

done!" slogans and banner after banner declaring variously: "Well done Caitriona", "Golden Boy Fergal" and "Congratulations Denise on winning silver!"

About 800 people had come from all over the country to welcome home the 126 athletes and 49 coaches of Team Ireland from the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens.

The team returned with an impressive cache of 107 medals and dozens of place ribbons in 12 sports - aquatics, athletics,

O'Leary. "He has been training hard for the past five years. He's been a great pitch and putt player since he was a young fella and then got into the golf."

When he arrived, the tall, dark Kerryman of few words, said he had got on "fine" at the games. Asked what his plans were for the next few days, he said: "Sleep and a barbecue."

Joyce Haughian, from Warrenpoint, Co Down, brought home two silvers and one gold medal for bowling.

"It was absolutely fantastic, the

"It is so wonderful to see our athletes getting the recognition they deserve. When Joyce was born, well, no I never thought I'd be welcoming her home from the Olympics. I have cried over the past few weeks. It's wonderful and unbelievable and the whole of Warrenpoint is looking forward to welcoming our heroine home this evening."

The team was welcomed home by Minister of State for Sport Michael Ring who described the athletes as "the most wonderful ambassadors for your country, in every possible way".

the scene by a local.

The two adults and escaped uninjured but w

Two units of the fire brigade from Galway attended the incident were assisted by colleagues who closed the road and set up a boundary.

Fingal council calls time on bin service

Fingal County Council is set to become the latest local authority to exit the household waste collection market with a plan for full privatisation from the end of this year.

The decision of the council's management to stop collecting bins follows a consultant's report which found that the service would make a minimum loss of €7 million in 2012.

County manager David O'Connor has written to county councillors saying that it was no longer possible to subsidise the loss-making service. There would be no compulsory redundancies, Mr O'Connor said and bin service staff would be redeployed to other areas of the council.

Experts to review power line

JOANNE HUNT

THE MINISTER for Energy Pat Rabbitte is to establish an expert international commission to look at the controversial North South electricity interconnector

Pat Rabbitte said the commission which would look at "the case for, and cost of, undergrounding all or part of the Meath-Tyrone 400KV power lines". He will finalise the composition of the

three-person commission over the next few days.

The Minister said the group would be required to complete its work by October and report back within six months.

Proponents of the interconnector say it is needed to improve electricity competition by reducing constraints to the all-island electricity market and also to improve security of supply.

The establishment of the com-

mission follows the collapse last June of the planning process for the interconnector which was estimated to cost €280 million.

An error in the original application for the line through Meath, Cavan and Monaghan forced the State's electricity network operator, Eirgrid, to withdraw the application during a Bord Pleanála hearing into the issue. A review found incorrect information was supplied by ESB International.

IRISH TIMES

6/7/11