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Stuart Haxell (31) with his mother Majella: Stuart has had vision restored after more t decade of functional blindness thanks to a new gene therapy administered for the first ti Ireland by consultant retina specialist Prof David Keegan at the Mater hospital in Dublin. PHOTOGRAPH, JULIEN BEHAL

He could see the letter. He could read it. "I was shaking. I never considered there was anything that could help with my condition. I never thought this could happen. All I could see before that was bright lights."

The 31-year-old, from Sligo town, is the first patient in Ireland to be treated with a ground-breaking ocular gene therapy.

ground-breaking therapy.

Retinal dystrophies
Known as Luxturna, the therapy received approval for use by the HSE in the State last year and has the potential to restore retinal function and vision in patients suffering from inherited retinal dystrophies.

Haxell had sight issues from birth, but it deteriorated, leav-

chance I could fall

ell was eligible, but Prof Keegan says the benefits speak for themselves.

"It's akin to plugging a television back in," he says. "The procedure is most effective when administered in childhood before significant retinal degeneration occurs, but as Stuart's case demonstrates, benefits are not only possible but significant

chance I could fall or bang into something," he says.

"For the first time in over a decade, I can see the world around me. Being able to read again is something I never thought possible and my quality of life has been improved."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHÚN LAOGHAIRE - RATH AN DÚIN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA PURSUANT TO SECTION 175 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)

Notice is hereby given that Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council intends to seek approval from An Bord Pleanála under Section 175 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (As Amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended) for the following proposed development titled:

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) intends to apply for permission for a proposed Flood Relief Scheme for the Carrickmines and Shanganagh Rivers at locations in the townlands of Woodside, Kilgobbin, Carrickmines Little/Great, Brennanstown, Shankill, Loughlinstown Commons, Loughlinstown, Shanganagh and Hackettsland, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Co. Dublin. The proposition of Relief Scheme includes the construction of new flood defences, modifications to existing flood defences, and installation of new culverts. FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME FOR THE CARRICKMINES AND SHANGANAGH RIVERS

The works proposed at each location are as follows:

The construction of c.113m of new flood defence c.16m of existing masonry walls. walls up to 1.35m high and demolition of

- Replacement of c.100m of the Sandyford Hall boundary wall with a concrete flood defence wall up to 2.6m in height and construction of c.36m of new flood defence wall in Belarmine Park up to 1.65m high. Minor upgrades to the existing inlet structure.
- Replacement of c.69m of existing stone boundary wall to a protected structure Kilgobbin House (RPS Ref:1684) and construction of c.100m of stone finished flood defence walls up to 1.7m upstream of Kilgobbin Bridge.

 Installation of c.298m of culvert from a proposed flow control weir at Kilgobbin Bridge to a discharge point adjoining Meadowbrook downstream.
- Demolition of c.128m of existing masonry walls and construction of c.259m of stone finished flood defence walls up to 1.9m high, including flood gate, along Castle View/Ballyogan Grove and the upstream face of the bridge at Glenamuck Road roundabout. Construction of c.90m of flood defence wall up to 1.5m high adjacent to the river immediately downstream of Glenamuck Road roundabout.
- of the existing bridge
- Construction of c.178m of flood defence wall ranging from 1.1m to 2.7m high, including demountable barriers and railings on the bank of the Bride's Glen River adjoining the existing properties upstream of the Cherrywood Viaduct, (RPS Ref: 1783), a protected structure.

- Construction of c.133m of concrete flood defence wall ranging from 1.1m to 3.1m high, including flood gate, to the rear of existing properties on Bray Road & within Cherrywood Park.
- c.75m of river channel realignment, replacement of the existing access bridge and strengthening works to the existing masonry arch.

Lower Brides Glen & N11 Overflow Culvert Construction of c 129m of float 3 - f

- Construction of c.129m of flood defence walls along the north bank River, within the curtilage of existing properties including a protected structure Waterfall Cottage (RPS Ref: 1770) immediately upstream of the N11 culvert.

 Installation of c.53m of new 2.4m diameter overflow pipe beneath the N11 dual carriageway and associated works.

nons Road, River Lane & Brookdene Estate

- Construction of c.209m of flood defence walls up to 2.4m high on Commons Road adjoining the river. Structural works to upgrade c. 324m of existing flood defence walls upstream of Shanganagh Road Bridge to an overall height of up to 3.6m. Structural remedial works to the existing Protected Structure, Shanganagh Bridge (RPS Ref: 1773) including underpinning, scour protection and reinforcement of the masonry parapet. Upgrading of c.113m of existing flood defence wall on River Lane to a height of up to 1.8m and construction of c.185m of flood defence wall to a height of up to 1.2m in the Brookdene Estate.

- Construction of c. 95m stone finished flood defence walls up to 1.8m adjacent to Bayview Grove/Lawns.
- Replacement of c.17m of existing boundary wall at 20 Bayview Lawns with a new flood defence wall to match existing wall height and finishes and
- Replacement of remaining c.10m of fence and wall tying into the culvert under the railway with a concrete flood defence wall.

All temporary working areas, 6 no. temporary site compounds, landscaping works, debris screens and screen upgrades and all other site development works.

A copy of the application for approval including EIAR may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specific fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of no less than 6 weeks from 27/02/2025 to 15/04/2025 (inclusive of both dates), at the following locations:

The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902

Planning Department, County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire between the hours of 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared for the proposed development and will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála with the application.

- The Council offices, Dundrum Office Park, Dundrum between the hours 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays

A copy of the submitted application may also be viewed or downloaded from the following website: www.csfrs.ie

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage EIA portal provides a link to the application:

https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1

Submissions or observations may be made in writing only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 in respect of:

The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development and

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by An Bord Pleanála not later than 5.30p.m. on 15/04/2025. Such submissions or observations should be titled "FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME FOR THE CARRICKMINES AND SHANGANAGH RIVERS" and must include the following information.

1. The name of the person, authority or body making the submission or observation the The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development.

- The name of the person, authority or body making the submission or observation, the name of the person, if any, acting on behalf of that person, authority or body, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by An Bord Pleanála. A submission or observation duly made will be considered by ABP in making a decision on the application. It is at the absolute discretion of ABP whether to hold an oral hearing on the case.

- The Board may in respect of an application for permission decide to

 (i) approve the proposed development,

 (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in the approval and approve the proposed development as so modified,
- approve, in part only, the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), or
- (iv) refuse to approve the proposed development, and may attach to an approval under subparagraph (i), (ii) or (iii) such conditions as it considers appropriate.

Any person may question the validity of any such decision by An Bord Pleanála made in respect of the application for permission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Legal Notices — Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to An Bord Pleanála (Telephone: 018588100).

Date: 19th February, 2025.



feel more confident that there's less of a

something there."

This, he says, has empowered him in a way he didn't think possible. "I feel much more comfortable when I come into a room. I feel more confident that there's less of a chance I could fall or bang into