

# Dublin Airport News

Summer 2025

Issue No. 30



## A summer of progress and connection at Dublin Airport



A year ago, we restarted this newsletter to share more about what's going on at Dublin Airport with our surrounding communities. As we enter the peak of what promises to be the busiest summer ever in Dublin Airport's 85-year history, there's lots happening inside and outside the airport that we hope is of interest to you.

With more than 10 million people expected to travel through Dublin Airport this summer, our passenger focus is clear: delivering a smooth, efficient, and enjoyable experience for every family and traveller. This means at least 90% of passengers clearing security in under 20 minutes, just as they did last summer.

It also means a relentless focus on the basics and a commitment to continuous improvement. You can read on page 7 about a host of enhancements across the airport from over 1,000 new seats, 15 new food and drink outlets and more. Technology is playing a key role too. I'd encourage you to download our new Dublin Airport app which offers real-time flight updates, live security wait times, and interactive maps, making it easier than ever to navigate the airport.



Download the new  
Dublin Airport App

Behind the scenes, over 400 cleaning projects and 35 new Smart Bins are helping us maintain a clean and welcoming environment. Our frontline employees, easily spotted in bright pink 'Here to Help' vests, are ready to assist and ensure a stress-free journey. And all our employees - many of whom live in the community - are working hard to send our passengers on their way with a smile. My thanks to them for all that they do.

Across the airport campus, we continue to explore and invest in a more sustainable future. Page 6 gives the latest on our solar and geothermal projects and details of the eight-hectare wildlife habitat we gifted to Fingal County Council this spring - that's about six times the size of Croke Park! Page 4 shares the latest on our €10 million Community Fund, and our new €2 million Elevate '25 programme benefiting schools in North Dublin and East Meath.

We were heartened by the results of an independent survey carried out on behalf of daa this spring which showed strong support for the continued growth and development of the airport. But we won't rest on our laurels. We meet regularly with the community to share information and hear concerns. And we continue to invest in new online tools to increase transparency about airport operations. More on this on page 5.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter and if we welcome you to the airport this summer that you have a great trip. We're proud of the progress we've made over the past 85 years and even more excited about the journey that lies ahead.

Gary

Gary McLean  
Managing Director  
Dublin Airport



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Our people and passengers help raise €500,000 for charity



### Page 3

Meet our gardening team



### Page 5

€2 million boost for local schools





# Fingal SMEs will soar with new advertising initiative



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We're soon hoping to launch a new advertising initiative that will benefit small and medium-sized businesses in Fingal.

The programme would offer significant discounts on advertising space at Dublin Airport to local SMEs, making it more affordable for them to reach a wider audience.

The proposed initiative is part of our planning application to Fingal County Council requesting permission to install new and replace some existing advertising space on 27 airbridges at the airport.

As well as discounted advertising space, SMEs will also be eligible to apply for grants to cover advertising costs and can avail of training and workshops on how to advertise effectively to reach a wider audience.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our employees and passengers at Dublin and Cork airports, three amazing Irish charities for 2024 have received a share of €500,000.

As part of our Charities of the Year programme, daa employees select three charities to collectively support each year. A Little Lifetime Foundation, Cork Penny Dinners and Cliona's Foundation were the chosen charities for 2024.

From bake sales and quiz nights to raffles and physical challenges, our employees went above and beyond to raise money. Passengers also played a big part by donating their spare change or unwanted currency into the charity globes located throughout Dublin and Cork airports.

This year, daa matched the €250,000 raised by employees and passengers, bringing our grand total for 2024 to a record-breaking, €500,000.

With that milestone reached, our passionate team immediately began fundraising for three new causes for 2025, Little Blue Heroes, Critical and The Good Shepherd.

# Employees and passengers help raise €500,000 for charity



Scan the QR code to read more...

# Viewing platform cleared for take off



Aviation enthusiasts should soon have a brand-new viewing facility where they can comfortably watch planes take off and land at Dublin Airport.

Fingal County Council has given us the green light to significantly enhance the current informal viewing point, known as 'The Mound.'

This free-to-access amenity will include car and bike parking facilities, an elevated covered platform with seating, and be fully lit with power generated by solar panels on site.

