Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on Monday, 11th October, 2021 in the MS Teams, at 5.00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors:

Boland, Cathal
Butler, Darragh
Carey, Ian
Conroy, Pamela
Dennehy, Brian
Dennison, Kieran
Doyle, Tania
Graves, Ann
Guerin, Jimmy
Hanaphy, Breda
Healy, David
Henchy, Adrian
Hopkins, Joan
Humphreys, James
Kitt, Tom
Lavin, Anthony
Leddy, Ted
Maguire, Grainne
Mahony, Howard
Manton, Brigid

Councillors:

McCamley, Mary
McDonagh, Brian
Mulligan, Dean
Mulville, Paul
Murphy, Tony
Newman, Joe
O'Brien, Eoghan
O'Donoghue, Robert
O'Leary, Tom
Onwumereh, JK
Ó Rodaigh, Seana
O'Rourke, Aaron
Power, Karen
Rane, Punam
Shovlin, Siobhan
Tormey, Aoibhinn
Treacy, Natalie
Walsh, John
Whooley, Daniel

The Mayor, Cllr. S Ó Rodaigh, presided.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

AnnMarie Farrelly (Chief Executive); John Quinlivan (Director of Services/Corporate Affairs & Governance); Emer O'Gorman (Director of Services/EETD); David Storey (Director of Services/Environment, Climate Action & Active Mobility); Mary Daly (Director of Services/Operations & Water Services); Matthew McAleese (Director of Services/Planning & Strategic Infrastructure); Oliver Hunt (Head of Finance); Liam Burke (A/Director of Services/Housing and Community), Brian Buckley (Senior Executive Officer); Mary Egan (Senior

Executive Officer); Kevin Halpenny (Senior Parks Superintendent); Bronagh Corry (Administrative Officer).

F/417/21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr. S. Ó Rodaigh, reminded Members that Standing Orders would apply to all aspects of the meeting.

The Mayor then extended sympathies on behalf of herself and the Members to Cllr. Brian McDonagh following the death of his mother.

F/418/21 (Agenda Item No 1)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029 Meeting held on 30th August 2021

Minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 30th August 2021 which had been circulated were considered.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor P. Rane, seconded by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh and **RESOLVED –**

"That the minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 30th August 2021 be **ADOPTED."**

F/419/21 (Agenda Item No 2)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029 meeting held on 31st August 2021

Minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 31st August 2021 which had been circulated were considered.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor P. Rane, seconded by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh and **RESOLVED –**

"That the minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 31st August 2021 be **ADOPTED."**

F/420/21 (Agenda Item No 3)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029 meeting held on 6th September 2021

Minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 6th September 2021 which had been circulated were considered.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor P. Rane, seconded by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh and **RESOLVED –**

"That the minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 6th September 2021 be **ADOPTED."**

F/421/21 (Agenda Item No 4)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Fingal Development Plan 2023 - 2029 meeting held on 10th September 2021

Minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 10th September 2021 which had been circulated were considered.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor P. Rane, seconded by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh and **RESOLVED –**

"That the minutes of the Fingal Development Plan Meeting held on 10th September 2021 be **ADOPTED."**

F/422/21 (Agenda Item No 5)

Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of County Council meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021

Minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 13th September 2021 which had been circulated were considered.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor P. Rane, seconded by Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh and **RESOLVED –**

"That the minutes of the County Council Meeting held on 13th September 2021 be **ADOPTED."**

F/423/21 (Agenda Item No 6)

Filling of Casual Vacancy on Fingal County Council following the death of Councillor Freddie Cooper

The report by the Chief Executive, setting out the required procedures, which had been circulated was **READ**.

In accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, Cllr. JK Onwumereh was co-opted as a Member of Fingal County Council.

F/424/21 (Agenda Item No 7)

Appointment of one Member to the Community Development, Heritage Culture and Creativity Strategic Policy Committee

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Butler, seconded by Cllr. H. Mahony and **AGREED**:

"That Councillor JK Onwumereh be appointed to the Community Development, Heritage Culture and Creativity Strategic Policy Committee."

F/425/21 (Agenda Item No 8)

Appointment of one Member to Joint Fingal and South Dublin Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Butler, seconded by Cllr. H. Mahony and **AGREED**:

"That Councillor JK Onwumereh be appointed to the Joint Fingal and South Dublin Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee."

F/426/21 (Agenda Item No 9)

Appointment of one Member to the Joint Policing Committee

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Butler, seconded by Cllr. T. Kitt and AGREED:

"That Councillor JK Onwumereh be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee."

F/427/21 (Agenda Item No 10)

Appointment of one Member to the Airport Regions Conference

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was CONSIDERED.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Butler, seconded by Cllr. T. Murphy and AGREED:

"That Councillor C. Boland be appointed to the Airport Regions Conference."

F/428/21 (Agenda Item No 11)

Appointment of one Member to Hansfield SDZ

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was CONSIDERED.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Butler, seconded by Cllr. T. Kitt and AGREED:

"That Councillor JK Onwumereh be appointed to the Hansfield SDZ."

F/429/21 (Agenda Item No 12)

Appointment of one Member to the County Heritage Forum

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was CONSIDERED.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Butler, seconded by Cllr. T. Kitt and AGREED:

"That Councillor JK Onwumereh be appointed to the County Heritage Forum."

F/430/21

QUESTIONS

It was proposed by Councillor J. Newman, seconded by Councillor K. Dennison and RESOLVED:

"That in accordance with Standing Order No. 53, Questions numbered 13 to 24, be ADOPTED."

F/431/21 (Agenda Item No 13)
Councillor J. Hopkins - Coastal Liaison Group follow up

F/432/21 (Agenda Item No 14)
Councillor C. Boland - Responses to Representations

F/433/21 (Agenda Item No 15)
Councillor H. Mahony -Qualified Road Sweeper Drivers

F/434/21 (Agenda Item No 16)
Councillor H. Mahony - Leixlip Water Treatment Plant

F/435/21 (Agenda Item No 17)
Councillor B. Manton - Equalisation of Area Committee funding

F/436/21 (Agenda Item No 18)
Councillor B. Manton - Urban Regional Development Fund

F/437/21 (Agenda Item No 19)
Councillor A. Henchy - Coastal Erosion Update

F/438/21 (Agenda Item No 20)
Councillor T. Doyle - Abandoned Vehicles Update

F/439/21 (Agenda Item No 21)
Councillor P. Mulville -Separated / Segregated Public Bins

F/440/21 (Agenda Item No 22)
Councillor I. Carey - Swords Cultural Quarter update

F/441/21 (Agenda Item No 23)
Councillor D. Mulligan - Segregated Cycleway Review

F/442/21 (Agenda Item No 24)
Councillor B. Dennehy - Fingal County Council Burial Grounds Policy

F/443/21 (Agenda Item No 25)

Report of Committees

a Report of Naming and Commemorative Memorial Committee meeting held on 28th September 2021

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED.**

b Report of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6th October 2021

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED.**

c Quarterly reports of Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons

The report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED.**

d Report of Adjourned Organisation, Procedures & Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

F/444/21 (Agenda Item No 26)

Financial Matters

a Report on Overdraft Accommodation 2022

The report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED**. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr K. Dennison, seconded by Cllr. P. Rane and **AGREED**:

"That the Council approve, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the securing of overdraft accommodation on the Council's revenue account to a limit of €25m for the period 1/1/2022 to 31/12/2022."

b Consideration Of Capital Programme

The report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED**.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. D. Whooley and seconded by Cllr. D. Healy that –

"Any additional spending regarding further work envisioned but not legally committed to the N3 M50 upgrade be indefinitely suspended due to a lack of certainty around funding for the construction of the road upgrade."

