

NOEL AHERN T.D.

MINISTER OF STATE, DEPT. OF TRANSPORT

working with

COUNCILLOR DARRAGH BUTLER



FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

2008 SAFEST YEAR ON IRISH ROADS SINCE RECORDS BEGAN

The number of deaths on Irish roads in 2008 was the lowest since records began over 40 years ago. The final number of 279 tragic deaths on Irish roads was down 59 on the 2007 figure. Road deaths are tragic and avoidable. The 279 families who lost loved ones on Irish roads in 2008 know the heart break that road accidents bring. Because of the hard work of many including the Road Safety Authority and An Garda Síochána in driving the road safety message many more families have been spared this tragic outcome. 2008 has been a record year for deaths avoided on Irish roads. Road users right around the country have stepped up to the challenge and are changing their driving behaviours every day. That means safer roads and fewer tragic deaths and serious accidents on our roads."

This year all of us involved in the area of road safety will work harder than ever to make Irish roads among the safest in the world. Road safety will remain a priority for all of us in the Dept. of Transport and for the government as a whole. We look forward to continued progress on the Government's life saving Road Safety Strategy. Please remember to slow down, buckle up and never,



MINISTER OF STATE NOEL AHERN WITH CLLR. DARRAGH BUTLER AND MINISTER NOEL DEMPSEY

ever drink and drive. Lives depend on it. Maybe your own.

Since detailed statistics started around 1960, the worst year for deaths was 1972 when 670 died on our roads. The numbers dropped gradually but were still as high as 472 in 1997. They have

been below 400 since 2002 and dropped below 300 for the first time last year. This is good progress, particularly when you consider there has been a 40% increase in the number of drivers and a 70% increase in the number of vehicles on our roads.

MORTGAGE RATES

Its good to see interest rates have been reduced again by the European Central Bank for the 4th time since October 2008 from 4.25% to just 1.5% over the period. For families with a mortgage of €300,000 this means a monthly gain of about €300.

ENERGY COSTS

Minister Eamonn Ryan has announced that electricity and gas prices are to be reduced next month. ESB prices are to be reduced by an average of 10% and domestic gas prices are also due to fall by 12%.

METRO NORTH

The planning hearing into this multi billion infrastructural project is ongoing at Croke Park. Expected to last up to 8 weeks. If An Bord Pleanála gives approval, a recommendation could be ready for Government consideration by end of year.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND TEAM

The new League of Ireland season has just started and Sporting Fingal will continue to play their home games at Morton Stadium, Santry. Sporting Fingal FC is privately funded (not by Fingal County Council) and is designed to be a community based club. In conjunction with Special Olympic and Prospect Fingal, Sporting Fingal recently launched their Special Olympics Team that will wear the official Sporting Fingal F.C. kit and operate in the National Special Olympics Football League. John O'Brien, Secretary of Sporting Fingal, said: "Sporting Fingal was founded with the very clear remit to promote inclusiveness, in all its forms, across the county. It is, therefore, a very real thrill for us to welcome the Special Olympics team on board as part of the Sporting Fingal family. I know that this relationship will not just be of benefit to special needs groups in Fingal, but will assist the further embedding of Sporting Fingal within the community of the whole county."

New fans / supporters are always welcome and more information and the fixture list can be found at: www.sportingfingal.ie

SANTRY CLOSE

With regard to the flooding at the Santry Close area in August 2008, an investigation by Fingal County Council revealed that there was a blockage to the outfall screen from the lake / pond in Santry Demesne. This resulted in an overflow of water onto

the Old Airport Road and into Santry Close. This blockage has now been cleared and the Transportation and Water Services Departments are investigating further works to resolve this problem in the longer term.

IMPORTANT/URGENT

Make sure that you are on the election register for the Local (Council) and European elections on Friday 5th June 2009. Check you are on the register at www.fingalcoco.ie/ereg or download a registration form by visiting www.darraghbutler.ie or email darragh.butler@fingalcoco.ie

LANESBOROUGH/CHARLESTOWN TAKING IN CHARGE OF THE OPEN SPACE

Many of the local Fingal Councillors have continued to raise this issue and all of the Councillors met with representatives of the residents association in February. As you can see progress is as last being made with regard to this issue and we continue to work on additional facilities for the area.

From a recent Fingal County Council report; - the open space in Meakstown was generated by 3 different developments, 2 of which completed works to the satisfaction of the Council and these 2 areas have been taken in charge. The outstanding section

is a large area bounded on 3 sides by the remnants of an old hedgerow and on the fourth side by Charlestown Avenue where there is no wall or railing constructed along the boundary. A meeting has been held with the developer to expedite the transfer of the lands to the Council. It is expected that this process will be completed before the end of March 2009. Once in charge it is intended to bring the area into the normal maintenance cycle for the area and to complete boundary treatment. The delay between ordering railing and their erection is normally about 3 months.

IKEA TO OPEN 27TH JULY - 450 JOBS TO BE CREATED



When An Bord Pleanála gave permission for Swedish furniture giant IKEA to build their new superstore just off the Ballymun Road, close to the M50 Ballymun interchange, they attached 30 conditions to the planning permission which were mainly designed to alleviate traffic congestion on the surrounding roads and area. The main condition was that although the building would be ready early 2009, IKEA could not open until the M50 upgrade works were completed. In addition, IKEA would not be allowed to open before 11am so they do not add to additional morning rush hour congestion. The store will include a 500 seat restaurant, a Swedish food hall, bistro, cafe and a free crèche. There will be 1,500 parking spaces. Agreement has now been reached for the 27th July opening date and over 450 jobs will be created at the store. More information and recruitment opportunities can be found at www.ikea.ie



COUNCILLOR DARRAGH BUTLER (SWORDS ELECTORAL WARD) WITH MINISTER OF STATE NOEL AHERN, T.D. FOR DUBLIN NORTH WEST

ROYAL OAK ESTATE, SANTRY.

