



PHIL FEST 2026

A COMMUNITY RUGBY FESTIVAL

Phil Fest – Who Was Phil ?

Philip Preston: A Life of Community, Rugby and Inspiration

Philip Preston was one of Tallaght’s most admired community figures, a man whose energy, generosity and commitment to young people left a lasting mark on everyone who knew him. Born and raised in Jobstown, Tallaght, to Rita and Philip Snr, Philip became a proud ambassador for his community and dedicated much of his life to helping others through sport, education and local initiatives.

Rugby was at the centre of Philip’s life. A respected player playing throughout the years with Guinness’s RFC, Athlone IT and in later life Tallaght RFC, Philip then began coaching and became Youth Development Oicer with Tallaght Rugby Club, he believed that sport could transform lives. Rather than waiting for young people to come to rugby, Philip brought rugby directly into local communities through the innovative “Rugby on the Green” programme where he would set up rugby activities on local green spaces around Tallaght and knock on doors in the area inviting kids to go and try Rugby. His work broke down barriers to participation and introduced countless children and teenagers to the game. Through his enthusiasm, encouragement and belief in young people, he inspired a new generation to become involved in sport and to realise their own potential.

Philip’s impact extended far beyond the rugby pitch. He was known throughout Tallaght as a community champion who supported local organisations and initiatives, particularly those focused on young people. Whether through his involvement with Tallaght Rugby Club, Citywise Education in Jobstown, or community events across the area, Philip had a unique ability to bring people together. Friends and colleagues regularly described him as a larger- than-life character whose positivity, humour and kindness made everyone feel valued.

In November 2015, Philip’s extraordinary contribution to Tallaght was formally recognised when he was named Tallaght Person of the Year. The award celebrated not only his work in rugby but also his dedication to community development and his efforts to create opportunities for young people. Accepting the honour, Philip spoke not about his own achievements but about the volunteers and community workers who dedicate themselves to making Tallaght a better place. His humility and pride in his hometown reflected the values that defined his life.

The community was devastated when Philip passed away suddenly in July 2016 at the age of 36. News of his death sent shockwaves throughout Tallaght, with tributes pouring in from friends, rugby clubs, community organisations and local residents. Many remembered him as a “man mountain with a heart of solid gold”—a phrase that perfectly captured both his physical presence and his immense kindness. Hundreds gathered to celebrate his life and support his Parents Rita and the late Philip Snr, Brothers Wayne, Codie and Seán, wife Aoife, daughter Kayleigh and the wider Preston family.

Today, Philip Preston’s legacy lives on. Tallaght Rugby Club continues to honour his memory through the annual Philip Preston Cup played against Guinness’s Rugby Club, while the youth structures he helped build continue to benefit generations of young players. More importantly, his example of service, community spirit and belief in others remains an inspiration across Tallaght. He is remembered not only for what he achieved, but for how he made people feel—encouraged, included and proud of their community.

Nearly a decade after his passing, Philip Preston remains a symbol of everything that is best about Tallaght: generosity, resilience, community pride and an unwavering commitment to helping others succeed. His legacy endures in the lives he touched, the opportunities he created and the community he loved so deeply.





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LOCATION:

JOBSTOWN PARK
EIR CODE: D24C8HN

WHEN:

DATE : 06-SEP-2026
TIME : 11.00 - 13.00

TRANSPORT

AS PARKING WILL BE LIMITED ON THE DAY WE
ENCOURAGE EVERYONE ATTENDING PHIL FEST TO
WALK, CYCLE OR USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.



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Activities

Rugby games for all ages ran by;

- Leinster Rugby
- Tallaght RFC
- Clondalkin RFC
- St Mary's RFC
- Guinnesses RFC

Rugby Hero's (Mixed Ability Rugby) ran by;

- Little blue hero's
- St Mary's STARS

Two sensory buses will be there on the day

Elite Rugby Workshops and Talks;

- Strength and Conditioning Workshop by
 - Ciarán Ruddock IRFU S&C Coach and Co-owner Of FFS Gyms
- Professional Rugby Player Q&A
- Player Pathways (What you need to do to become a professional)



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Trophies on Display



All Ireland League (AIL) Cup - Won by St Mary's RFC senior men's team highest rugby league in Ireland under professional level (Similar to League of Ireland soccer Cup)



United Rugby Cup (URC) - Won by Leinster senior men's rugby team this is the second year in a row Leinster has won this trophy never been done in the cups history so far !



Triple Crown Shield - Won by the Irish senior men's team this shield is only won when one of the team beat all other Irish and British teams in this year's 6 nations championship Ireland beat England, Scotland and Wales hence why we won the triple crown



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Music & Festival activities

Music by:

Noise Music

Festival Games and Face Painting:

Citywise Education

Pump track demonstrations

Calisthenics demonstrations

Presentation of the Phil Preston Shield

Emergency Vehicles on display

Library Bus



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Time Table

General Rugby Activities running for the duration of the event

Festival games and music for the duration of the event.



