COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

MONDAY, 13th APRIL, 2015

Item No. 8

St Patrick's Day Festival Economic Boost

Question: Councillor D. Smith

"To ask the Chief Executive is there any indication, in monetary terms, what economic boost, the Saint Patrick's Day festival is to the County of Fingal in terms of spending in local businesses?"

Reply:

The holding of the parades attracted 25,000 visitors to Swords, 15,000 to Blanchardstown and 7,500 to Balbriggan. There is no data available to the Council to verify additional spending in local businesses due to the holding of the St. Patrick's Day festival, however, the Fingal Dublin Chamber of Commerce has reported that businesses have reported increased footfall and turnover in businesses arising from the parades and in Swords, some restaurants and eateries reported their best ever St. Patrick's Day with large numbers of families visiting their premises. In Dublin 15, where the St. Patrick's Day parade was held in 2015 for the first time, the Blanchardstown Centre reported a 30% increase in footfall in Blanchardstown Centre over previous years.