This location has been an informal 'plane-spotting' area over the past 40 years and we think it's time to put a more formal facility in place. It's a rite of passage for kids in Dublin to be taken to 'The Mound' to watch the planes landing and taking off at the airport. This new facility will make it safer and more enjoyable for users and we think it's a facility that the local community will really enjoy.

Gary McLean,  
Managing Director of Dublin Airport



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While one appeal was lodged as this newsletter was going to print, we will engage with An Coimisiún Pleanála and hope to resolve the concern raised as quickly as possible so the community can soon benefit from this great new resource.



BEHIND  
THE  
SCENES

# A day in the life of a Dublin Airport Gardener

Owen Tobin arguably has one of the biggest responsibilities at Dublin Airport. As Gardening Supervisor, he is the person responsible for selecting the 45ft tall Christmas tree which takes pride of place in front of Terminal 2 each year.

“If the Christmas tree doesn’t look good, you’ll hear all about it,” he jokes as we walk around what can only be described as a mini garden centre on Dublin Airport’s campus. Its maze of polytunnels and potting sheds offers a secret oasis in the middle of the hustle and bustle of the country’s busiest airport.

Here the six-person-strong gardening team grow all the plants and flowers which brighten the Dublin Airport campus year-round. This summer, the team planted 19,000 bedding plants and around 3,000 perennials, all of which were grown on site from seedlings.

Owen joined the airport gardening team in 1998 and loves the job as much now as he did back then. There is no typical day according to Owen, due to the huge variety in responsibilities held by his team.

At the forefront of all the team’s decisions is supporting biodiversity. “We seek out pollinator-friendly plants and there’s been a massive increase in the bee population around Dublin Airport in the last number of years as a result. There are also over 20 bug hotels dotted around the campus to provide additional shelter to pollinators.

In an effort to drastically reduce reliance on chemical fertilisers, the gardening team sources manure from local farms to spread on flower beds across the campus. Manure helps to hold moisture in the soil,

reducing the number of times the plants need to be watered in the summer months. “Manure has lots of nutrients in it for the plants, so we don’t have to use granular fertiliser. It’s also great for attracting worms and different insects,” Owen explained.



Instead of using weed killer, our gardeners opt for ground cover plants which naturally suppress weeds, help keep the soil moist and as an added bonus, are pollinator friendly too! These actions have had a noticeable impact on the number of worms and other insects found on the airport campus.

Working as a Dublin Airport gardener means you’re always planning for the season ahead. Owen points out the few dozen pots of Noble Fir, perhaps better known as Christmas trees, which were potted at the beginning of 2025. These will be looked after by

the team all year to ensure they have plenty of greenery to handmade the wreaths which will decorate the terminals during the festive season.

Owen’s favourite part of the job is that it’s outdoors and that he is always being challenged to innovate. He speaks passionately about finding new ways to do things sustainably. In recent years, the team has invested in a chipper so that any cuttings from trees and hedges can be turned into bark mulch and spread on grassy areas to naturally fertilise our green spaces.

The gardening team plays a vital, yet often unseen, role in shaping the first impressions of Dublin Airport. From selecting the iconic Christmas tree, to planting tens of thousands of flowers and plants each year, these efforts promote biodiversity on our campus. Their efforts are a testament to how, even in the busiest of places, green spaces can thrive, thanks to passion, innovation and a whole lot of manure!



We seek out pollinator-friendly plants and there’s been a massive increase in the bee population around Dublin Airport in the last number of years as a result.







# Celebrating with our Community Fund recipients

Over 100 representatives from local groups and organisations that were awarded funding through the €10 million Dublin Airport Community Fund in 2024 joined us for a celebration in March. It was the highlight of our community events calendar, bringing together most of the 120 projects that benefited from the €500,000 allocated from the fund last year. We were thrilled to hear how the funding has made a positive impact across a broad range of projects and activities throughout Fingal. Groups that benefitted include schools, sports clubs and community centres. Read more about how Dublin Sonics Basketball Club and Swords Community College used their funding.

