paddy Barrett

SHAMROCK Rovers got off to an excellent start to their Europa League third qualifier tie as they secured a 3-1 win in Tallaght Stadium over Albanian side Egnatia on Tuesday evening, reports Michael Howley.

Progression through this round sees them in a Europa League playoff, should they lose that they still will automatically qualify for the league phase of the conference league.

Graham Burke put the Hoops ahead, converting a spot kick that had been awarded following a foul on Dylan Watts just before the

half hour mark.

Egnatia would get a penalty themselves and would convert the rebound following an Ed McGinty save.

World Cup hero Pico Lopes netted in the 56th minute to make the score 2-1 and Kilnamanagh native Aaron Greene made it 3-1 just minutes later.

The end result could have been even higher with Graham Burke, Jonathan Afolabi and Jake Mulraney all missing big chances. Stephen Bradley was disappointed with the lack of

ruthlessness up front after the game.

"There's a little bit of frustration, the performance was excellent, but we possibly should have had four or five or six tonight and they weren't difficult chances, the ones that we're talking about.

"So yeah, I'm a little bit frustrated with that but the performance was really good."

The occasion was history making as Graham Burke became the record Irish European goalscorer with his 16th goal, surpassing Robbie Keane.

Rovers are now firmly in control heading into next week's second leg game and know that prevailing through this tie will guarantee them European Group stage football and at least €3.17 million from Conference League qualification.

Despite this high stakes he has no plans on playing it safe in Albania.

"We have to attack the game, we've played in Europe enough to know that you don't go over here and try and sit in, you go and attack the game and try and win the game. That's what we'll do."

Tunmise signs permanent contract

TUNMISE Sobowale has signed a permanent contract with Shamrock Rovers after the defender had initially joined the club on loan from St Mirren earlier on this year.

Sobowale has made a big impact on the team since joining and many have considered him to be among the standout performers so far in the LOI.

The 27 year old has signed a multi

year contract with the club and spoke to club media following making the switch to Tallaght permanently.

"It's good, I'm happy to come into the club for the rest of this season and next season as well. I've enjoyed my time playing for the club with European exposure as well. I just want to continue what I started."

"I think it helps when you're playing

and the supporters are singing your name and backing you through the 90 minutes. I get on so well with teammates and staff members as well. Regular football which is what everyone really wants when you're playing in the professional game. All that definitely helped my decision."

"There's a lot of good players in the team and the boys coming through are

showing great qualities on and off the pitch. It's a really good environment for myself to be in. I'm just embracing it all really, using it to improve myself off the pitch and do well for the club."

"I'm excited for the rest of the season, we have the European campaign to still continue, still in the cup and obviously we want to continue our run in the league. There is lots to

play for. I'm just embracing playing regular football at a good club. I've loved it from minute one, they [the fans] have expressed how much they've enjoyed me playing for the club and it gave me a lot of confidence to play my football knowing that the staff, players and supporters all back what I'm doing. There's no better feeling really than that."

Soccer

St Pat's take on Shels in Tolka Park

ST PATRICK'S Athletic prepare for a Dublin derby this coming Sunday in Tolka Park after a 1-1 draw last weekend against Derry in Richmond.

The result is a frustrating one for the Saints who now have shared the spoils in the last three league matches.

A first half penalty from Aidan Keena had put them in the drivers seat but they would be undermined by a second half equaliser courtesy of James Clarke in the 73rd minute.

