



EDITOR'S COMMENT

A unique initiative that targets the unauthorised use of disabled parking bays and disabled parking permits on Dublin's streets to great effect is now being rolled out in other cities and towns around the country with similar results.

Sgt Peter Woods, Sergeant-In-Charge of the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) Traffic Division at Dublin Castle, devised the concept following a conversation he had last Christmas with a disabled motorist, who found it difficult on a daily basis to find accessible parking in Dublin City Centre, and also experienced the ongoing misuse of the blue badges.

"Following on from that, I met with the other agencies and it was agreed to launch a targeted enforcement operation to tackle the problem," Sgt Woods told us when he contacted 'Council Review' a few weeks ago with a view to highlighting the scheme to other local authorities and public service support agencies.

So, we are delighted to give this as much coverage as possible. It's absolutely disgraceful that some people have total disregard for the disabled when it comes to blatantly using clearly marked disabled parking bays around the city centre, and in the outlying suburbs. And the only way to clamp down on such behaviour is to hit them financially.

'Operation Enable' is a multi-agency initiative between the Gardaí, Dublin City Council, Dublin Street Parking Services, the Irish Wheelchair Association and the Disabled Drivers' Association of Ireland.

Since it was rolled out on to capital's streets last February, over 400 fixed charge notices have been issued for parking offences in disabled bays and seized 44 permits for fraudulent use.

The operation has been documented on the Garda Twitter page @GardaTraffic and needless to say it has resulted in great coverage in online and mainstream media, and also recently featured on RTE's 'Crimecall' programme.

Furthermore, Sgt Woods was presented with the Special Recognition Award by Liz O'Donnell, chairperson of the Road Safety Authority at the RSA's Leading Lights Awards for 2017 in Croke Park.

Well done to everyone involved and it will be interesting to see how many more were served with fixed charged notices and suitably fined over the Christmas period.

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The leader of Fianna Fáil, Micheál Martin, has called for the reintroduction of town councils stressing that the removal of same resulted in the devastation of civic participation nationwide.



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22 Wicklow County Council

These are ambitious times in Wicklow County Council as new Chief Executive Frank Curran gets to grips with his new role. With over 3,400 people on the social housing waiting list in Wicklow, the council is keen to reduce the number through its building programme.



Frank Curran,
Wicklow Co Co
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28 Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council's recent €70 million Framework Loan Agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB), which will trigger a €180 million investment in strategic infrastructure projects within the Capital Development Plan, is set to benefit more than 300,000 living across the County of Fingal.



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34 Local Government Awards

Monaghan County Council has been named 'Local Authority of the Year' at the 14th Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The awards ceremony, held in association with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, again showcased and celebrated the best of local government in Ireland.

41 Regional Assembly Updates

The latest news, EU funding projects, programmes and events from the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA).

45 Western Development Commission

The Western Development Commission (WDC) says the draft of the National Planning Framework is limited on how targets can be achieved in northern and western regions. It claims that no information has been provided on how the plan's objectives will be implemented.

51 REBUILDING & REGENERATION

The Government has approved an extra €100m for housing and homelessness for 2017, bringing to €1.4 billion the funding provided in 2017, which will support the delivery of new homes, family hubs and emergency accommodation for those that need them. We also profile the developers and the housing associations who are collaborating on providing the latest social and affordable housing developments across the country.



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47 Operation Enable

A multi-agency initiative, which has been targeting the unauthorised use of disabled parking bays, has been an unqualified success with over 400 fixed charge notices issued to date for parking offences in Dublin since last February. Gardaí are now talks with the European Traffic Police Network to roll out a pan-European targeted day of enforcement.

85 Weather Alert App

An extreme weather alert service for local authorities, which generated 500,000 emergency alerts in the space of just 72 hours, as Storm Ophelia ripped through Ireland in mid-October, MapAlerter is now linked up with 11 local authorities nationwide.

87 AILG Brexit Survey

The Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) has established a policy sub-group of elected members in a bid to identify ways in which the local government sector in Ireland could respond to the issues arising from Brexit, and to highlight potential consequences to the local government sector. This is the synopsis of a Brexit Issues Paper by the AILG.

95 EU Capital of Culture

As Brexit negotiations between the UK and Brussels continue, two cities in Northern Ireland have seen their joint bid to secure European Capital of Culture 2023 designation hit the buffers ahead of Britain's planned exit from the European Union in March 2019.

101 Longford County Council

Longford County Council became the first public sector body to win the Silver Award at NISO 26th Annual Occupational Safety Awards in October, and the win for Longford is a major breakthrough for local government.

103 Cork County Council

Ireland's entrepreneurs can now apply for Cork County Council's International Start-Up Accelerator Competition for life sciences, medical technology and digital health companies, following the official launch of Cork County Council's ground-breaking start-up programme Bridge to MassChallenge Cork with Boston-based MassChallenge.

115 Appointments

This new section features recent appointments, promotions and recruitment opportunities across the public service sector.

124 Local Electoral Areas

Two committees, which will review and make recommendations on local electoral areas, have been established by the Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform. Minister John Paul Phelan will consider the committees' reports as the basis for the revision of local electoral areas, in advance of the 2019 Local Elections.

127 Good Practice Seminar

A series of initiatives undertaken by local authorities that highlight diverse and often highly innovative approaches to addressing the challenges faced by both local authorities and local communities were outlined at a recent seminar, organised by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) in Kilkenny.



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