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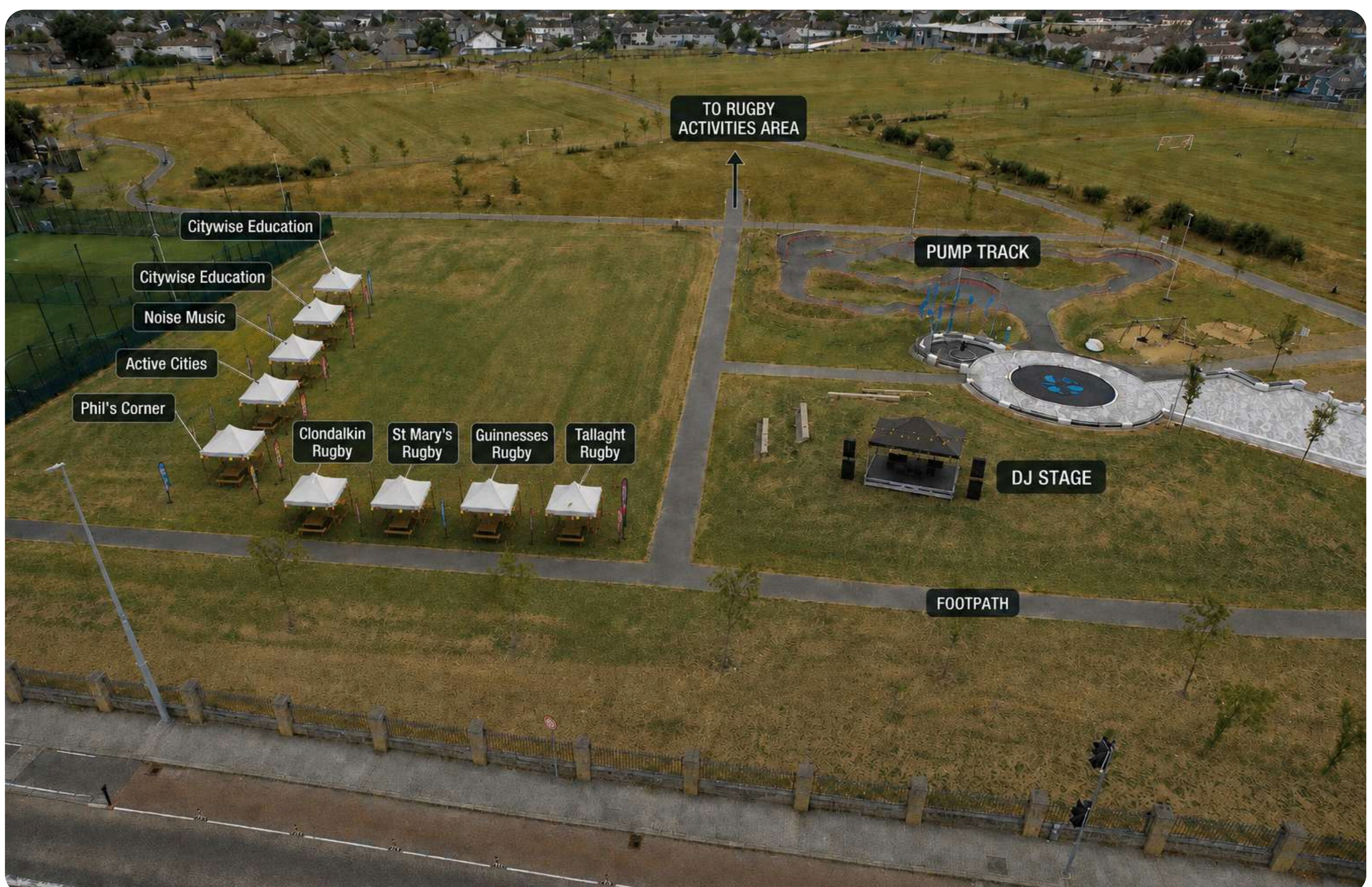
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Main layouts

Overview PhilFest



Rugby Village





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Rugby Activities Area





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Descriptions of Areas

Rugby Activities Area

Fun inclusive rugby games and drills ran by local clubs and Leinster Rugby for all ages boys and girls all mixed.

Rugby Hero's Area

Mixed ability rugby fun games ran by Little Blue Heros and St Mary's STARS rugby team This will be an enclosed hard surface area of reduced noise and activities to support sensory sensitive activity play, we will also have two sensory buses available and the area will be close walking proximity to disability parking.

Rugby Village

This area will have all rugby clubs information stands where you can find out more and sign up to join your locals clubs, we will have community groups and partners information stands where you can find out exciting things to do and supports in your area, We will also have festival activities including face painting and games by Citywise Education

Stage Area

Music and more by noise music and presentation of the Phil Preston Shield played between Tallaght RFC and Guinness RFC two clubs Phil played with.

Pump Track

Exciting fun bicycle track that provides an exhilarating ride. Demonstrations on the day

Outdoor Gym Area

High end outdoor gym area with calisthenics and correct usage demonstrations

Outdoor Playground

Wooden outdoor public playground for some nice relaxing family time

Dog Run

Enclosed public dog run onsite.



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Associated Partners:



An Garda Síochána
Seirbhís Náisiúnta Póilíneachta & Slándála na hÉireann
Ireland's National Police & Security Service



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