

From choirboy to lead singer with Qween — the Brian Keville story

by Adam Balmer

LEIXLIP man Brian Keville has been performing as Queen frontman Freddie Mercury for the last seven years.

The tribute act that he fronts is Qween and they have performed in such venues as the Olympia, Three Arena and at the Púca festival.

After his battle with cancer, Brian and his fellow band members are looking forward to rocking the stage at The Breakwater, Wexford with the Dublin Gospel Choir in August 2026.

Performing since 2002, Brian previously performed as the lead singer in an 1980s tribute act called Delorean.

"Down the years, we've always kind of performed 'Under Pressure' and 'Radio Ga Ga' and I think those songs really stood out in the minds of people after each set.

"We wanted to take it to the next level, where we went full time with a Queen tribute and dissolved the previous band and have never looked back."

Brian enjoyed the 'unique era' as he describes it performing with Delorean across the land but is certainly having a good time now with Qween.

Brian who has lived in Leixlip his whole life, found that his first love for music started at a young age, he credits his mother's side of the family and his brother John for inspiration which gave him the grá for music.

"Music was everywhere in my life, from walking to school, to going to bed, I always had something on.

"During my school days at Coláiste Chiaráin, I sang in choirs and really at any chance I got whether it be in assemblies or theatres."

Aside from the stage, Brian played hurling with Leixlip. He loved the game winning plenty with Leixlip and at school with the community games.

Brian parted ways with hurling to pursue a career in music and attended college in Ballyfermot, studying Computer Animation.

Through pursuing a career in music, Brian learned how to play the guitar and piano but admits he never knew his dream of a career in music would come true.

"I really had a passion for something that I never quite imagined would come to be my career.

"It's really an amazing natural kind of development into a dream and the past 20 years or so have been amazing."

Inspired

Pearl Jam, Sound Garden and other classic bands such as Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and Queen inspired the young Brian.

"Queen were just outstanding, as a group, they always had a back catalogue that was hit after hit, songs that everybody knew.

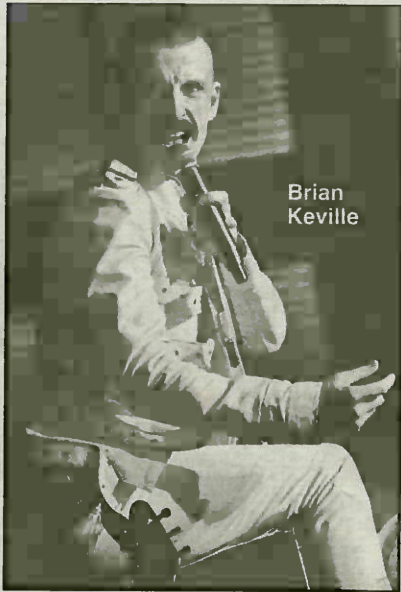
"There was never a time you weren't familiar with the band and I suppose that made it easier to become a Queen tribute act."

Brian is joined in Qween by guitarist and co-manager Thomas Brunkard, James McGeehan, Graham Sheridan and Leixlip native Eoghan O'Neill.

In 2023 Brian received news that he had Leiomyosarcoma (LMS), a rare form of cancer that effects four in a million.

The tumour went unnoticed for months as Brian continued performing as Freddie Mercury, it wasn't until the later stages of 2023 that he got checked.

As a result of the cancer, Brian was laid up for months unable to perform and had knee replacement surgery and a third of his tibia operated on which meant a shin



Brian Keville

replacement.

In a post to thousands of fans on Instagram, Brian promised he would be back stronger than ever. He got the all clear in 2024 and is back to his best.

Brian's journey through his cancer and Qween's rising success was documented last year on RTE.

The national broadcaster ran a documentary called The Great Pretenders, which explored the vibrant and increasingly popular tribute band scene in Ireland.

It's not just Brian in the Keville family with an artistic, talented bone! His brother and sister have made a career using their artistic intuition.