Following discussion, the Mayor then instructed that a roll call vote be taken and on a division the voting resulted as follows:

FOR: 7 SEVEN
AGAINST: 32 THIRTY-TWO

FOR: Councillors Carey, Ian; Conroy, Pamela; Healy, David; Hopkins, Joan; Mulville, Paul; Power, Kare; Whooley, Daniel.

AGAINST: Councillors Boland, Cathal; Butler, Darragh; Dennehy, Brian; Dennison, Kieran; Doyle, Tania; Graves, Ann; Guerin, Jimmy; Hanaphy, Breda; Henchy, Adrian; Humphreys, James; Kitt, Tom; Lavin, Anthony; Leddy, Ted; Maguire, Grainne; Mahony, Howard; Manton, Brigid; McCamley, Mary; McDonagh, Brian; Mulligan, Dean; Murphy, Tony; Newman, Joe; O'Brien, Eoghan; O'Donoghue, Robert; O'Leary, Tom; Onwumereh, JK; Ó Rodaigh, Seána; O'Rourke, Aaron; Rane, Punam; Shovlin, Siobhan; Tormey, Aoibhinn; Treacy, Natalie; Walsh, John.

The Mayor then declared the motion **LOST**.

Following further discussion, the report was **NOTED**.

F/445/21 (Agenda Item No 27)

Proposed Disposal of Properties

a Proposed disposal of land including Right of Way to the rear of Whitestown Avenue, Dublin 15 to Gas Networks Ireland

This item was **DEFERRED** to the November meeting of the County Council.

b Proposed disposal of 1.547 hectares (3.82 acres) approximately at Damastown Industrial Park, Damastown, Dublin 15 to TQ Transport Ltd T/A Hendrick European

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **CONSIDERED.** It was proposed by Councillor T. Murphy and seconded by Councillor M. McCamley and **RESOLVED**:

"That the land referred to in the attached report be disposed of in accordance with the terms specified therein."

F/446/21 (Agenda Item No 28)

Report on Allocation of Discretionary Funds

The report, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**. The report recommended –

- To remain with the existing one-third allocation on the discretionary works programme to the three Operational Areas which is in place since 2012
- To allocate the additional €1m being provided in the 2022 Revenue Budget by the number of Councillors in each Operational Area
- That the existing baseline divisional allocation to remain as is
- That additional allocations from 2022 onwards, to the baseline discretionary work programme, will be allocated by the number of Councillors in each area.

It was **AGREED** to take Motion Item No. 36 in conjunction with this item.

The motion in the name of Cllr. I. Carey was proposed by Cllr. I. Carey and seconded by Cllr. D. Butler.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. S. Ó. Rodaigh, seconded by Cllr. D. Whooley and **AGREED** –

"That the County Council proceed in accordance with the recommendations contained in the foregoing report."

F/447/21 (Agenda Item No 36)

Councillor I. Carey - Actions to resolve the unfair allocation of Programme of Works funding

F/448/21

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr. S. Ó Rodaigh and **AGREED** to vary the order of the agenda and take the agenda items in the following order - Items No. 34, 35, 30, 29, 31, 32 and 33.

F/449/21 (Agenda Item No 34)

Conferences

a IPI Annual Planning Conference 18/19 November 2021

The notice, which had been circulated, was **NOTED**.

F/450/21 (Agenda Item No 35)

Correspondence

a Letter from Sligo County Council dated 10th September re: Remuneration of Frontline Workers

The correspondence, which had been circulated, was **NOTED**.

b Letter from Leitrim County Council dated 10th September 2021 re: River Drainage

The correspondence, which had been circulated, was **NOTED**.

c Letter from Leitrim County Council dated 10th September 2021 re: Housing Grant Schemes

The correspondence, which had been circulated, was **NOTED**.

d Letter dated 16th September from Meath County Council Re: Japanese Knot Weed

The correspondence, which had been circulated, was **NOTED**.

e Letter from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade

The correspondence, which had been circulated, was **NOTED**.

F/451/21 (Agenda Item No 30)
The Forest of Fingal, A Tree Strategy for Fingal

This item was **DEFERRED** to the November meeting of the County Council.

F/452/21 (Agenda Item No 29)
Space for Play: A Play Policy for Fingal

The report of the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**.

It was proposed by Cllr. S Ó Rodaigh and seconded by Cllr. D. Whooley that –

"Fingal County Council's 'Space for Play: A Play Policy for Fingal' is hereby **ADOPTED**."

F/453/21 (Agenda Item No 31)
Draft Dublin Agglomeration Air Quality Plan

The report of the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED**.

F/454/21 (Agenda Item No 32)
Chief Executive's Report

The report of the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was **CONSIDERED**. Following discussion, the report was **NOTED**.

F/455/21 (Agenda Item No 33)

Mayors Business: Councillor S. Ó Rodaigh - Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Coastal Mobility Route visit

The motion in the name of Cllr S. Ó Rodaigh was proposed by Cllr. S. Ó Rodaigh and seconded by Cllr. D. Whooley.
Following discussion, the motion was **PASSED.**

The Meeting concluded at 8.00pm

MAYOR _____ DATE _____

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 02

HERITAGE GRANTS

Question: Councillor A. Henchy

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a comprehensive update on the successful projects that were put forward by Fingal County Council this year for Heritage funding to the Department of Housing & Local Government and will this awarded funding have to be matched by Fingal County Council in advancing those successful projects?"

Reply:

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provides funding through two schemes for the repair and conservation of Protected Structures or buildings that contribute to the character of an Architectural Conservation Area. These are the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF). A presentation is brought to Council at the start of each year on all completed projects from the previous year.

A new funding scheme for protected archaeological sites of National Monuments or Recorded Monuments was piloted at the end of 2020 and first full year operated in 2021. This is called the Community Monument Fund (CMF), administered by the Heritage Officer and has different streams of funding for survey work, interpretation or for capital works.

The funding amount awarded is paid by Fingal County Council to the applicant on the completion of the works to a satisfactory standard. Fingal County Council then makes a recoupment claim to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the amount it has paid out to all the completed projects. For the BHIS & HSF the applicant must cover a certain amount of the costs from their own resources, in most circumstances the funding will be for maximum of 50% of cost of works (up to max limit of each scheme). The HSF can allow for funding up to 80% of the costs but a case has to be made to and agreed by the Department of HLGH for this. The CMF provides 100% funding.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Each Local Authority is provided with an annual allocation for it to divide out among eligible applications. This scheme is for medium sized projects with funding ranging between min. €2,500 to max. €15,000. Fingal County Council allocation for 2021 was €72,000. Full details of the completed projects under this scheme will be presented to Council in early 2022.

Historic Structures Fund

Rather than specific allocation to each local authority this scheme is based on a restricted number of projects been submitted by each local authority to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for consideration. The amount allocated to successful projects is determined by the Department. This for large scale conservation projects with two funding streams. Range of funding under Stream 1 min. €15,000 – max. €50,000, Stream 2 min. €50,000 to €200,000.