Five 'stop' signs were installed in Royal Oak Estate. They were installed at Oak Green, Oak Court, Oak Drive, Oak Grove and Oak Lawn at their junctions with Oak Avenue, Santry. The 'stop' signs were subsequently damaged and removed by vandals. The re-erection of these signs will be replaced as part of the Area Engineer's Maintenance Programme. The associated road markings will be installed subject to suitable weather conditions.



REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

The Litter Management Unit (within the Environment Department of Fingal County Council) has a Freefone Number - 1800 20 10 93 - whereby reports of dumping can be reported. Should anyone witness an incident, it is important that the details of the incident, including date and time & registration details if from a vehicle, are provided so that FCC may fine and prosecute offenders successfully. Please note that should FCC receive reports on such offences and the Litter Fine is not paid they would be requesting the person who reported it to act as a witness when the case proceeds to court.

FUTURE ROAD WORKS

From Lanesborough Roundabout to east of Jamestown Road junction in the vicinity of Hampton Wood development:

This part of St. Margaret's Road has been realigned as part of the construction of new housing developments in this area. In addition, work is in progress on the provision of infill public lighting on this stretch of road in the area of the "The Castle". The resurfacing of this stretch of road has been included in the Transportation Departments list of works for 2009. The bus lane at this location is being provided by Dublin City Council.

From Hampton Wood Development to Ballymun Road:

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd., has reported that it has taken responsibility for the realignment of the section of St Margaret's Road from Silloge Lane to Ballymun Road. To date a section of realigned road has been constructed

sufficient to provide access to IKEA (from Ballymun Road to the western edge of the IKEA facility). This road layout incorporates both eastbound and westbound bus lanes. Planning Permission Register Reference F008A/1107 was granted by Fingal County Council in December 2008 for the completion of the road which will tie in with the existing St. Margaret's Road in the area of Silloge Lane. It is proposed to extinguish the public right of way over the existing St. Margaret's Road in the area of the Sports Ground and also in the general area of Balbutcher Lane when the new realigned St. Margaret's Road is in place.

Also included in the planned works for 2009 are:

€8,000 has been allocated for footpath improvements at Knightswood (Santry) and €4,000 has been allocated to upgrade lighting on the Old Ballymun Road (Ballymun).

M50 NOISE & TURNAPIN ESTATE

We have raised this issue with Fingal County Council who confirm that M50 Concession Limited have met with Turnapin Residents on a number of occasions to discuss the residents' concerns regarding noise levels. The outcome was that M50 Concession would prepare clear drawings indicating the location of the proposed environmental barriers and

a programme for installation and that these drawings would be discussed with the residents. Negotiations with the residents concerned are continuing. Fingal County Council has received an undertaking from the M50 Concession Company to complete the installation of noise barriers and low noise surface in the Turnapin area by the end of June 2009.

COUNCIL & EUROPEAN ELECTIONS – JUNE 2009

Who can vote? – all residents, no matter what Country you are from, as long as you are living in Ireland, are allowed to vote in the Council elections in June 2009. Irish Citizens are eligible to vote in all elections and referendums. British Citizens are

eligible to vote in Dáil, European and Local Elections but not in Presidential elections or referendums. EU citizens are eligible to vote in European and Local Elections. Non-EU citizens are eligible to vote in the Council elections on Friday 5th June 2009.

With regards to voters turning 18, the onus is on the person to ensure that they are included on the Register as there is no automatic notification from any government department or body.

WHO CAN VOTE? - RESIDENTS WHO ARE:	LOCAL (COUNCIL) ELECTIONS	GENERAL (DÁIL) ELECTIONS	EUROPEAN ELECTIONS	PRESIDENTIAL & REFERENDUM
Irish citizens	YES	YES	YES	YES
British citizens	YES	YES	YES	NO
EU citizens	YES	NO	YES	NO
Non-EU (includes all residents)	YES	NO	NO	NO

FINGAL NEW ELECTORAL AREAS

- Swords / Santry/ Meakstown / St. Margarets area: Lanesborough / Charlestown = 5 seats
- Malahide / Portmarnock / Howth = 5
- Balbriggan / Skerries / Lusk / Rush = 5
- Mulhuddart ward = 5
- Castleknock ward = 4

CURRENT FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal County Council is currently controlled by Labour (6), Fine Gael (5) and the Greens (3) who have 14 of the 24 seats. The remaining seats are held by FF (5), Independents (2), Socialist Party (2) and Sinn Fein (1).

CHECK THE REGISTER

You can check the election register at the following website or check the draft register at your Council Offices, Garda Station, Public Library or Post Office. www.fingalcoco.ie/ereg
Please email me if you want me to check the election register for you and send you the appropriate forms. Please remember that all residents, no matter what nationality, are eligible to vote in Local Government (Council) elections that are due to be held in early June 2009. - Darragh.



Your local Fianna Fáil team:

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MINISTER OF STATE, DEPT. OF TRANSPORT

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LOCAL NEWS TO DO WITH YOUR AREA AS IT HAPPENS:

One thing we attempt to do is keep residents up to date with local issues that affect them. If you send us your email address and estate name / area, we will add you to our email list and send you important news update to do with your area whenever possible. Examples may include notice of road closures, new facilities in your area or issues that have been raised with me for your area that we are attempting to get resolved. So please send us your email address and location and we will promise to keep you updated on local news and issues.