

**22 October 2007**

## **Kennedy calls for Fingal to adopt pilot road safety initiative**

FINGAL COUNTY Council should adopt a new pilot initiative aimed at promoting responsible driving among young adults, according to Dublin North TD Michael Kennedy.

Deputy Kennedy said: "In the Dublin North area alone there were two road deaths in 2006, with the youngest victim aged just two-years old. There has been two deaths so far in the region this year and I think it is clear that these statistics are unacceptable. This weekend's safe-driving promotion European Night Without Accident is a prime example of the kind of initiatives available to tackle dangerous driving."

"European Night Without Accident took place on Saturday night (October 20, 2007) in seven counties across Ireland and is a cross boarder road safety programme aimed at promoting responsible driving among young people."

"The initiative involved youth volunteers encouraging other youngsters to identify a designated driver when entering licensed premises. On entering the pub or club the driver was given a wrist-band advertising their intention to stay alcohol free for the night and on leaving the volunteers invited the designated driver to be breathalysed."

"Initiatives like this address one of the primary causes of fatal road accidents and target one of the main groupings responsible for traffic collisions. Obviously the majority of young people drive with care and caution but action still needs to be taken by local authorities to tackle dangerous driving."

"Fingal County Council has thus far been very committed to tackling road deaths, and its figures remain low in comparison to other local authorities. However, even just one death is too many and Fingal has appointed a Road Safety Officer to put in place a strategy to combat fatal road accidents and I am calling on him and the council to introduce an initiative like European Night Without Accident in advance of future bank holiday weekends," concluded Deputy Kennedy.