HSF Ref	Structure Name and Address	Proposed Works	Funding Stream	Private or Public Ownership	Update
HSF21-24	Carnegie Library, North Street, Swords, Co. Dublin	Repair & refurbishment of windows & installation of secondary	Steam 1	Public	DEFERRED TO 2022 – contract underway but

		glazing			proposed works to windows delayed
HSF21-25	Rowlestown House, Rowlestown, Co. Dublin	Structural repair to west chimney & stitching of cracks in SW corner of ground & first floor	Stream 1	Private	Work underway
HSF21-26	St. George's School, Hampton Street, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin	Roof repair	Stream 1	Private	Works almost complete
HSF21-99	Guinness Bridge, Lower Road, Strawberry Beds, Dublin 20	Conservation & repair of wrought iron girder bridge & stone abutments	Steam 2	Public	Allocation awarded over 2 years so partial claim to be made in 2021 but substantial works and claim will occur in 2022

HSF20-102	Dunsink Observatory (South Dome), Dunsink lane, Dublin 15	Repair/refurbishment of historic telescope	Stream 2	Private	DEFERRED TO 2022 – initial funding was split over two year for 2020 & 2021. Works done in 2020 but difficulty in getting expertise for telescope repair in 2021 with Covid restrictions so deferred to 2022

Community Monuments Fund

As with HSF rather than specific allocation to each local authority this scheme is based on a restricted number of projects been submitted by each local authority to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for consideration. It is for archaeological monuments and has three streams. Stream 1 for essential repairs and capital works (max grant €85,000), Stream 2 for Conservation Management Plans/Reports (max grant €30,000) and Stream 3 for enhancement of access and interpretation (max grant €30,000).

CMF Ref	Structure Name and Address	Proposed Works	Funding Stream	Private or Public Ownership	Update
CMF21-1-DF001	Castleknock Castle, Castleknock College, Dublin 15	Consolidation works to prevent collapse, with schools-based interpretation element for public	Steam 1	Private	Completed
CMF21-1-DF002	St. David's Church, Kilsallaghan, Co. Dublin	Structural repair of collapsed boundary wall to graveyard	Steam 1	Private	Completed
CMF21-1-DF003	Burial site, Windmill Lands, Swords, Co. Dublin	Protection works for bank of Ward River to prevent further erosion of early medieval burial site	Steam 1	Public	Completed
CMF21-2-DF001	St. Columba's Towers, Church Road, Swords, Co. Dublin	Survey, Condition report & specification of repairs	Steam 2	Private	Completed
CMF21-2-DF002	Malahide Abbey, Malahide Castle, Malahide, Co.	3D Survey, Condition Report & Specification	Steam 2	Public	Completed

	Dublin	of repairs			
CMF21-2-DF003	Rush Tower House & St. Catherine's Church, Kenure, Rush, Co. Dublin	3D Survey, Condition Report of Tower House & Specification of repairs for Tower House & St. Catherine's Church	Steam 2	Public	Completed
CMF21-2-DF004	Lanistown Castle, Donabate & St. Marnock's Church, Portmarnock	3D Survey, Condition Report for Lanistown Castle & Specification of Repairs for Lanistown & St. Marnocks	Steam 2	Public	Completed
CMF21-3-DF001	Portrane-Donabate	Portrane-Donabate Peninsula Heritage Audit & Interpretation Plan	Steam 3	Community project	Due to lack of availability of appropriate expertise to undertake project it was split into an archaeological audit which is

					completed and heritage audit which will continue into 2022. Funding reallocated to vegetation removal at Lanistown to allow CMf21-2-DF004 to procced.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 03

DISPUTED OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Question: Councillor H. Mahony

"Can the Executive outline what action is taken when a homeowner produces deeds claiming ownership of the footpath and road used by the public as this is the case in some of the County's older villages and towns?"

Reply:

In such cases the Council undertakes a legal search to verify the ownership of the footpath and road identified and whether any public rights of way exist. A search of internal records is also conducted to establish whether the Council has taken the area in charge and whether the Council has undertaken any works to the footpath and road. Once the above information is ascertained, the Council is in a position to engage with the home owner and their legal representatives, to agree a legal resolution to the matter.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 04

GRASS CUTTING

Question: Councillor B. Manton

"To ask the Chief Executive if a review of the grass cutting policy could be undertaken as some areas of the County are looking very unkempt due to very long grass, particularly the entrance areas in some of our towns and roundabouts where the view across the roundabout is impaired by very long grass and weeds in the centre of the roundabout?"

Reply:

The Council prioritises how we deliver the grass cutting service based on a number of factors principally aimed at meeting the requirements of "Keeping it Green", An Open Space Strategy for Fingal and matching resources against the acreage of area to be maintained. As a rule of thumb playing pitches get priority in terms of being cut usually every 5 to 7 days and then all other open spaces are cut on rotation. Grass margins opposite open spaces are cut in this cycle. As grass cutting is weather dependent it is not always possible to achieve these targets. Our aim is to provide a consistent approach right across the county in terms of how works are delivered. Through the Citizen Charter our expectation is that individual residents or residents groups would take care of areas outside or abutting their property either individually or as part of a resident's group. There will always be exceptions

for specific reasons, and these are dealt with by the Area Inspectors and their teams on a case by case basis.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 05

ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING POSTS

Question: Councillor B. Manton

"To ask the Chief Executive how many of the allotted promised engineering posts have been filled to date, how many remain to be filled and in which departments they have/will be deployed and whether one will be dedicated to overseeing the repair of our roads?"

Reply:

There are 82 engineering posts across all Departments, 15 of which were additional posts created during 2021, primarily for the creation of posts to support the Active Travel Programme (9 Posts). There are currently 68 Engineers employed.

Since 2019, the Council has directly run 5 recruitment campaigns for posts within the Council's remit while the Public Appointments Service have also run campaigns for more senior posts. These campaigns have given rise to 30 new Engineers being appointed. During the same period 21 Engineers have left the organisation. Approximately 50% of offers of employment to Engineers have been declined.

The Council has recently advertised and is at present running recruitment campaigns while also awaiting recommendations for appointments from campaigns run by the Public Appointments Service to fill the outstanding posts.

There are 20 Engineering Posts deployed in a variety of roles within the Operations Department including the overseeing of the Roads Programme in each of the 3 operational areas.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 06

TREE RELOCATING EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Question: Councillor B. Dennehy

"To ask the Chief Executive if the tractor attachment reported to be purchased by the Council to relocate and replant existing trees has to date been used and what measure of success has been achieved to date with the equipment?"

Reply:

The Council has not purchased, nor do we have any plans at this time to purchase, any specialist equipment to relocate street trees. There is a commitment to trialing a specialist piece of equipment to relocate semi mature trees as part of a traffic scheme in the North County.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th November 2021

ITEM NO. 07

AUTISM PARKING SPACES

Question: Councillor R. O'Donoghue

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the scope for the introduction of a scheme in Fingal, similar to that in Limerick where ASD Ireland have introduced parking stickers and have urged supermarkets and car parks to recognise the ASD Ireland car permit similar to a disability car parking space?"

Reply:

Fingal County Council Parking Control Bye-Laws adopted in 2020 were made under Section 101 of the Road Traffic Act 1961, as amended by Section 6 of the Road Traffic Act 1968 and Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994. These Bye-Laws provide for the management and control of on-street and off-street parking throughout the County.

The Bye-Laws currently provide for Blue Permit parking in such designated spaces throughout the County, free of charge. Current legislation does not provide for the enforcement and control of public parking by a Local Authority beyond the remit of the current Parking Control Bye-Laws.

Supermarkets and their associated car parking are generally in private ownership. The Council will engage with Limerick Co. Council on the initiative by ASD Ireland.

