

# Young people need to take speeding seriously

Young people must stand up and take the lead on the issue of dangerous driving and speeding in Kilkenny according to FF Cllr Andrew McGuinness.

On the back of recent controversy surrounding car crash fatalities with young male drivers and the high road death figures in Ireland, Cllr McGuinness is calling on young drivers to be more aware of the consequences of driving fast. "The Government, the Road Safety Authority and local authorities around the country are doing what they can, but this

is an issue that every person needs to get involved with," said Cllr McGuinness.

"Speed is the single largest factor contributing to road deaths in Ireland with more than 40 per cent of fatal accidents caused by excessive speed. Speeding young male drivers aged 17-24 now account for most of the deaths on our roads and the figure is now over 300 for 2006," he said.

"Young male drivers bear the brunt of media criticism and rightly so because the statistics don't lie. It's not a matter of

opinion, it's a sad reality and it needs to be taken on board by all of us," he said.

"As a young male driver, I accept this criticism is relevant. It's a person's decision at the end of the day, young or old. And, when someone decides to speed they are ultimately deciding to risk their own lives and the lives of others," he said.

"It's not the government, the gardai or the NRA behind the steering wheel, it's an individual and it's time that everybody took responsibility to drive more carefully," he said.



Fianna Fáil Councillor Andrew McGuinness.

# Two local schools win FÍS National Film Awards

BY NAOISE O' DONOVAN COOGAN

Two local primary schools who were nominated to go forward to this year's 2nd FÍS National Film awards ceremony, scooped an award each for their films. Scoil Chiaran Naofa Stoneyford was selected at the regional screening held in Kilkenny

Education Centre in June. Scoil Mhuire Kilvemnon in Mullinahone was selected as an independent entry and was the only independent entry to reach the finals.

Over 800 young filmmakers were honoured recently at the special awards ceremony - at the Helix Theatre in DCU. Minister for Education and Science Mary

Hanafin presented awards to pupils from each of the 24 primary schools, from around Ireland, in a variety of categories of film-making.

Scoil Chiaran Naofa picked up the award for the Best Choice of Music with their film, 'Watchstoppers'. Kilvemnon, with their film 'The Missing Jigsaw

piece" picked up the award for Best Mystery Film.

Presenting the awards to students from the 24 schools Minister Hanafin said "I feel so honoured to be among so many producers, set designers, directors, scriptwriters - the stars of the future! I am very impressed with your creative work and with the wide range of

topics covered in your films this year. You really must have had a lot of fun making your films with your teachers."

A commemorative FÍS clapperboard was presented to each of the 24 schools present as a mark of their outstanding achievement in film. Awards were presented in a number of different categories including Best Cinematography, Best Original Script, Best Use of Special Effects; An Scannán is fear as Gaeilge and Best Use of Camera. Three special awards were also presented for High Achievement in the art of film-making while the

overall 2006 film of the year - Aileen MacKeogh Award - was presented in recognition of an Outstanding Achievement in the art of film-making.

FÍS is a film project for primary schools which was initiated by the Department of Education and Science. The National Centre for Technology in Education in collaboration with Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology is rolling out the FÍS project to schools throughout the country. Some 75 primary schools participated in the project in the 2005/06 academic year.

Five of these schools were from Kilkenny. They were Mother of Fair Love School, James St; Stoneyford NS; Graiguenamanagh Boys NS; St Fiacc's NS, Graiguecullen; and Lisnafunchin NS.

The project is facilitated at local level by Kilkenny Education Centre and a local screening was held in June where the schools came together to watch the films they had made during the year. "Watchstoppers" by Scoil Chiaran Naofa Stoneyford, was then selected to go forward for the National awards in the Helix theatre.



The children of Kilvemnon NS in Mullinahone with their teacher Kate O' Connell and Principal Teckie Brett are presented with their award for Best Mystery Film for their film 'The missing jigsaw piece' by Minister for Education Mary Hanafin and popular TV presenter Daithí O' Shea at the Helix theatre in Dublin.



Anna White and Conor O' Dwyer of Scoil Chiaran Naofa Stoneyford, are presented with the FÍS award for Best Choice of Music for their film 'Watchstoppers' by the Minister for Education Mary Hanafin at an awards ceremony at the Helix in Dublin.

# Have brekkie and raise funds for Childline

BY NAOISE O' DONOVAN COOGAN

Kellogg's and Childline have announced details of the sixth Kellogg's Childline National Breakfast Together Day, which takes place from Sunday 19 until Sunday 26 November in aid of Childline.

Kellogg's are calling on Kilkenny families to take part in this year's event and it couldn't be easier.

Simply invite family, relatives, colleagues or friends to come together to help support one of Ireland's most important services for children and spend time together having a meal that experts agree is the most important meal of the day.

Kellogg's National Breakfast Together Day has become a hugely successful national family breakfast

fundraising initiative and one of the leading fundraising drives for the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC). This campaign is also an integral part of the Childline's "Time Together" campaign, which promotes the importance of families spending quality time together. Kellogg's is a key partner to the ISPCC 'Citizen Child' Strategy enabling Childline to

empower, support and protect children through IT and telecommunications. It is vital that when a child is seeking support they can access this through whatever medium allows them to express themselves most freely. By organising a breakfast in your area, everyone can play a substantial role in this initiative.

Last year saw a fantastic

response to the campaign with over €150,000 raised, 405 breakfasts taking place and over 20,000 people taking part in breakfast parties all across the country. This year Kellogg's and Childline hope to raise over €200,000. Anyone can take part in this activity from individual families to youth groups, schools, crèches, work places, and community groups.