John is an executive producer in film and is working on the highly anticipated Saipan movie, a film all about the 2002 fall out between Irish manager Mick McCarthy and Midfielder Roy Keane.

Brian's sister Caroline is the person who certifies the age rating on the movie your about to watch.

'Monstrous'

Outside of music Brian, who is from Dun Carraig, lives near Louisa apartments with his beautiful dog Frankie the Staffy.

Brian describes the Breakwater gig in Wexford on 7th August 2026 as "monstrous" for the tribute act.

"It'll probably be our biggest show we've done to date down there. So to be able to perform in such a venue with such a crowd is beyond our wildest dreams, for a tribute act to be doing this, we are one of the only ones to have had an opportunity like this."

Brian and Qween, pour their heart and soul into their wardrobe and performance making sure the crowd get the full Qween experience.

Although not superstitious, Brian always has his hot honey lemon ginger and cayenne pepper drink on stage with him.

In order to belt out like the late Freddie Mercury, Brian must keep his vocals ready and his homemade brew certainly does the trick.

'It's A Hard Life' is Brian's favourite song to perform, but 'Somebody To Love' is his favourite out of all the Queen songs.

"Done live 'It's A Hard Life' is magnificent. It runs the entire gamut of the vocal range and has everything from, suspense, tension, to relief, to power, to precision and more."

Tickets for the Qween gig at the Breakwater in Wexford, where they'll be joined by the Dublin Gospel Choir are available on Ticketmaster.ie, starting at €37.50.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA
Kildare County Council

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 177 AE (4) (A) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED (AS INSERTED BY SECTION 57 THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT 2010) CELBRIDGE HAZELHATCH MOBILITY CORRIDOR APPLICATION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

Pursuant to Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, notice is hereby given that Kildare County Council proposes to seek the consent for proposed development from An Coimisiún Pleanála, the competent authority, in relation to proposed road development consisting of:

The construction of a new road, pedestrian footpaths, and cycle lanes as part of an active travel corridor known as the Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor, located in Celbridge Town, County Kildare. The proposed corridor spans approximately 2km, commencing at a new junction with Clane Road (R403) and extending southeast through predominantly greenfield lands. The corridor connects with the R405 Hazelhatch Road and terminates at the Loughlinstown Road Roundabout near Hazelhatch and Celbridge Train Station.

A new bridge crossing over the River Liffey is proposed approximately 200m south of the Clane Road junction.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS), AA Screening, Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment together with all supporting documents including Drawings/Plans, Planning Report, Environmental Report, Flood Risk Assessment and Preliminary Construction Environmental Management Plan have been prepared in respect of the proposed development for the application to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

An Coimisiún Pleanála may give consent for the development with or without conditions and/or restrictions or may refuse consent for development.

The Natura Impact Assessment (NIS), Screening for EIA, together with all supporting documents, reports, drawings, plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection free of charge, or may be purchased on payment of a fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during normal office hours, at the following locations from:

Monday - Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., from Friday, 14 November 2025 to Monday, 5 January 2026 except Bank Holidays.

- Kildare County Council, Level 1, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare

OR

- Celbridge Community Library, St Patrick's Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 VA47
- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, Monday - Friday during working hours. Phone: (01) 858 8100 or Lo-call 1800 275 175.

The application to An Coimisiún Pleanála is also available for inspection at:

- Website: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/celbridge-hazelhatch-mobility-corridor-compulsory-purchase-order-2025>

Submissions and observations, with respect to the proposed development, relating to:

- I. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area in which the proposed development is situate
- II. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- III. The likely significant effects of the proposed development on any European sites,

may be made in writing to:

- The Secretary, Local Authority Projects Section, An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 before 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 5 January 2026.

A person may question the validity of any such decision of An Coimisiún Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986 as amended) in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Practical information in respect of the judicial review process can be accessed on the Coimisiún website www.pleanala.ie or the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

A Compulsory Purchase Order, to which the proposed road and active travel corridor development relates, has been made by Kildare County Council and will be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála under separate cover.

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
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