The Operations Department will engage with other Local Authorities operating similar on-street managed car parking services to ensure a coordinated approach to review this proposal.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 08

FULL TIME VACANT HOMES OFFICER

Question: Cllr. J. Hopkins

"To ask the Chief Executive why during a housing crisis the Council has not used the €50,000 provided by Central Government to fund the full time position of a Vacant Homes Officer and when will the position be filled and when will statistics regarding vacant homes in Fingal be provided as set out in the Housing for All policy?"

Reply:

The Council has availed of annual funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and a Vacant Homes Officer is assigned to the Housing Department to investigate reports of vacant homes in the County. The Vacant Homes Officer is also assigned other responsibilities within the Housing Department. All properties reported as vacant to the Council are inspected and ownership checks are undertaken through land registry and other sources. A number of staff across the Housing Department are involved in the investigation of vacant homes reports, including the Housing Inspectors and Referencers. The Vacant Homes Officer also liaises with internal staff from the Derelict and Vacant Sites sections, the Dangerous Buildings section, as well as the Environmental Health Officers and Property Services section. The Council has also engaged the services of outside genealogists to assist with tracing homeowners in cases where in-house investigations prove inconclusive.

During 2017 and 2018 the Council carried out analysis work on the vacancy data available from CSO and GeoDirectory in an effort to establish a picture of the level of vacant homes that could potentially be recoverable into the housing stock. The 2016 Census showed that the county's overall vacancy rate was 4.7% which was one of the lowest in Ireland given that a base vacancy rate of 6% of total housing stock is normally expected within a properly functioning housing market. An analysis of the Geo-Directory and CSO figures for vacant properties in Fingal was completed and concluded the data had been overstated. Once commercial properties, those under construction and those currently in the planning process were eliminated as being vacant homes, the number of actual vacant residential properties in the county was quite low.

During the period 2019 to 2021 a total of 179 properties were reported to the Vacant Homes Officer as vacant and these were all subsequently investigated. Upon investigation many of the units reported as vacant were currently in the process of being sold/renovated or subject to receivership, probate and fair deal processes. For all other properties, the owners were encouraged to engage with the Council and find solutions for any genuinely vacant properties. The Council and Approved Housing Bodies have successfully purchased/leased 27 vacant properties.

The Council have availed of legislative powers to deal with vacant and derelict properties including compulsory purchase and derelict sites powers. Since 2019, a total of seven properties have completed the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process and two further properties are still subject to the process. The CPO option will continue to be considered if alternative solutions are not arrived at by the owners to address the vacancy.

The Council will continue to engage with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to all actions in the "Housing For All" plan including Pathway Four - Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 09

CURRENT OPERATIONAL STATUS WITH CYC-LOK

Question: Councillor D. Whooley

"To ask the Chief Executive if the Council has any contracts with Cyc-Lok, and does the Council know the company's current operational status as all bike storage locations in Fingal have been marked unavailable for the last month?"

Reply:

Fingal County Council have no operational agreements in place with Cyc-Lok.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 10

STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Question: Councillor J. Walsh

"To ask the Chief Executive to indicate the number of applications for Strategic Housing Developments made since the initiation of SHD; the number of housing units proposed in such applications; the number of SHDs approved by An Bord Pleanála and the number of housing units actually delivered to date under this legislation in Fingal?"

Reply:

To date there have been 30 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications made for the Fingal area, with a total of 9,242 units proposed in these applications. Within these applications 20 SHD's (over 17 sites – 4,499 units) have been approved by An Bord Pleanála and there are currently 3 live applications (2,687 units) where a decision has not yet issued. As of July 2021 (last completed survey) the number of housing units completed is 141 and a further 223 units are under construction.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 11

LITTER PICKING

Question: Councillor J. Humphreys

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide in tabular format the breakdown of staff employed in litter bin maintenance and litter picking in each of the seven LEAs?"

Reply:

Operations Directorate is managed by the 4 areas. The total staff assigned to cleaning, litter picking and bins in regional parks, open spaces, footpaths and beaches is as follows:-

- Swords/Lusk/Oldtown/Garristown/Donabate 52
- Balbriggan/Rush/Loughshinny 53
- Malahide/Howth/Baldoyle 57
- Castleknock/Mulhuddart/Ongar/Blanchardstown 45

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 12

DIRECT VISION STANDARD AND HGV SAFETY PERMIT SYSTEM

Question: Councillor D. Healy

"To ask the Chief Executive to report on progress in discussions with the other Local Authorities in the Dublin Area with a view to agreeing to introduce a common Direct Vision Standard and HGV Safety Permit system similar to that being introduced in London as agreed at the July 2019 Council meeting?"

Reply:

The Direct Vision Standard and HGV permit was raised at the NTA Greater Dublin Area Co-Ordination Group meeting in December 2019. The objective of the co-ordination group is to liaise, co-ordinate and co-operate on transport matters in the Greater Dublin Area. The group reports to the NTA and staff from the 4 Dublin local authorities are represented on the group.

An update on the Direct Vision Standard and HGV permit was sought from the NTA on the 13th September 2021. A further correspondence issued to the NTA on 28th October again requesting an update and the current status of the Co-Ordination Group as it would appear to have not met since 2019.

It is understood that if a similar system were to be introduced in Dublin it would require legislative approval which would, in the first instance, be a matter for the National Transport Authority and the Minister for Transport. If no response is

received from the NTA and the Co-ordination Group correspondence on same will be issued to the NTA.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 13

INFORMATION ON SEWAGE OVERFLOWS AND UNPLANNED DISCHARGES

Question: Councillor D. Healy

"To ask the Chief Executive whether Irish Water will agree to it or the Council providing information to the public on all sewage overflows and unplanned discharges in the Fingal area as soon as they happen?"

Reply:

It was agreed at the Strategic Policy Committee on the 22nd June, 2021 that this matter be brought to the attention of Irish Water.

Irish Water were asked to review this matter and revert with a response on what proposals Irish Water have for compliance with regards to *Regulation 5 and the Access to Information on the Environment.* Irish Water were asked if the information with regards to the sewage overflows and discharges are available to the public on the Irish Water Website to please provide details with regards to same. The Council have received no response to date. The Council contacted Irish Water on 27th October 2021 for update.

Elected representatives can raise issues and matters with Irish Water via the Local Representative support desk localrepsupport@water.ie or by phone at 0818 178 178/0818 578 578. It can also be raised at the regular meeting which takes place between Irish Water and the local representatives.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 14

COUNCIL RUN CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES

Question: Councillor P. Mulville

"To ask the Chief Executive if she will consider the setting up of Council run craft apprenticeship schemes, working with SOLAS, for the main trades, including plumbing, electricians, painting/decorating, stonecutting/stonemasonry, carpentry/ joinery, brick and stone laying, pipefitting, plastering, scaffolding, in particular given the scarcity of skilled tradesmen and women employed by this Council?"

Reply:

The Council currently employs no apprentices. There are no plans to run a craft apprenticeship scheme because the Council no longer engages in the breadth of trade tasks necessary to produce well-rounded and fully competent tradespersons on completion of a formalised apprenticeship.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

8th NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 26th OCTOBER

ITEM 15a

1. 2022 Budget

Mr. Oliver Hunt introduced this item and made the following presentation to the CPG:



2022 Budget - Objective

Objective for the 2022 budget is to maintain and enhance the delivery of key services in order to keep pace with the continued growth and development of the County.

