

# COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: [Corporate.Services@fingal.ie](mailto:Corporate.Services@fingal.ie)

County Hall  
Swords  
Co Dublin

10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**To Each Member of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee**

Dear Member

A meeting of the **Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee** will be held on **MS Teams** at **4.30 pm** on **Tuesday, 17th December, 2024** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

**Nikki Halleran**  
**Meetings Administrator**  
**Corporate Services**

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## A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity & Environment SPC meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2024**
- 2 Community Climate Action Fund**

**MOTIONS**

**3 Councillor JK. Onwumereh - Promoting Sustainable Climate Action in Fingal Schools - AI099742**

"That the Chief Executive provide an overview of the programmes of work for Climate Action and Environmental Awareness specifically in relation to primary and secondary school children."

**4 Councillor D. Healy - Electric Vehicle Charging - AI099767**

"That the Chief Executive report on the progress of the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the County, both on Council-managed land and on other car parks, and on the financial arrangements and revenue resulting from charging infrastructure on Council-managed land."

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## **Comhairle Contae Fingal Fingal County Council**

Minutes of Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee

**Tuesday, 26th March, 2024**

### **PRESENT**

#### **Attending Remotely:**

Councillor David Healy, Councillor Joe Newman, Councillor Pamela Conroy, Councillor Paul Mulville, Councillor Mary McCamley, Councillor Aoibheann Tormey, Seamus McGrath, Edward Stevenson, Michael Lanigan – Dublin Enquirer

#### **Officials:**

David Storey, Director of Services; John Daly, Senior Engineer; Catherine O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer; Alain Kerveillant, Executive Scientist; Rebecca Walsh, Executive Scientist; Finbarr Quigley, Executive Scientist; Brian Reynolds, Executive Scientist; David T Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer; Jackie Fowler, Administrative Officer Finance; Hans Visser, Biodiversity Officer; Karen Leeson, Senior Executive Engineer; Niamh Moran, Climate Action Officer; Maria Hand, Senior Staff Officer.

A request was received by Michael Lanigan, Dublin Enquirer to attend the meeting. The members agreed under Standing Order 120 to permit Mr Lanigan access to the meeting.

The Chairperson, Councillor David Healy, presided.

### **OFFICIALS PRESENT**

**CABE/1/24** (Agenda Item No 1)

#### **Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment SPC meeting held on Tuesday 19th December 2023**

The minutes of the meetings of the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **AGREED**. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Healy and seconded by Cllr Newman.

**CABE/2/24** (Agenda Item No 2)

**Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 - 2029**

A presentation and timeline was given by Brian Reynolds on the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028. Following a discussion with members it was recommended that this item come back with a briefing (hybrid) in June 2024. This was proposed by Cllr Healy and seconded by Cllr Newman.

**Presentation Noted**

**CABE/3/24** (Agenda Item No 3)

**Environmental Inspection and Compliance Plan (RMCEI)**

John Daly gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Environmental Inspection and Compliance Plan (RMCEI) for 2024.

**Presentation Noted**

**CABE/4/24** (Agenda Item No 4)

**Clothes Swap Shops Report**

Catherine O'Donovan gave an update on recent pilot swap shops held in various schools in the County. Following discussion regarding the success/outcome of the events Catherine O'Donovan to follow up with the contractor with a number of issues raised. Catherine O'Donovan will also look at a similar initiative which Swords Tidy Towns ran recently in Rivervalley Community Centre.

**Report Noted**

**CABE/6/24** (Agenda Item No 6)

**Councillor D. Healy -"Greener by Default"**

**Proposed: Cllr D Healy**

**Seconded: Cllr J Newman**

"That this Committee recommends that the Chief Executive, in line with the mission statement in the Fingal Food and Drink Policy which includes a goal to "educate and empower the community to make healthy and sustainable food choices", considers incorporating the "Greener by Default" approach to procurement in the Green Procurement Strategy being developed under Action

R1 of the Fingal Climate Action Plan. (For information on the Greener by Default approach, refer to <https://www.greenerbydefault.com/>)”

**Response:**

Fingal County Council promotes sustainable food procurement and recognises that going meat free at least once a week is healthier, cheaper and will help reduce agricultural emissions. <https://www.fingal.ie/simple-ways-act-climate-change>

Recognising Fingal's significant role as a food producer, Fingal County Council are in a unique position to support and promote the local economy through the procurement of locally sourced meat, dairy, and plant-based products.

Fingal County Council encourages healthier and more sustainable food choices whilst reducing food miles, supporting both the environment and local producers.