## Slam dunk for local basketball club

Dublin Sonics Basketball Club in Tyrrelstown was awarded funding to create a brand-new kit for players and coaches. Coach Dave Lawrence says it has been a gamechanger to have the children “looking the part” at games and to have the club better represented in the community. He believes the new kit has helped raise the club’s profile locally and encouraged more kids, especially girls, to take up the sport.

## A smash hit for Swords students

Swords Community College staged a spectacular show earlier this year with the help of the Dublin Airport Community Fund. ‘Popstars: The 90’s Musical’ attracted over 1,000 audience members over its three-day run. Teacher Jake Weldon says the funding allowed them to significantly enhance the production by investing in costumes, lighting, sound equipment and LED screens. Most importantly, he says, “the biggest impact, was on the students, who created memories that will last a lifetime.”

This year, in a change with tradition, the Dublin Airport Community Fund opened for a single round of funding to the value of €500,000. This was so we could open a special €2 million once-off fund called Elevate ’25. Elevate ’25 been created for the benefit of local schools in honour of Dublin Airport’s 85th anniversary.

The Community Fund for 2025 is now closed for applications, and all the successful awardees have been notified. We look forward to seeing these fantastic projects come to life across the local communities.



Schools in the local airport community can now apply for funding for a wide range of projects to enhance their educational environment. The Elevate ’25 programme is a once-off initiative which has been established to celebrate Dublin Airport’s 85th anniversary year.

The fund is open to both primary and secondary schools in the catchment area of North Dublin and East Meath which spans from Rush to Ratoath and from Tyrrelstown to Donabate.

Schools can apply for funding for things like outdoor classrooms, horticultural learning areas, sensory rooms, inclusive play areas, educational supports such as smartboards and sports and recreation equipment.

We’re accepting applications until September 26th, 2025 and we will let applicants know the outcome in November.

# €2 million boost for local schools in North Dublin and East Meath



For more information or to apply, scan here...



# Strong community backing for Dublin Airport growth



We restarted this community newsletter last year following feedback from the local community. You told us you wanted more direct communication and updates, and we're committed to keeping the conversation going.

In this edition, we're pleased to share the results of independent research carried out by leading polling company Red C which shows 86% of Fingal residents support the continued growth and development of Dublin Airport.

The survey, based on over 1,000 face-to-face interviews, was carried out across the Fingal Electoral Area.

84% of those surveyed agree that having the airport in their community fuels economic development, while two in every three residents view Dublin Airport as a trustworthy neighbour.

It's great to see such strong backing from the people who live in Fingal. They see the value the airport brings and want to see it grow. We're proud of the connection we've built with our community, and we'll keep working hard and listening to make sure that relationship stays strong.

Kenny Jacobs, CEO of daa



Scan the QR code to read more...

# New flight data portal now live



We're making it even easier for you to view aircraft activity at Dublin Airport. With Insightfull, our new noise information portal, you can enter your Eircode and view data on the number of flights passing overhead on an hourly and monthly basis. You can also learn about the different altitudes at which aircraft are flying overhead as well as the different types of aircraft operating in the area. This innovative technology is used at more than 25 airports globally, including Gatwick and Toronto Pearson.

## How to report a noise event

There are a few ways to report a noise event should you wish to do so. The first thing to remember is all noise events must be reported within seven days of the event taking place. Each complaint is logged and investigated. We aim to respond to all complaints in a timely manner.



Explore the portal



Scan here for all reporting options

# Pitch, putt and solar panels



On a gorgeous sunny day in May, we paid a visit to Portmarnock Pitch and Putt Club to see their brand-new solar panels. The Dublin Airport Community Fund 2024 part-funded the purchase of the panels. The clubhouse is an ideal location to capture the best of the Irish sunshine. It's estimated the solar panels will generate enough energy to half the club's energy bills over the next 30 years.

The year is flying by with two meetings of the Dublin Airport Environmental Working Group (DAEWG) already held.