2022 Budget

Description	Budget 2021	Budget 2022	Net
Housing & Building	80,220,400	89,124,800	8,904,400
Road Transportation & Safety	30,284,300	32,743,900	2,459,600
Water Supply & Sewerage	18,923,700	19,385,000	461,300
Development Incentives & Controls	22,212,200	24,902,800	2,690,600
Environmental Protection	47,532,400	49,435,000	1,902,600
Recreation and Amenity	47,990,400	52,295,400	4,305,000
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,340,600	1,525,000	184,400
Miscellaneous Services	37,870,700	30,374,700	-7,496,000
	286,374,700	299,786,600	13,411,900
Housing & Building	-74,728,000	-85,374,400	-10,646,400
Road Transportation & Safety	-7,906,600	-8,313,800	-407,200
Water Supply & Sewerage	-17,677,600	-18,043,700	-366,100
Development Incentives & Controls	-4,942,000	-5,554,200	-612,200
Environmental Protection	-6,511,700	-7,274,700	-763,000
Recreation and Amenity	-2,827,300	-2,675,600	151,700
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-235,600	-307,800	-72,200
Miscellaneous Services	-14,407,400	-12,488,800	1,918,600
	-129,236,200	-140,033,000	-10,796,800

2022 Budget

Increased Expenditure in 2022

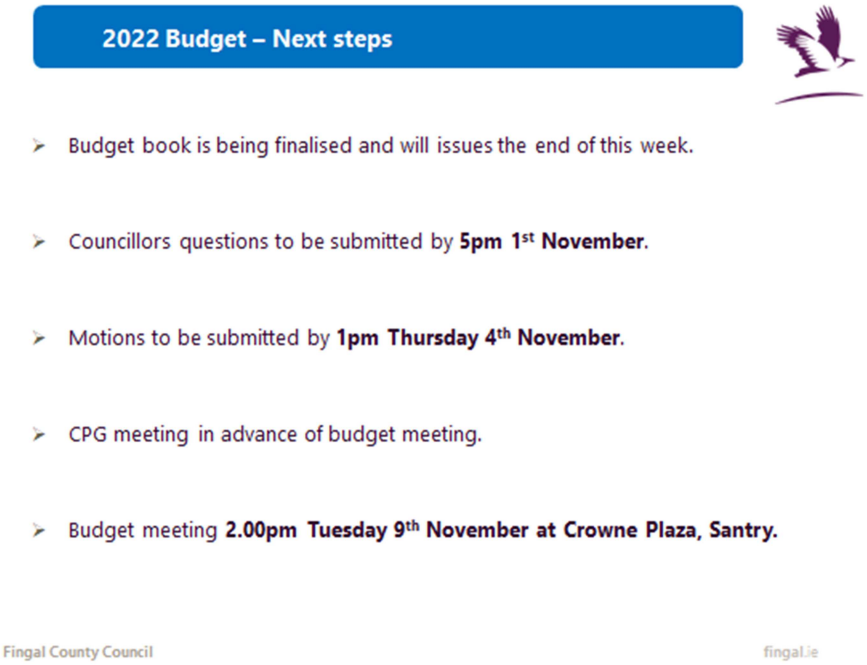
- CALF & LTL €8.40m
- Payroll €2.7m
- Operations €3.3m
- Pensions & Gratuities €1.0m
- Fire Service costs €0.5m
- EETCD €1.5m
- Our Balbriggan €0.36m
- SCQ €1.00m
- Recycling Centres €0.63m
- Active Travel €0.31m
- Also increases in community, libraries, arts etc.

2022 Budget - Funding

- Housing Rent €2.3m
- Rates buoyancy (inc. PEL) €3.5m
- Utilisation of Covid-19 capital reserve €3.5m
- FEMPI unwind €1.3m

2022 Budget

- Received details of Q4 **targeted** rates waiver at the end of last week. No assumption on further waivers into 2022 reflected in the budget.
- Vacancy relief on vacant commercial properties to remain at 40%.
- Maintain long term bad debt provision created in 2020 outturn and 2021 budget to deal with potential impact of Covid 19 on rate book.
- Appeals arising out of revaluation have yet to be resolved so continued provision needs to be put in place in the 2022 budget for possible future lost income.



During the course of the discussion on this matter the Chief Executive, Ms. AM Farrelly, informed the Members that it was intended that the Annual Budget meeting of the Council, as well as the November monthly meeting, would take place in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood, Santry. The Members were also informed that an email would issue informing them of this venue and of the Hotel's requirement that a valid Covid 19 vaccination certificate be produced by all persons entering the hotel.

The presentation by Mr. Hunt was NOTED.

Signed: Seana Ó Rodaigh

Mayor.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 15b

REPORT OF HOWTH/MALAHIDE AREA COMMITTEE SERVICES B MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2021

NO REPORT

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 15c

REPORT OF BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE SERVICES B MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2021

Application for Community and Arts Scheme Funding

An application for funding under the Council's Community Activities Funding Scheme has been received from the organisation listed below. It is proposed to make funding available to this organisation in accordance with the conditions of the scheme up to the amount set out here under:

Name of Applicant Group	Eligible Funding Amount	Summary of What Funding is Required For – Breakdown of Items	Has this Group Applied for Funding Previously? Y/N	Total Amount of Funding Group has Received to Date and Broken Down by Year	Total Amount of Funding Proposed by the Fingal Executive and rationale for Approval
Afro in Diaspora	€500	Women Summit Hub – Promotional Material & Video Editing/Photogr	Yes	€0.00	€400.00

		aphy			
Ireland Telugu Association	€375	Group Insurance	Yes	€560.00 - 2019	€300.00

The Application for Funding which was received, was **NOTED**

"It was proposed by Councillor H. Mahony and seconded by Councillor J. Walsh"

That this Committee recommends that the County Council APPROVE of the funding in the foregoing report.

Signed:

_____

Councillor Pamela Conroy

Area Chairperson

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 17

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Property Services Section,
Economic, Enterprise Tourism
& Cultural Development Dept,
County Hall,
Swords,
Fingal,
Co. Dublin.

File Ref: LD 1354

21st October 2021

TO: Each Member of the Council

Re: Proposed Lease of land at Oldtown, Co. Dublin to Oldtown Community Council

---

An application has been received from Oldtown Community Council for the lease of land at Oldtown Co Dublin.

It is proposed to lease the land known as Oldtown Community Centre, Oldtown, Co. Dublin to Oldtown Community Council as shown outlined in red on Drawing No. LA-048-20 in accordance with Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the following terms and conditions:

1. That the lease shall be for a term of 35 years commencing on a date to be agreed.

2. That the subject land is shown outlined in red on the attached Drawing No. LA-048-20 and has a site area 460 square metres approximately.

3. That the rent reserved shall be €7,650.00 (seven thousand, six hundred and fifty euro) per annum, plus VAT if applicable.

4. That the said reserved rent shall be abated to €100.00 (one hundred euro) per annum, plus VAT if applicable, provided the land continues to be used solely for community purposes. Should the land cease to be used for such purposes for any period of 12 months, the lease will be deemed to have terminated.

5. That the Lessee shall be responsible for all rent and outgoings applicable to the lands.

6. All insurances shall be the responsibility of the Lessee and the Lessee shall indemnify Fingal County Council, as owner of the lands, against all liability arising out of the Lessee's occupation of the lands, details of insurances shall be set out in the legal documentation.

7. That the Lessee shall be responsible for the repair and upkeep of the lands.

8. The Lessee shall not at any time within the term of the lease build on or make any alterations to the land without first obtaining the prior written consent of the Council.

9. That the Lessee shall not assign or sublet the lands without first obtaining the prior written consent of the Council.