Fingal County Council is committed to:

- Promoting local sourcing at our catered events and within the community.
- Encouraging going meat-free at least once a week.
- Incorporating educational efforts to highlight the benefits of local and sustainable food choices.
- Developing our Green Procurement Strategy with a focus on sustainability, community health, and economic vitality.

There is no specific national guidance on making plant-based food the default and Fingal County Council awaits specific guidelines and incorporating these into our green procurement strategy.

**Motion agreed**

**CABE/7/24** (Agenda Item No 7)

**Councillor P. Conroy - Designated poster areas for the Local or General Elections within a voluntary poster free zone**

**Proposed: Cllr P Conroy**

**Seconded: Cllr D Healy**

“That as part of the co-operation between the Council and communities in the field of Climate Action, this Committee recommends that the Chief Executive facilitates and supports any Tidy Towns or similar community groups seeking to create one or more designated poster areas for the Local or General Elections whilst keeping a voluntary poster free zone, along the lines of the request recently received from Castleknock Tidy Towns.”

### **Report:**

The Council is supportive of any community group seeking to introduce this type of initiative similar to the recent proposal by Castleknock Tidy Towns. It is up to the community group to seek political support for their initiative from all local parties and candidates.

It must be noted however, that as this is a voluntary initiative, the Council have no legislative powers to prevent any candidates from erecting posters. The [Litter Pollution Act 1997](#), as amended by the [Electoral \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Act 2009](#) allows people to display election posters for a certain period. They can be displayed from the date the Minister appoints the polling day by order, or 30 days before polling day, whichever is shorter. They must be taken down within 7 days after the polling day.

Following a discussion on this item it was agreed that this request for assistance to Tidy Towns groups, to identify a designated area in poster free zones be forwarded to Operations.

### **Report Agreed**

**CABE/8/24** (Agenda Item No 8)

**Councillor P. Mulville - Staffing for Biodiversity Plan**

**Proposed: Cllr P Mulville**

**Seconded: Cllr D Healy**

“That the Chief Executive report on the number of roles yet to be filled in order to meet our obligations and actions set out in the Biodiversity Plan.”

### **Response:**

Interviews for the Assistant and Executive Biodiversity Officers have taken place and it is envisaged that these positions will be filled by May. The Marine

Biodiversity Officer position is the only remaining position that still needs to be filled and the Council is liaising with the Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership and the People Services Department to advance the recruitment of this role.

### **Report Accepted**

The Meeting concluded at 18:32

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**AREA CHAIRPERSON**

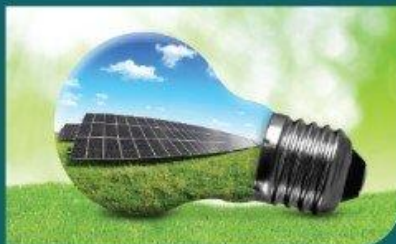
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**DATED**

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# Community Climate Action Fingal

**Funding Community projects to Reduce Emissions**



COMMUNITY ENERGY



TRAVEL



FOOD & WASTE



LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

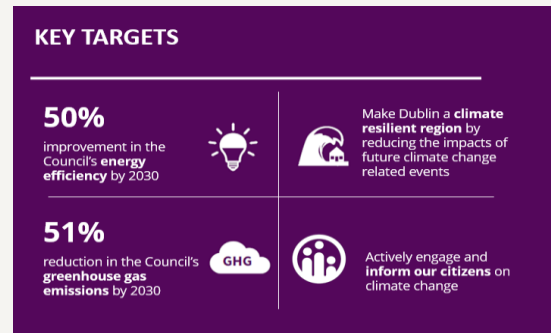
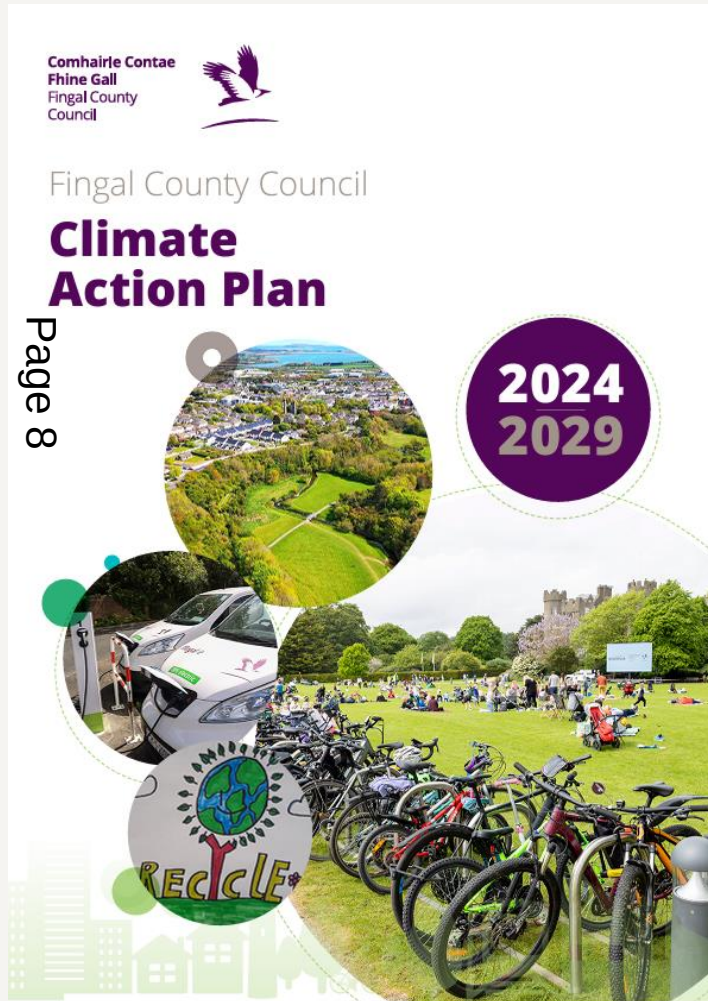