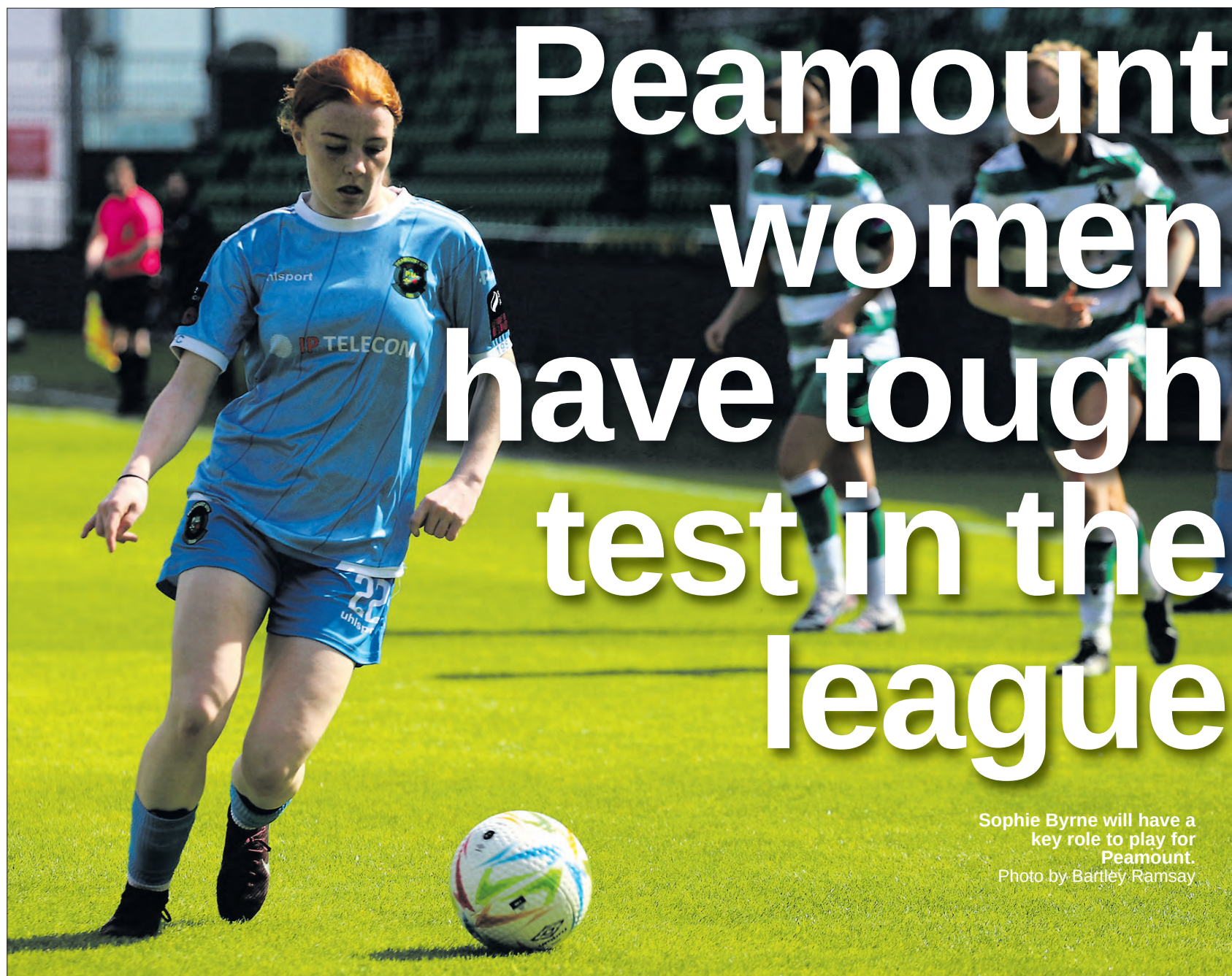
Pats enjoyed the longer periods of possession but failed to build on their lead and ultimately paid the price.

Manager Stephen Kenny touched on the result after the match and voiced his frustrations.

"It's certainly one that we've let slip, I think we created a lot of chances in the game and obviously took the lead. We had several chances in the second half to go 2-0 up and we've not taken the opportunities and once that happens the game is always in the balance. Very disappointed with the goal we conceded."

"It was a great goal from James Clarke but it was a clear handball leading up to it, when the corner was cleared and the player palmed it with his hand and it ended up at James Clarke. We should have defended it better at the edge of the box and it was a phenomenal strike but it should have been disallowed for the handball I felt."