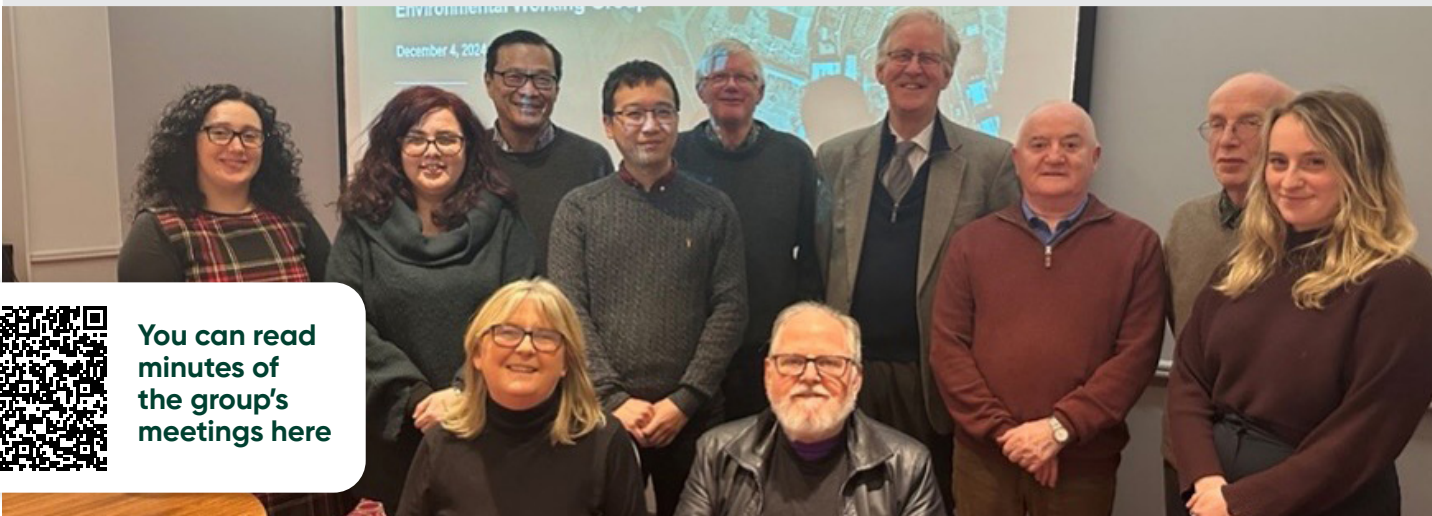
The DAEWG gives stakeholders an opportunity to collaborate and share information about airport-related matters that are important to our local communities.

The group is independently chaired and is made up of residents from community groups across North Dublin and representatives from daa, Fingal County Council and AirNav Ireland. It meets on a quarterly basis with regular updates provided on issues such as airport developments, aviation noise, air and water quality monitoring, infrastructure improvements and planning applications.

The remaining two meetings for this year are scheduled for October 1st and December 3rd.



You can read minutes of the group's meetings here



# Community listening and learning





We were happy to gift an eight-hectare wildlife habitat in Kilsallaghan to Fingal County Council earlier this year.

While the compensatory habitat was a requirement under the planning conditions for the North Runway, we went a step further in transferring ownership of the lands to Fingal County Council for a nominal €10.

This special area was created to support local plants and animals after 15.8 kilometres of hedgerow were removed during the construction of the runway. The site includes native wildflowers, trees, and grassland, and even features a custom-built bat roost to help local bat populations thrive.

The habitat is mostly woodland, with about one-third made up of native grassland. To ensure that the biodiversity on the site is protected and further enhanced, access to the habitat will be managed by Fingal County Council. They will support supervised visits for schools and community groups to learn about nature and biodiversity.

Scan the QR code to read more...



# daa gifts wildlife habitat to Fingal County Council



## Watts happening? We're working towards a more sustainable future



Scan the QR code to read more...



We're taking major steps toward a more sustainable future, with two exciting renewable energy projects underway; the expansion of our solar farm and the development of a geothermal heating system concept. And an innovative new carbon-capture project with Trinity College.

Phase 1 of our solar farm, located on a 28-acre site near the south runway, has over 15,000 panels and was officially opened in April by Minister for Transport and Local TD, Darragh O'Brien.

The solar farm is currently producing enough energy to meet 13% of the airport's needs, enough to power the entire airfield!