SHOPPING & RECYCLING

## Climate Action Grant for Community Organisations



# Fingal Climate Action Plan



# Community Awareness & Engagement

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| Ref                                         | Action                                                                                                                                                                                    | Tracking Measure                                                  | Timeframe | Mitigation / Adaptation | LA Role                               | Lead Department(s)                                    |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Community Awareness &amp; Engagement</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                   |           |                         |                                       |                                                       |
| <b>C1</b>                                   | Promote & Administer Community Climate Action grants for 2023 - 2026. Approve grants to communities to deliver climate action projects across the thematic areas as per grant guidelines. | # of grants for climate action projects across each thematic area | 2026      | Mitigation & Adaptation | Influence / Coordinate and Facilitate | Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel and Sports |



# Grant Process

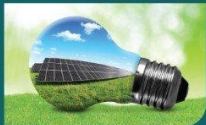
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Fingal allocation €1,127,000 Strand 1 & 1a
- Applications via portal
- Assistance during Application, Contract & Delivery phases
- 25% Funding in advance
- 18 months to complete after contract signing
- Long-term projects

# Applications to include any/all of the 5 Themes

1. Energy
2. Travel
3. Food & Waste
4. Circular Economy – Shopping & Recycling
5. Local Environmental & Climate Action

## Community Climate Action Fingal

Funding Community projects to Reduce Emissions



COMMUNITY ENERGY



TRAVEL



FOOD & WASTE



LOCAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



SHOPPING & RECYCLING

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall  
Fingal County Council

An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Gníomhalachta ar son na hAeráide,  
Taiscíl Gníomhaigh & Spóirt  
Environment, Climate Action,  
Active Travel and Sports Department



# Community Climate Action Fingal 2024

- **Fingal Allocation 2024 €1,127,000**
- 25 Applications (Partner Groups in some cases)
  - Community Groups
  - Community Centres
  - Sports Organisations
    - sailing, tennis, golf, yacht clubs
  - GAA & Football Clubs
  - Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)
  - Disability Organisations
  - Housing Charities
  - Youth Support Groups
  - Scouts
  - Community Gardens & Allotments

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Projects are 100% funded  
3 scales of grants available in this competitive application process

**Projects must REDUCE EMISSIONS**

*Small Scale Projects - Up to €20K*

*Medium Scale Projects - €21K to €50K*

*Large Scale Projects - €51K to €100K*



## Application Process

- SEAI SSEA €2k Voucher Support System for Energy Audit
- For applicants with >€10k/ Yr energy spend
- Minimum three quotes for measures
- Applications Assessed by the LA & Final Approval by the Department
- Offers & Contracts
- Payments upon invoicing
- Delivery of projects 18-month timeframe