10. That the lease shall be subject to any other terms and conditions as required by the Council's Solicitor.

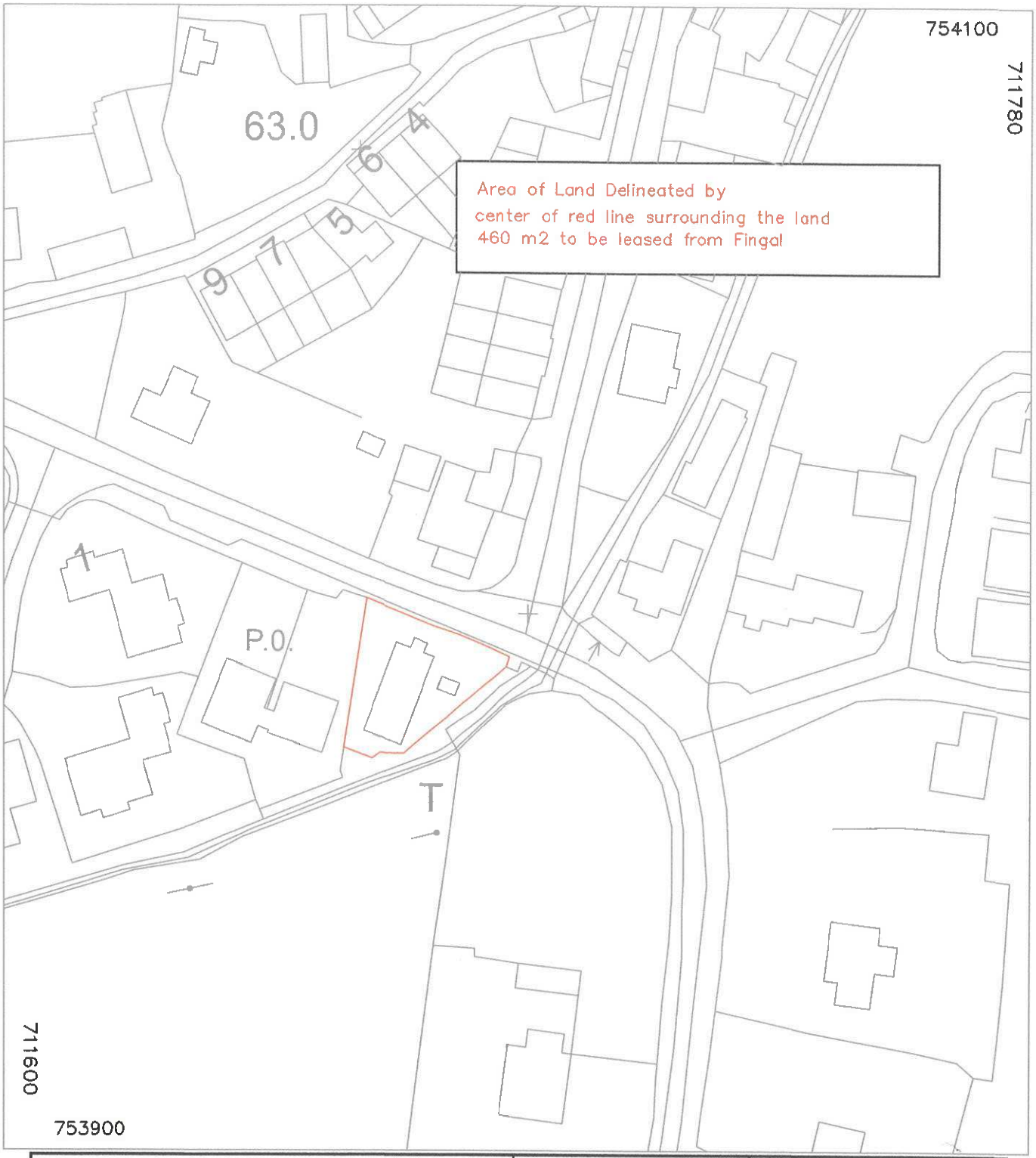
11. That each party shall be responsible for their own legal costs in relation to this transaction.

12. All other terms and conditions will be set out in the legal documentation.

Fingal County Council acquired the property as successor in title from The Rural District Council of the Balrothery Rural District Balrothery, Dublin in March 1920.

A report on this matter was noted at the meeting of the Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk Swords Area Committee (Services B) held on 14th October 2021.

Senior Executive Officer
Economic, Enterprise,
Tourism & Cultural Development



Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council	Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL	Dwg No: LA-048-20	O.S.Ref:
		Date: 08 July 2020	Drawn By: LJM
		Scale: 1/1000	Checked:
		Dev. File No:	Job No. SM/22/20
Project: Land at Oldtown Community Center		Gross Area :	460 m2
Land to be leased to:		Road Area :	0 m2
		Nett Area :	460 m2

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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 18

REPORT PURSUANT TO PART XI OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED). PROPOSED DWELLING AT NO. 50 SHEEPMOOR AVENUE (EXISTING SHOP SITE), BLANCHARDSTOWN, DUBLIN 15

Meeting of

Fingal County Council

Monday 8th November 2021

Agenda Item 18

Proposed dwelling

50 Sheepmoor Avenue (existing shop site)

Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Report

pursuant to Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (As amended) and Part VIII of the Local Government Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As amended)

1.0 Introduction

Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) outlines the requirements in respect of certain classes of Local Authority Development. These regulations apply to the proposed demolition of the existing shop and construction of a dwelling at Sheepmoor Avenue Blanchardstown..

Fingal County Council proposes to:

- Demolish the existing single storey shop at 50 Sheepmoor Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
- construct a three bedroom, two storey detached dwelling and all associated site development works including two in-curtilage parking spaces and access to rear garden of No 48 Sheepmoor Avenue.

In accordance with Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), Notice of the Proposed Development was:

- Published in the Northside People West on Wednesday 8th September, 2021.
- Erected on boundary wall, facing Sheepmoor Avenue.
- Provided to Prescribed Body: Irish Water

Plans and particulars of the proposal were made available for inspection from Wednesday 8th September to Wednesday 6th October 2021 and submissions were accepted from Wednesday 8th September up to and including Wednesday 20th October 2021 either online through the website: http://consult.fingal.ie/en/browse or in writing to:-

A/Director of Housing and Community,
Housing Department,
Fingal County Council,
Civic Offices,
Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

This report is submitted to the Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

2.0 Describe the nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof, including an appropriate plan of the development and appropriate map of the relevant area.

Introduction:
The site of the proposed development, area 392sqm., is a shop at the south end of Sheepmoor Avenue cul-de-sac. The single storey shop is attached, but not structurally connected with no 48 Sheepmoor Avenue. The location has a mature residential character at the interface with Fortlawn Avenue, with good pedestrian permeability and access to Public Open Space

Proposal:
The proposal is:

- demolition and removal of all existing structures on the site,
- construction of a two storey, 3 bedroom, 5 person dwelling,
- construction of a pedestrian passageway access to the rear garden of no 48 Sheepmoor Avenue.
- associated site development works.

The proposed new dwelling is detached and setback from the building line of the terrace of six dwellings (38-48 Sheepmoor Avenue) to the north.
Pedestrian and vehicular access will be from Sheepmoor Avenue.
A low boundary wall, 900mm high will separate the dwelling curtilage from the public footway.
Provision is made within curtilage of the proposed new dwelling for the parking of two cars.

Dwelling:
Space standards within the dwelling and private external amenity, meet the requirements of Fingal County Council Development Plan and DHPLG Guidelines.
At 105sqm, the gross floor area is 14% in excess of guidelines for a two storey, three bedroom dwelling (92sqm). The increased area provides a ground floor double bedroom, accessible shower room and open plan kitchen, dining, living room which meets the requirements for special adaptation.