Pending planning approval, Phase 2 of the solar farm project will see a further 6,000 panels installed by the end of 2027. Once completed, the expanded solar farm is expected to provide 20% of the airport's total energy requirements.

Meanwhile, we've also been exploring if we could use geothermal energy to help heat and cool our terminal buildings.

Geothermal energy is a renewable resource that comes from heat within the Earth's core. The temperature below the Earth's surface stays relatively constant, unlike above ground temperatures. Geothermal systems use ground

source heat pumps and a network of underground pipes. In winter, fluid within the pipes absorbs heat from the ground and brings it inside to warm buildings. In summer, the process is reversed to cool them.

Earlier this year, we carried out detailed feasibility study, which found that Dublin Airport is a strong candidate for a geothermal energy system. We're now in the concept design phase, determining what the system might look like, how many buildings across the airport campus could benefit from this renewable energy source and importantly, how much the project would cost. The result of the concept design phase will determine whether we can make a geothermal energy system at Dublin Airport a reality.

And finally, ground-breaking technology developed at Trinity, which captures carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, is being put through its paces at Dublin Airport - with the team behind its creation hoping to demonstrate its wider potential for capturing carbon in the aviation and e-fuel industries. We are delighted to support this project, which offers an opportunity to explore carbon capture as a potential means of decarbonising our operations.



Read more about Trinity's ground-breaking carbon capture tech...





# Making your journey even better this summer

Our teams worked hard behind the scenes to upgrade our passengers' airport experience just in time for the busy summer season, and we're excited to share what's new!

Two of our lounges have undergone a complete transformation. The Liffey and Martello lounges are now open and welcoming passengers with a fresh new look and feel.

Across our terminals, we've added over 1,000 brand-new seats to make any wait more comfortable. That includes hundreds of new boarding gate seats and cozy dwell seats with built-in charging points.

With 15 new food and drink spots to choose from, there's something for every taste. Staying hydrated is now even easier too. We've replaced 23 of our Hydration Stations with improved units that are already dispensing the equivalent of 100,000 half-litre bottles of water each month.

The Pet Relief room in Terminal 2 has been fully upgraded for passengers travelling with service and emotional support animals. A second Pet Relief room is also being added on Pier 2 in Terminal 1 and will open later this year.

Three new kids' entertainment areas have been added at Departure Gates in T1 and T2, bringing the total to five across both terminals. A gaming zone for teens complete with game consoles is currently under construction.

Our brand-new Dublin Airport app provides real-time flight updates, accurate security wait times and exclusive duty-free discounts all in one place. Free to download from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Scan the QR code to read more...



## Celebrating diversity, equity and inclusion



The airport was decorated in June to celebrate Pride, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for not only our passengers, but our employees too. The displays reflect our support of the LGBTQ+ community and the diversity of the people we welcome every day.

'Taste of daa' is series of events where we celebrate the many diverse cultures that make up our employee population. Earlier this year, our Brazilian colleagues taught us about their national celebration, Festa Junia, and demonstrated how to make some of their favourite native dishes.