| Action                            | Energy saving<br>per yr<br>(€) | Emissions<br>reduction<br>per yr<br>(t CO <sub>2</sub> e) | Cost of<br>action<br>(€) | Payback<br>period<br>(years) |       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Install solar photovoltaics       | €765                           | 0.34                                                      | 7,500                    | 9.8                          | Micro |
| 300mm attic insulation            | €169                           | 0.41                                                      | 3,000                    | 17.7                         |       |
| LED lighting upgrade              | €200                           | 0.10                                                      | 5,000                    | 11.3                         |       |
| Reflector foil behind radiators   | €88                            | 0.10                                                      | 75                       | 1.1                          |       |
| Timer plugs on electrical devices | €29                            | 0.01                                                      | 100                      | 3.4                          |       |
| Insulate exposed pipework         | €34                            | 0.08                                                      | 50                       | 1.5                          |       |
| Seal around 2 no. external doors  | €34                            | 0.08                                                      | 25                       | 0.7                          |       |
| Service oil boiler annually       | €64                            | 0.15                                                      | 300                      | 4.7                          |       |
| Energy awareness posters          | €118                           | 0.04                                                      | 5                        | 0.0                          | En    |
| Replace heating controller        | €0                             | 0.00                                                      | 350                      | N/A                          |       |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>€</b>                       | <b>1,5</b>                                                | <b>14,405</b>            |                              |       |



# Examples of Projects

## Following Assessment & Approval of the Applications

- Insulation for buildings/ Roof improvements, Replacement Doors and Windows
- Solar PV, LED Lighting
- Increased Building Efficiency, Heat Pumps to replace boilers
- ReUsable Cups/ Bottles for members, Swap Shops
- Bike Shelters
- Community Garden Composting
- Tree/ Native Hedge Planting



# Community Energy – Examples

25 applications received approval for 160 projects





Round 2  
To be announced by the Department

New Applicants Welcome  
Community Climate Action Officer visiting in  
advance to prepare

Contact:  
Sinéad Fox  
[CommClimateActionOfficer@fingal.ie](mailto:CommClimateActionOfficer@fingal.ie)

## COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

### CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024

#### ITEM 03

#### PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ACTION IN FINGAL SCHOOLS

##### **Motion: Councillor JK. Onwumereh**

"That the Chief Executive provide an overview of the programs of work for Climate Action and Environmental Awareness specifically in relation to primary and secondary school children."

##### **Report:**

The Climate Awareness and the Environmental Awareness Sections of the Environment Department role out awareness programs for primary and secondary school students to educate and raise awareness around climate action and the environment. Examples of these programs include: -

##### **1. Green Schools Program**

The Green Schools Program is operated in partnership with An Taisce and Local Authorities. The Environmental Awareness Officer works closely with schools on the ground to help them achieve their flag status.

136 schools across Fingal are active in the Green Schools Program. The 10-Flag program includes Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship. We facilitate assessments for the purpose of awarding flags. We also provide funding assistance and information to the schools and roll out several workshops themes every year to complement their efforts in achieving the Green Schools Flags.

## **2. Relove Fashion Workshops**

Relove Fashion is a Sustainable Fashion competition open to young people of secondary school age across the Republic of Ireland. The competition was developed and is funded through a partnership between the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, The Government of Ireland and the Rediscovery Centre, Ireland's National Centre for the Circular Economy. Fingal County Council promotes the initiative in secondary schools and assists students with their competition entries, offering free workshops and prizes to participating students. These workshops are run by Circular Fashion Ireland and highlight the devastating impacts of the fashion industry on the Climate, the need for change and the recognition of young people's pivotal role in shaping innovative solutions and are proving extremely popular.

## **3. Repaired Musical Instruments**

The RePlay.ie initiative is an ongoing circular economy initiative by Fingal County Council. Musical instruments that have been discarded in the recycling centres are repaired and then circulated back into the community. Schools participate by receiving lots of instruments every year from guitars and keyboards to drums and fiddles.

## **4. School Composting Project**

Fingal County Council funds schools to participate in the Composting for Schools Program. This in-depth program is suitable for both primary and post primary schools and helps support each school's journey in managing litter, food and landscape waste and compost. It is a perfect program to compliment Green School projects, and in particular the litter and waste theme. Approximately 70 schools across Fingal have signed up to this project to date. Many schools were provided with wormeries for food waste and leaf-mould cages to compost leaves.

## **5. Picker Pals**

Picker Pals is an excellent initiative where 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class students of primary schools can sign up to receive a take-home pack full of activities to include fun story and activity books, songs, interactive tv sessions, litter picking equipment and teacher support materials all designed to encourage young children to pick up their litter after themselves. The program is sponsored by Fingal County Council. The pack is circulated around the class with each child and their family members given the

opportunity to keep the picker pals pack for a week and record their experience. There are 87 classrooms across Fingal on the Picker Pals Program.

