

**17 October 2007**

**Fingal must sort out soccer pitches – Kennedy**

DEPUTY MICHAEL Kennedy (FF) has called on Fingal County Council to urgently address the soccer pitch crisis which has hit Swords just weeks before the start of the new season.

Deputy Kennedy said: “Some of the pitches around Swords are in desperate need of repair after the wet summer, especially the areas around the goal mouths. It is my fear that hundreds of young children will be unable to play in their leagues because of soft ground conditions.”

“We have almost 400 young children, from the age seven, making use of the facilities at the River Valley soccer pitches alone, but the ground is currently unsuitable for play.”

“In addition to this, figures recently obtained from the council by my colleague Cllr Darragh Butler (FF) have revealed that the demand for soccer pitches across Swords is so great that one of the GAA pitches at Brackenstown is to be converted to a soccer pitch.”

“This just illustrates the demand for soccer facilities in Swords, where there are currently ten 11-a-side pitches with 55 teams lined up to play.”

Deputy Kennedy concluded: “I am calling on the council to urgently address this issue – the winter soccer season is a popular one and the youngsters of Swords can ill afford to lose these activities.”