"I think there's a lot of things to reflect on, we lost Kian Leavy at halftime which was a disappointment but we had enough good players to maintain the advantage that we had, and we had some good chances in the second half. We had a period where we were well on top. Derry made their changes, they've a big squad with a lot of good players and they put it up to us in the last 20 minutes and made a real match of it. We have to be more ruthless in front of goal."



Peamount women have tough test in the league

Sophie Byrne will have a key role to play for Peamount.
Photo by Bartley Ramsay

PEAMOUNT United are back in action in the women's League of Ireland this week as they face a tough trip away to third place Shelbourne, *reports Michael Howley.*

It has been a relatively poor season so far for the Peas, while they started the campaign well with positive results they currently sit in eighth place and have suffered some heavy defeats in that time also.

With four wins out of their 12 games

played, they come into this week's fixture off the back of an excellent 5-3 league victory against Waterford with the scoreline perhaps not reflecting how dominant they were in the game.

Eleanor Ryan Doyle has been the standout player for the Peas this season, the attacker has been involved in the majority of Peamount's goals this season with 10 goals and assists in the league with the squad scoring 19 goals overall.

She leads the goalscoring and assist

charts for the club on seven and three respectively. Other key attacking players for the side include Sophie Byrne and Sorcha Melia who have managed three each in the league.

Assists have been spread out across the side with Ryan-Doyle the only player to generate multiple with six other players grabbing one each.

They will have to watch out for a strong Shelbourne side where former Peamount player Becky Watkins has turned into

their strongest performer this year.

Watkins held a starring role for the Peas over a four year period where she scored 14 goals in 89 appearances.

She has kicked into a different gear since making the move to Tolka Park however and has almost matched her total goal tally with Peamount managing 12 goals across all competitions this year in just 18 total appearances.

She is certainly a player that Peamount will have to keep an eye on.

Jessie signs for Leicester City

Ballyfermot native Jessie Stapleton has joined Leicester City from West Ham United on a permanent transfer.

A youth product of Cherry Orchard, Stapleton broke onto the scene at senior level starring for Shelbourne back in 2021 where she won two league titles and an FAI Cup across a two season spell with the club.

Her performances for Shelbourne caught the attention of Women Super League (WSL) team West Ham United who made the signing in 2023.

Things never really panned out at West Ham as she was limited to just two appearances across her time in East London, she did find plenty of playing time elsewhere however with a series of loan moves.

Lining out for Sunderland and last season at Nottingham Forest saw Stapleton regularly feature and she has gathered great experience

at WSL 2 level.

With Leicester being relegated from the WSL and likely one of the favourite teams to go straight back up, this move is an excellent opportunity for Stapleton to embed herself in a team, get another season of experience at WSL 2 level before possibly making the move to the top flight in the near future.

That certainly seems to be what she has in mind based on an interview with club media.

"I'm happy that it's finally got over the line, and I'm ready to get going. I think it's a club with a lot of ambition. After what happened last season, I want to help the Club get back to where it belongs, in the WSL. I'm experienced in the league, and at national team level, so I think the Club knows my strengths, and they can help me to grow as a player and I'll help to get them back to where they belong."



Jessie Stapleton has joined Leicester City

GAA

Pat's kick-off inter c'ship

St Patrick's Palmerstown prepare for their upcoming championship campaign with a match against Ballyboughal in the Intermediate Club Football Championship this weekend.

The match will take place on Saturday in Ballyboughal with a 6:30pm start.

The team are coming off a positive league campaign where they will hope to continue to build upon that positive momentum headed into the championship. Manager Richie Garrigan touched on the success that the year has seen so far for Pats.

"We got promoted so that is obviously a positive and we are getting back to where we feel we should be at, at Division 3 level. Going Division 1 or Division 2 are big dreams right now but at Division 3 is somewhere we should be able to compete right now, we are delighted to go back up to Division 3 after just one year down."