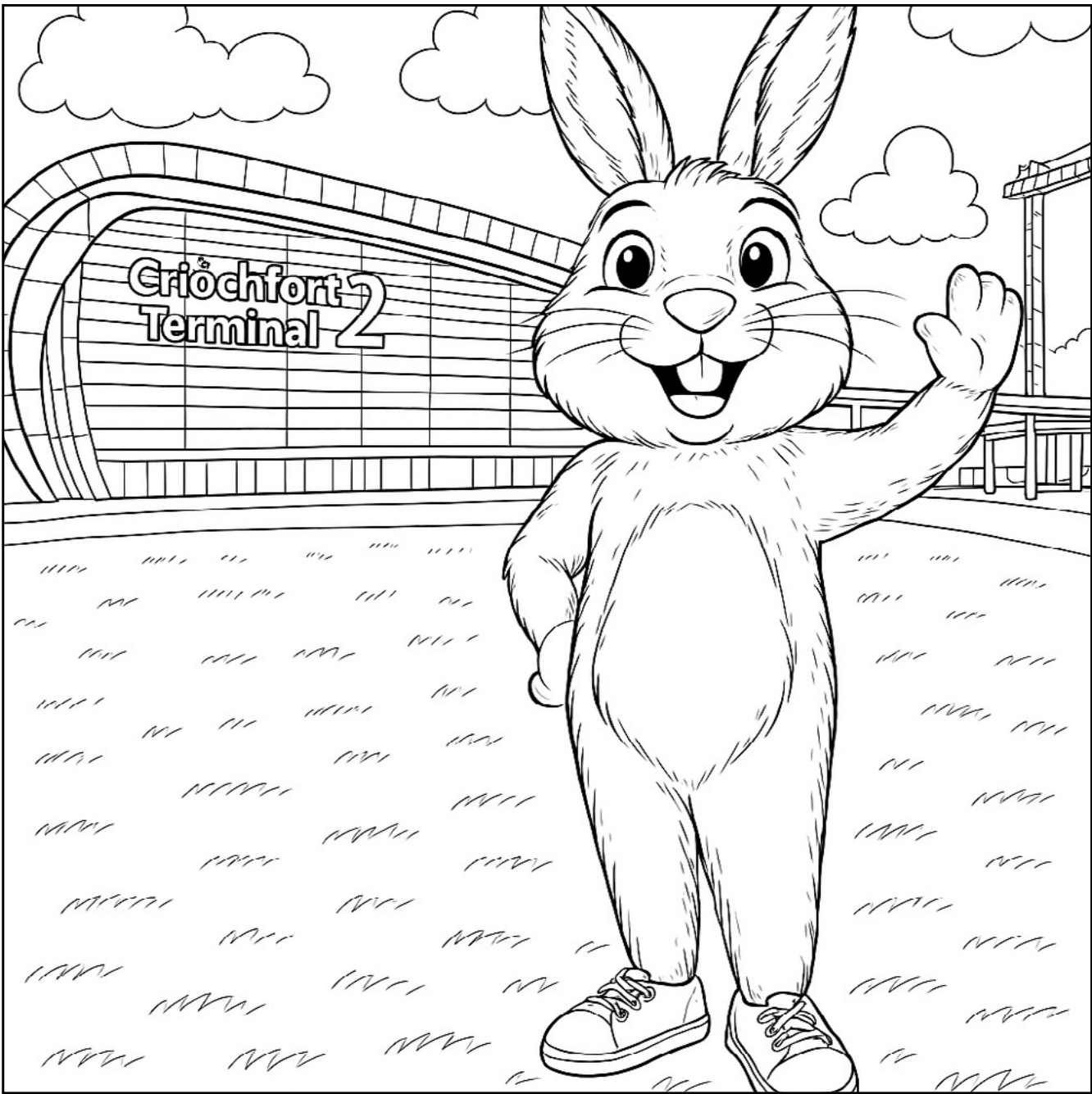
As part of our work this year with Little Blue Heroes, we gave Richard and his family a behind-the-scenes tour of the airport. Richard loves lights and sounds and was thrilled to spend time at the fire station, enjoy the view from the air traffic control tower and meet the Airport Police dogs.





# Competition Corner

## Children’s Colouring Competition



Meet **Dubby**, one of the many hares you can find hopping around Dublin Airport. Dubby is our mischievous mascot whose adventures you can follow on our social media channels.

**Give Dubby a splash of colour to be in with a chance to win a €100 One4All voucher**

**How to enter:**  
Take a picture of your child’s entry and email it to **communities@daa.ie** along with their **name**, **age**, the **area** you’re from and a **contact number** before October 1st.

Thank you to everyone who entered the colouring competition in the last edition.

And the winner is....  
Haoze Gong, Age 9 from Santry

## Adult Competition

Congratulations to last edition’s winner Anne Crawford from Portmarnock

Answer these three questions to be in with a chance to win a **€100 One4All voucher**.

Email your answers along with your name, where you’re from and a contact number to **communities@daa.ie**. The closing date for entries is October 1st.

- 1

How many **panels** does our existing solar farm have?
- 2

What did daa **gift** to Fingal County Council this year?
- 3

How many **plants** did Dublin Airport’s gardeners plant this summer?

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