## **6. Christmas Upcycling Workshops**

Fingal County Council ran a number of hands-on workshops that combine upcycling with the principles of the circular economy, just in time for the holiday season. These workshops focus on creating unique Christmas decorations from repurposed materials, providing participants with a sustainable and creative way to celebrate. Attendees learn techniques for transforming everyday items into festive decor, reducing waste and promoting environmentally friendly practices. By encouraging the reuse of materials, Fingal County Council aims to foster a circular economy mindset, empowering the community to give items a second life and make environmentally conscious choices. This has proven hugely popular with primary schools with approximately 12 schools participating in 2024 and a waiting list in place. We hope to increase this number for 2025.

## **7. Halloween costume/Christmas jumper swap shops**

The Environmental Awareness Officer commenced the roll-out of several swap-shops in primary schools in 2024 to include Halloween Costumes and Christmas Jumpers. This is to promote fashion sustainability and educate students on the circular economy.

## **8. Rubbish Film Festival**

Fingal County Council signed up to 'The Rubbish Film Festival' for the first time in 2024. This involves a 2-day workshop for post-primary schools to teach students how to create their own short film to raise awareness amongst their peers around climate change/action. Films are made using mobile digital technology, iPads and accessories which are supplied by the facilitator along with resources and software. Workshops include instruction and practical activities on SDGs. Students research, initiate and create a 1-minute short film to inform and educate their peers on Climate Action. Schools across approximately 15 Local Authorities participate in this programme annually and it culminates in an award ceremony with the best videos winning an award.

## **9. Climate Literacy Workshops**

This is an 8-week themed module program for post-primary schools covering: the science of climate change, sustainable development, climate justice, the plastic crisis,

fast fashion, sustainable transport, biodiversity loss, food and soil. There is also a teacher training element where teachers receive Climate Literacy resources incl. background to all topics, classroom activities and printable materials so that they can roll out the program themselves in the future to students. 10 Fingal Schools signed up to this Program in 2024.

There are three climate action in Fingal's Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 specifically relating to schools and they are climate action C6, C7 & C8.

Fingal County Council is committed to raising awareness and educating Fingal's young people on the detrimental impacts of litter/waste on the environment and climate. Our campaigns, educational programmes, and strategic initiatives aim to mobilize young people and we will continue to roll-out the above programmes as well as any new initiatives within our resources.

**Source of Report:**

**Grainne Carroll, Administrative Officer, Environment, Climate Action, Active Travel & Sports Department**

## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

#### **ITEM 04**

#### **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING**

##### **Motion: Councillor D. Healy**

“That the Chief Executive report on the progress of the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the County, both on Council managed land and on other car park, and on the financial arrangements and revenue resulting from charging infrastructure on Council-managed land.”

##### **Report:**

The four Dublin Local Authorities launched the Electric Vehicle Charge Point (EVCP) Infrastructure rollout in October 2024 following the successful appointment of ePower as the charge point operator (CPO) and preferred tenderer for the provision of the infrastructure and ongoing service contract. The initial contract is for the provision of up to 200 EVCP's at 50no local authority owned or operated sites across the four Dublin Authorities. These sites are typically local authority car parks, libraries, public parks and community centers. The works contract should be complete within two years.

Over the past 2 months the Council has worked with ePower to progress the initial list of sites and we have engaged with ESB networks to establish the timelines and complexities around the provision of the required electrical supplies. Most sites have been surveyed and site designs are being developed and agreed at present. ESB connection applications have been made.

The four Dublin Local Authorities are also engaged with Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI) to secure funding for the provision of the enabling infrastructure. ZEVI will finance the provision of the enabling infrastructure, and the CPO will provide the chargers. The CPO will pay the Council a concession for the use of the charging bay.

The first sites should commence construction in February 2025 and go live in April / May 2025. The completion of the initial contract of 50 sites will be dependent on electricity connections being provided, however it is anticipated that the majority will be complete within one year. ESB networks are doing a huge amount of work nationally to make the required grid upgrades to support the provision of this infrastructure.

A full Councillor briefing will be organized with ePower before the first sites go live, end Q1 2025.

The current list of initial sites is as follows. This list is subject to electrical connections being technically and financially viable and as such is subject to change.

- Quay Street Car Park Balbriggan
- Baldoyle Racecourse Park
- Portmarnock Sports and Leisure Centre
- Liam Rodgers Community Centre
- Donabate Portrane Community Centre
- Bridgefield Car Park Malahide
- South Strand St, Skerries
- Lusk Sports Hub
- Howth Harbour Carpark
- River Valley Carpark
- Echlin Court, Rush
- Malahide Town Park
- Porterstown Park, Castleknock
- St. Catherine's Park, Lucan

**Source of Report:**

**Ronan O'Reilly, ECAATS Department.**