The squad represents an excellent mix of talent from all ages with experienced players in their 30s combining well with youth talent coming in from the minor setup over the last couple of years.

Garristown and St Finians Swords are also in their Championship group.

Manager Richie Garrigan is optimistic about the side's chances given their victory over the opposition in the league but knows that in the championship they will be a different beast.

"They'll be new teams, the championship is so different from the league, we played Finians in our first league game this year, we got the win out there. We got to a quarter final last year against Naomh Fionnbarra and just didn't perform on the day.

"We just weren't ourselves at all, nothing went our way. That was a bit of a let down but I think we've an awful lot more optimism this year that a quarter final place should be in our grasp."

Na Gaeil Oga looking to build on good league run



Na Gaeil Oga junior footballers

NA GAEIL Oga are gearing up for their championship campaign which kicks off this weekend, they take on Beann Eadair in Group 2 of the Junior 1 Club Football Championship with the match taking place at St Catherine's Park this Sunday at 11am.

Coach James Knoblauch spoke on the attitude from the club heading into the championship.

"I think we'll take it game by game really, obviously you want to get out of the group. We had an enjoyable league where we won 10 of 13 games that we played and we have another two to go now after the championship, I think the

championship is different to the league, you're playing teams from higher and lower divisions. All bets are off and you just have to take it game by game playing all of those teams."

He looked ahead to the opposition themselves this weekend.

"It was our best league in a few years anyway and it gives us nice momentum going into the championship. We played them last year in the championship and we know they are a very capable side. We'll be going in as underdogs anyway, I think we know where they are at and we're just working on playing to our strengths on the day anyway. We've seen

from teams across the all Ireland championship recently that teams can take on opposition from higher divisions and play well."

While the championship is of course a huge focus for the club at the moment, the real victory for the club has been their new generation players coming through the club.

At various different tournaments this year the club has been bleeding in a number of players from the minor set up.

"They are 18 and developing well and showing great promise. It's brilliant to see lads from Lucan coming into the team, lads who have done all their

education through Irish and all their sport through Irish, it is their club to be honest, they've been there since they were three or four years old. It's also nice to see in the adult team now there's a mix of Dubs and people from other counties, I think that's what GAA is about, people from different backgrounds coming together to play sport."

"It really gives a great energy to our team having them come through. In recent years that was a massive motivator for us, whatever the results we want to leave a better team for the minor lads to come in and take over."

Westmanstown aim to bank a win

GARDA Westmanstown Gaels tackle the Junior 1 Club Football Championship this weekend as they kick off their campaign with a game against Bank of Ireland at Westmanstown on Sunday morning.

While the team have looked extremely impressive in their showings in the league, earning themselves a third consecutive promotion they are under no illusions as to the difficulty of the task ahead with Crumlin and Wanderers also in their group and both playing in Division 5 and 6 respectively.

Manager Ger Bradley touched on the side's upcoming championship games.

"We won the junior 2 last year so we are really up against it this year. We're division eight and there is a lot of teams in division five and six, our goal to be honest is to just stay in the junior 1. Our goal this year was to get promoted and stay in the junior 1, we've gotten promoted for the third year in a row so that's half the goal done."

"We are looking forward to it, these are the matches you look forward to, you want to be challenged. It's going to be a good measure of where we are at,

we're going up to Division Seven next season so its going to be a good measure of how we will cope."

"We have a good bunch of lads who have come through the ranks of the juvenile section. We are starting to see the fruition of that now, we are trying to

get back up to where we were. We used to be division four up until a few years ago. The championship win last year was a huge bonus but our main goal for the club is to get back up those divisions."

He also previewed the opposition that

they face this weekend.

"We beat them in the league by six points but one of their best players went off injured, they are fairly even with us so we can't take that for granted. It's a must win game for both of us and we'll both be looking at it from that view."



Westmanstown Gaels junior team



*The Echo is on sale in local stores from Thursday to Monday each week, please ask in-store if it is not on shop shelves

Soccer

Rovers women return to action

The Shamrock Rovers women's team make their return to league action this weekend as they take on DLR Waves away from home this Saturday afternoon.

