

CHAMPION MOTORING

Become a member of the 'Cupra Clan'

by Seán Creedon

LAST week my test car was the electric Cupra Born. Cupra used to be a sub section of Seat cars, but now they are a brand on their own, but still under the VW umbrella.

The Born is their first electric version. It was unveiled as a concept car in 2019 as El-Born and takes its name from an area in La Ribera, one of the oldest districts in the city of Barcelona.

The Seat headquarters is in Martorell, which is located in the hills above Barcelona, but the Born is made at Seat's German plant in Zwickau.

The designers say they wanted to make a real statement with the Cupra and they came up with an unusual logo. The design team say the creation of a separate and powerful logo was critical in order to help establish Cupra as an independent brand of car.

We are told that the inverted triangle goes far beyond being a simple logo. As an emblem it's supposed to symbolise the sense of belonging to a clan, the Cupra clan.

In Ireland Cupra already has 11 points of sale and they are gradually building up their 'Cupra Garage' range where the distinct Cupra corporate identity has been fitted.



Niall Phillips, brand director for Seat and Cupra in Ireland said the Spanish high-performance brand is continuing to go from strength to strength both in Ireland and across the globe. Niall said: "Cupra's impressive sales growth in the Irish market which is up 341 per cent year on year, is proof that discerning Irish car buyers want to be part of this exciting and dynamic brand."

When you sit in, there is no need to press a start but-

ton. The car moves off once you select 'drive' in what is a really unusual lever located the right of the steering wheel.

I drove a very attractive Aurora Blue model with some lovely copper touches in the front. It's a real eye-catcher, all topped off with the Cupra logo on the bonnet. You will also find the logo on the door of the boot.

Inside the colour of the comfortable seats was Granite Grey Dynamic.

Overall the interior is a bit dark, but there are nice copper touches on the dash and the doors. The dash is dominated by a 12-inch touchscreen.

There is enough room in the back for three adults at a squeeze, two very comfortably. As usual with most electric cars no spare wheel is supplied.

It's a really gorgeous car to look at and to drive. Several people that I met in various car parks around Dublin city and county last

week said they loved it and wanted to know the name of the car.

Prices start at €38,160, while the price of my test cars with lots of goodies came to €42,412. The range is approximately 425km when fully charged and if you can find a fast charger that is free, it will charge very quickly. But really if you are thinking of buying an electric car, it's best if you have a home charger.

I'm sure you can be a member of the 'Cupra Clan' even if you don't buy all of those expensive extras in your new Born. Those extras will cost you €1,200 for the fancy bucket seats and just over €1k for the 20-inch Hurricane machined Aero alloys.



PLANNING PERMISSION

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL: I, Damien Donegan, intend to apply for planning permission for development at this site: Dublin Road, Celbridge, County Kildare (to the west of Riverview Apartments). The development will consist of: Three storey building with shop at ground floor and offices on the upper floors. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, County Kildare, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL: We, Michael and Danielle

O'Callaghan, intend to apply for planning permission for 4 Glen Easton Crescent, Leixlip, County Kildare W23 HF40. The development will consist of, to extend existing den and hallway at ground floor level to front and side of property and erect a first-floor extension over den and new build to the front and side of property, new roof windows in existing roof, relocate driveway entrance and add new piers and boundary wall, keeping 4600mm entrance width and dish footpath accordingly and all associated site works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, County Kildare, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on

the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL: Planning permission is sought by Mr. Jose Mathew for the construction of an office with toilet facility and store to replace existing shed and toilet facility at rear of house at No. 1, Hillcrest Park, Lucan, County Dublin. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL: Sunil Varghese is applying for planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear extension incorporating a playroom and office, plus all associated site works within a

strategic development zone, at 11 Shackleton Abbey, Lucan, County Dublin. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL: Mathew Karuvell Gheevarghese is applying for planning permission for the construction of a single storey garden building, incorporating a gym/playroom and office, to the rear of an existing 2 storey end of terrace dwelling, plus all associated site works within a strategic development zone, at 11 Shackleton Abbey, Lucan, County Dublin. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council

during its public opening hours of 9am – 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL: Tony and Sarah Smyth intend to apply for planning permission for the development at this site: 158 Glendale Meadows, Leixlip, County Kildare. The development will consist of an extension at ground floor level to the side of the property and include the addition of a porch extension to the front of the property. The total additional floor area of the extension will consist of 29m². The proposed extension will increase the lobby entrance space to the front of the property, while adding a downstairs toilet, utility, and additional bedroom. "The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in

relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application."

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL: Permission is sought by Gerald Kelly for subdivision of site, provision of a two-storey dwelling, enlarged entrance/driveway with pillars, pedestrian entrance on South-West boundary, connection to mains drainage, removal of existing shed, boundary walls at rear and sides, associated site development works, at 126 Elton Court Leixlip County Kildare. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.