Materials, Construction:
The exterior of the building will be finished with:

- self-coloured render to masonry walls
- brick facing to ground floor of front and north elevations.
- selected high performance windows and doors.
- fibre-cement roof slates

The development will be designed and constructed to comply with current Building Control and Building Regulations.

Utilities:
The site will be serviced as necessary by ESB, EIR, GNI utilities which are available adjacent to the site.
Public lighting is existing.
There is an existing foul sewer connection to the site; a connection agreement will be made with Irish Water prior to commencement of the development.
There is an existing public water supply to the site; a connection agreement will be made with Irish Water prior to commencement of the development.
Surface water drainage will consist of an on-site soakpit with discharge to the existing storm drainage network all in accordance with Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works.

3.0 Evaluate whether or not the proposed development would be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and giving the reasons and the considerations for the evaluation.

A Preliminary Planning report and addendum were completed prior to initiation of Public Consultation (**Appendix B**).
The proposed development was assessed in terms of Fingal Development Plan (2017-2023) policy and objectives; the primary considerations for assessment included:

- *Area Zoning*
- *Urban Development*
- *Infill Development*
- *Residential Development Standards*
- *Visual and Residential Amenity*
- *Vehicular Access and Car parking*
- *Drainage*
- *Water Supply*
- *Appropriate Assessment Screening*
- *Environmental Assessment Screening*

The preliminary planning assessment found the proposed development to be acceptable in principle within the 'RS' zoning objective which seeks to '*Provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity*' including the stated vision to '*Ensure that any new development in existing areas would have a minimal impact on and enhance existing residential amenity'.*

Principle of Development:

A strategic objective of The Development Strategy for Blanchardstown is the provision of residential activity within Blanchardstown at a level appropriate for a Metropolitan Consolidation Town. The proposed development is consistent with this strategic objective.
The proposal is consistent with the stated policy, Objective PM44, encouraging the development of underutilised infill and corner sites in existing residential areas

Visual Amenity:

The proposed development will not impact in a negative manner upon the visual amenity of the area.

Residential Amenity

The proposed floor space provision generally complies with the requirements of DMS24 of the Development Plan and specifically with the requirements of Table 12.1

The private open space complies qualitatively and quantitatively with the Development Plan requirements.

Impact on Residential Amenity

The proposed development will not adversely impact amenity of adjoining dwellings

Roads and Traffic

Access and car-parking is in accordance with development standards.

Water and Drainage

The proposed development is generally satisfactory with respect to surface water drainage and flood risk. The surface water drainage system should comply with the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works Version 6.0" FCC April 2000. It is also required to consult with Irish Water directly regarding connection agreement for water and foul sewer supply.

AA Screening Determination

It is considered that the Proposed Project, individually or in combination with another plan or project, will not have a significant effect on any European (Natura 2000) sites.

EIA Screening Determination

The Screening Report concludes that Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for the project.
The conclusions are considered reasonable taking into account the scale of the proposed development, nature of works involved and environmental sensitivities of the area.

Conclusion of the Evaluation

Having regard to the provisions of Fingal County Council Development Plan 2017-2023 and other relevant planning considerations, including that no submissions were received, it is not foreseen that there will be a negative impact on the residential or visual amenity of the area. The proposed development by reason of its use and design meets with the 'RS' zoning objective to '*provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity*' and is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

4.0 List of the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development

No submissions and observations were received during the statutory timeframe.

5.0 Summary of the issues with respect to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the proposed development would be situated, raised in submissions or observations and the response of the manager thereto

No submissions were received and therefore no issues raised in the Public Consultation

6.0 Recommendation whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report, or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be.

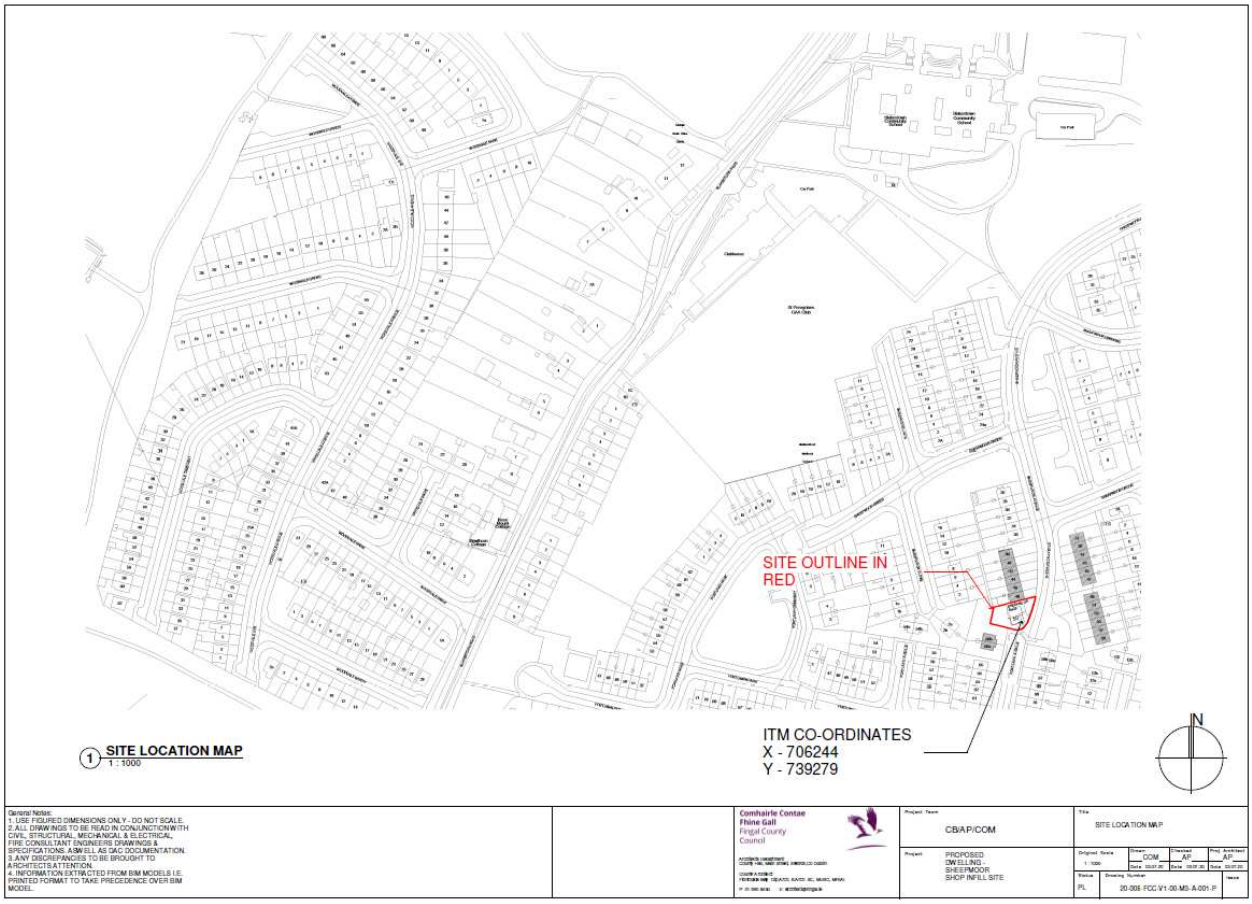
Since the Planning evaluation considers that the proposed development is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with the proposed development as described in documents listed in Appendix A, subject to recommendations contained within the Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department Report included in Appendix B.

A presentation outlining the proposal will be available at the meeting.