The side are coming off the back of an FAI Quarter final defeat which saw them lose out on a 5-3 thriller against Athlone.

Rovers found themselves 1-0 down just before the half hour mark of the game and it would take until the 64th minute for them to find the equaliser.

Emily Corbet made the score 1-1 though it appeared to be the end just 15 minutes later as Athlone managed a well worked team goal to make the score 2-1 heading into the final ten minutes of the game.

Heads could have dropped further in the 85th minute after Athlone managed a third and benefitted from a two goal cushion as the game entered into the final five minutes of normal time.

Hope came through the form of a loose ball collected by Ciara Milton at the edge of the box just minutes later with her ambitious effort looping over the head of the goalkeeper and finding the back of the net to make it 3-2.

Now with the momentum behind them Rovers pushed on for that important equaliser and it came in the 93rd minute courtesy of Therese Kinnevey.

Ultimately though they would be unable to see out the fixture in extra time with two goals from Athlone sentencing Rovers to a 5-3 defeat.

This leads to them now focusing on their league campaign where they find themselves back in action this weekend.

They will be heavy favourites coming into the game with DLR, the side currently sit in ninth place.

It appears the league has a clear gap between the top eight teams who are all relatively close to one another in standings and the bottom four.

DLR have won two games so far this season with their last win coming back against 11th placed Bohemians on the 11th of July.

The two teams played each in May where Rovers emerged as 2-0 winners thanks to first half goals from Jamie Thompson and Katie O'Reilly.



Darius Kierans Lucan manager and John Doyle

LUCAN United gear up for an upcoming inaugural FAI National League campaign as the third competition is set for its first iteration later this month, *reports Michael Howley.*

The first game for Lucan is set to be played on September 5th as they come up against Mervue United in Lucan at Copper Face Jacks Park.

The side have been hard at work engaging in pre-season friendlies and continuously signing players in preparation for the upcoming season.

Darius Kierans is managing the squad for this campaign and has extensive experience in the league of Ireland thanks to a variety of roles with both Drogheda United and Dundalk as well as being the former manager of Glebe North.

He spoke about what attracted him to the Lucan job.

"I'd taken a year out of football and then the opportunity came up to manage Lucan and I felt it was right for me, a great club with great people in it, ambitious people. I've coached and managed in the League of Ireland previously and I think this was the perfect job at the right time. It's an exciting time for Lucan, it'll take some time to get up and running with the short season and give everyone a feel for what's involved."

"What you're trying to do is create the right environment for players, preparation for games, training, analysis, strength and condition and nutrition and get them ready for the next level as such, it's exciting times all around."

The league for this year is set to be played as a short round robin style tournament while a full length season that runs alongside the established

Premier and First Divisions is set to commence from 2027.

"It's good for clubs and players to wet their feet as such, to gauge what's involved in it, either way I wouldn't get too bogged down in it. Getting up and getting going is the main thing. They can tweak it as they go, nothing is perfect from the start and it is going to take time. The concept is very good and it's a fantastic idea. It will bridge a gap hopefully over time for players that want to kick on in their careers and make their way towards the First or Premier Divisions."

Kierans spoke on any goals that the club have over the next year or so on the pitch.

"A lot of our Strength and Conditioning that's being done is building for January and February and the start of next season."

"That said, you want to be as competitive as possible. You'd have goals and aspirations of course but it's difficult to know what the standard of the short season will be, I believe it will grow year on year, all we can do is get ourselves prepared and worry about what's going on in our own structures and our own way of doing things and get that up and running and see where it takes us. We hope to be very competitive."

"I'm around long enough to know that in football nothing is guaranteed and the game will humble you if you think you're better than you are. As a player, coach or manager, it's about putting the workrate in across the board from players and everyone involved. Get a group of people working hard and get everyone pulling in the right direction. It will give you a great foundation going forward."



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