

New COVID-19 cases in Louth continue to drop

THERE were 822 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Louth in the two weeks up to Wednesday April 13th, giving a 14 day incidence rate of 637.8 cases per 100,000 of population.

While these figures are based on confirmed PCR cases and not antigen tests uploaded to the HSE website, they are welcome news that infections are continuing to drop. All local electoral areas in the county had rates below the national average for the

fourteen days up to Monday April 11th.

There has also been a decrease in the number of patients with COVID-19 being treated in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda where the number stood at 26 on Monday evening. Six cases had been confirmed within the previous 24 hours and one patient was being treated in the hospital's ICU/High Dependency Unit.

Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Dundalk County Museum and County Library, Roden Place, Dundalk Co. Louth

Louth County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to *Redevelop Dundalk's County Museum and County Library's Courtyard Area, Dundalk County Museum and County Library, Roden Place, Dundalk Co. Louth.* Works are to include; the Creation of an Outdoor Learning Pod between Dundalk Library & Museum Quarter to showcase the newest technologies and host shared functions; a Green Learning and Sensory Garden for Health & Well Being; and New Bike Stations and Sensors Bike-stations and all associated site development works. Proposed works are within the curtilage of the Protected Structure County Museum RPS number D223 and the County Library RPS number D266 and within the Dundalk Architectural Conservation Area No 20; Roden Place as designated in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.

In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018, Louth County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination pursuant to the provisions of article 120(1) (b)(f) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018 that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required. Where any person considers that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time before the expiration of 4 weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice, apply in accordance with the provisions of article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018, to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such effects.

In accordance with the provisions of article 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2019, Louth County Council has carried out a screening of the proposed development to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Accordingly, the report determined that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, from 20th April 2022 to 19th May 2022 inclusive at the offices of Louth County Council Co. Louth Millennium Centre, County Hall, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 KFW6 or at Dundalk Town Hall Crowe St, Townparks, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 W20C, during public opening hours.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, clearly marked for the attention of "Grainne Tuomey, Part 8-VARCIETIES, Redevelopment of Dundalk's County Museum and County Library's Courtyard Area" may be made in writing to the undersigned at Louth County Council, Millennium Centre, County Hall, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 KFW6, before 5.00pm on the 1st June 2022

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement No.869505

Dated this 20th April 2022

Grainne Tuomey,
A./Senior Executive Officer,
Sustainable Energy Section,
Millennium Centre, County Hall, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 KFW6

County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, County Louth A91 KFW6
t 042 9335457 w www.louthcoco.ie e info@louthcoco.ie
Community Call Number 042 9335457
View Alerts at www.mapalserter.ie/louth



The Inclusion Louth Committee at their relaunch in the Fairways Hotel, back row, left to right, Kevin Doyle, Margaret Nixon, Mary D'Arcy Anette Mullen, David Lally. Front row, Patrica Duffy Treasurer, Eoghan Bailey Chairperson and Mary Connolly Secretary.

Inclusion Louth aims to be 'a voice for the voiceless'

By OLIVIA RYAN

INCLUSION Louth will be "a voice for the voiceless" the launch of the newly named support group heard this week.

A large crowd attended what was the name change of the former Dundalk Parents and Friends of the Intellectually Disabled at the Fairways Hotel.

Chairman Eoghan Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting which was attended by a number of local political representatives including Ged Nash TD, Ruairi Ó Murchú TD, and Louth County Council Councillors Maeve Yore, and John Sheridan.

Eoghan explained the reason for the name change and the new focus for the 50 year old Association.

"This is in keeping with changing terminology around disabilities and the move from a medical to a more social model. The focus will be on what people can do as opposed to what they cannot."

He outlined some of the achievements over the years such as the provision of day services, purchase of a minibus, a toy library, 19 units of accommodation in Tintean and An Slí (in Dundalk), setting up of the Arch Recreational Club.

The Secretary - Mary Connolly stated that even though the name has changed - complete with a new logo - the ethos and goals of the organisation remains the same, that is to support parents; to act as a pressure/lobby group to the Department of Health/the HSE/Service Providers, politicians etc. on behalf of people with disability for better services.

The meeting heard of the need for "parents to be advocates"



Elizabeth and Neven Finegan with Catherine O'Callaghan at the launch.

and that 2services should be a right but this is often not the case."

Long waiting lists for assessment of need, leading to early intervention, and psychological assessment were highlighted. Such delays can result in difficulties accessing speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, dental services etc.

It was acknowledged that at primary school level there are special needs units for Autism/Autism Spectrum Disorder, but at second level there can be problems securing places.

"Third level and Further Education and Training leading to employment poses greater challenges," said Mr. Bailey.

"There is a recognition that the public finances will be under stress in the future due to the pandemic payments and the refugee crisis. However it is of paramount importance that people with disabilities are not

left behind. It is up to parents to be involved no matter what service their son or daughter is receiving and to keep a watching brief."

"HIQA has resulted in improved standards in residential care. These are high quality adult services provided by Saint John of Gods North-East, Praxis Care, Rehab Care, Inspire Wellbeing, Positive Futures and Moorehall Living while Maria Goretti in Lordship provides Respite Care for under 18 year olds."

Nevin Finegan - a parent of a young daughter who is nearly four and who has microcephaly spoke passionately about what it is like for him and his wife after their daughter's diagnosis. He stated that when she was born their lives changed forever.

He outlined the struggles that they faced trying to get services for her. He felt that family were the most supportive to them. He learned through his

mother about the Jack and Jill Foundation and that he would be able to get respite for his daughter through them. This will only be until she reaches the age of six. He is unsure about what will happen after that. He told the meeting that we "use our voice to seek basic human rights for our children and adults."

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and reminded them that the AGM would be held on Thursday the 28th April at 8:00pm in the St John of God Venegas Centre, Hoey's Lane,

He added: "Inclusion Louth hopes to be a voice for the voiceless and to give people with disabilities better access and integration in society, to help improve the lives of people with disabilities who live in County Louth."

Contact inclusionlouth@gmail.com or by text or WhatsApp on 089 220 2246