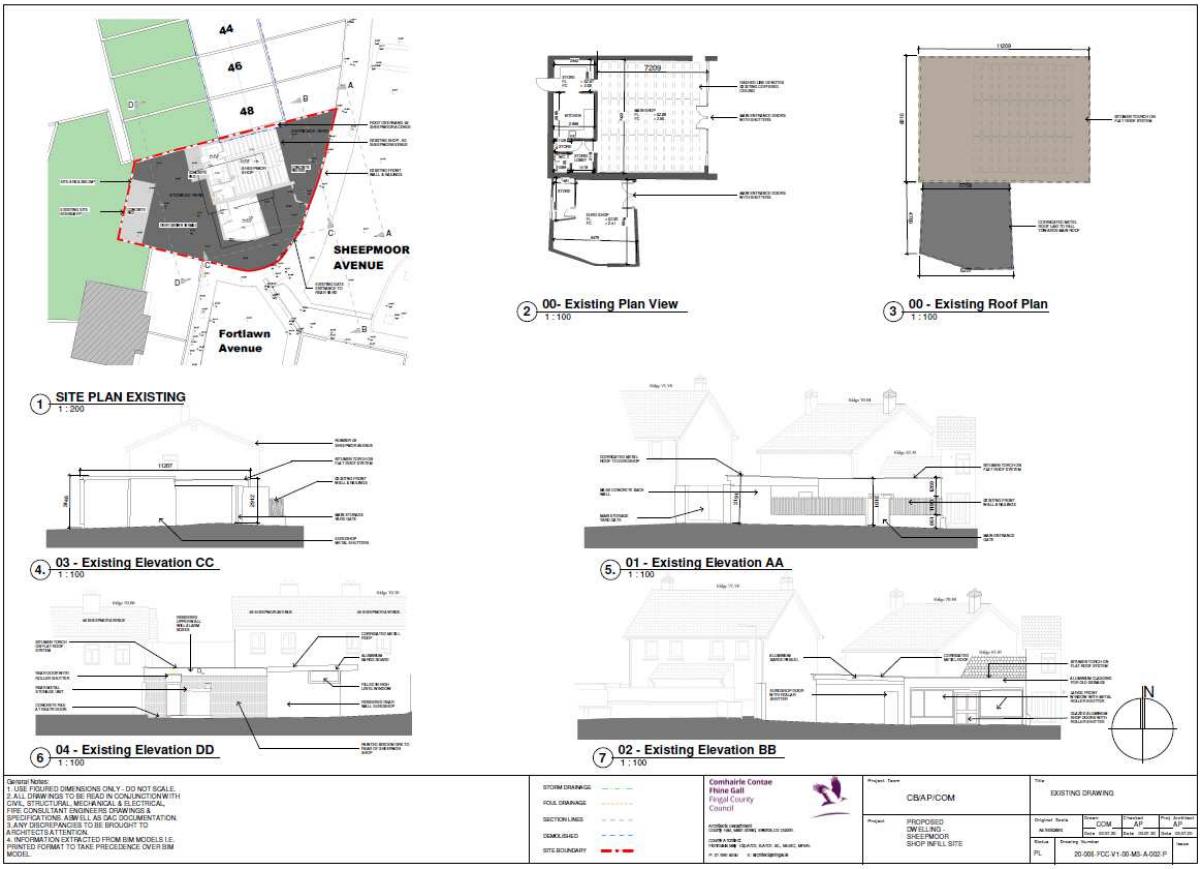
APPENDIX A:

Plans and particulars.

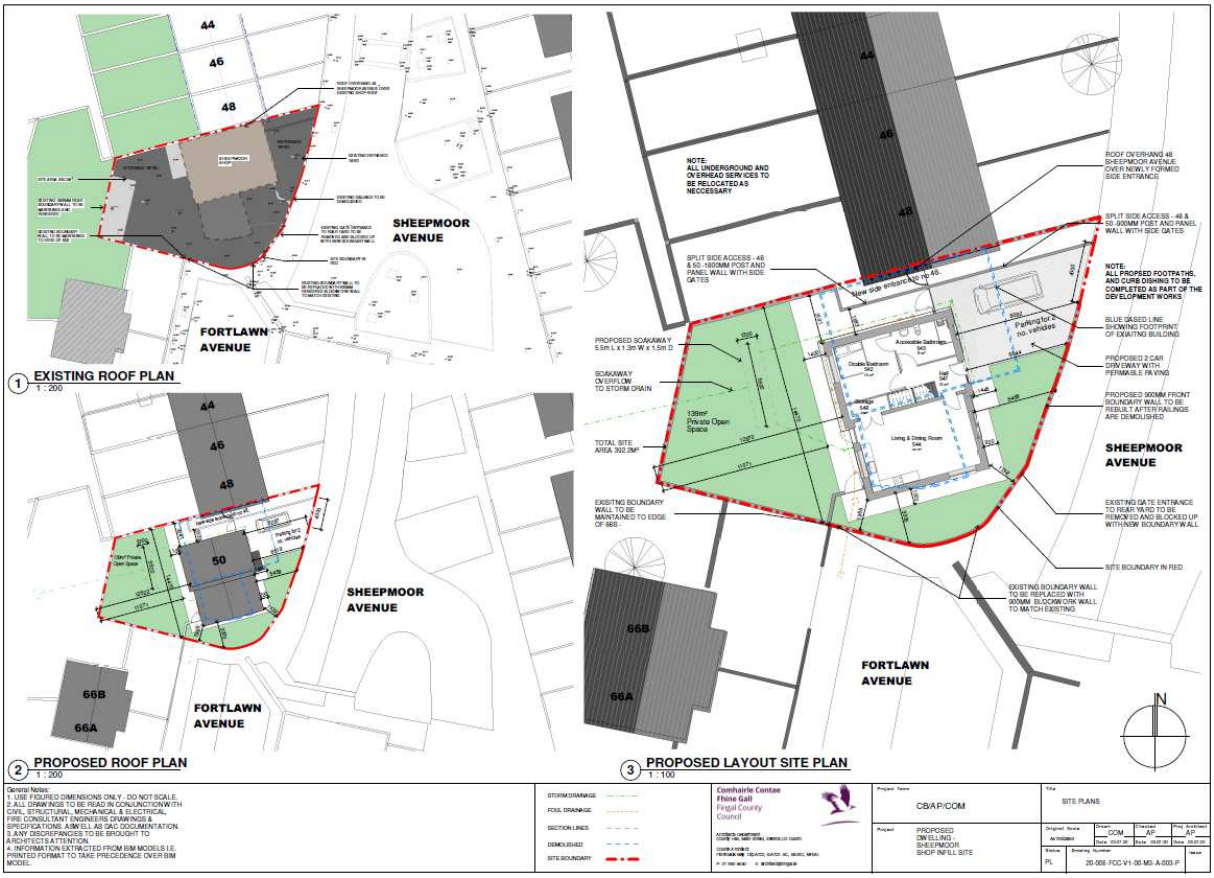
	List of documents for inspection	
No	Title	Reference
00	Notice of Proposed Development	
01	Site Location Map	20-008-A-001-P
02	Existing Drawings	20-008-A-002-P
03	Site Plans	20-008-A-003-P
04	Proposed Layouts	20-008-A-004-P
05	Proposed Elevations & Sections	20-008-A-005-P
06	Proposed Site Elevations	20-008-A-006-P
07	Irish Water Map	20-008-A-007-P
08	Existing Topographical Survey	2D-21054-001
09	Asbestos Survey	
10	EA Screening	
11	AIA Screening	
12	Structural Condition Report	
13	Percolation Test Report	



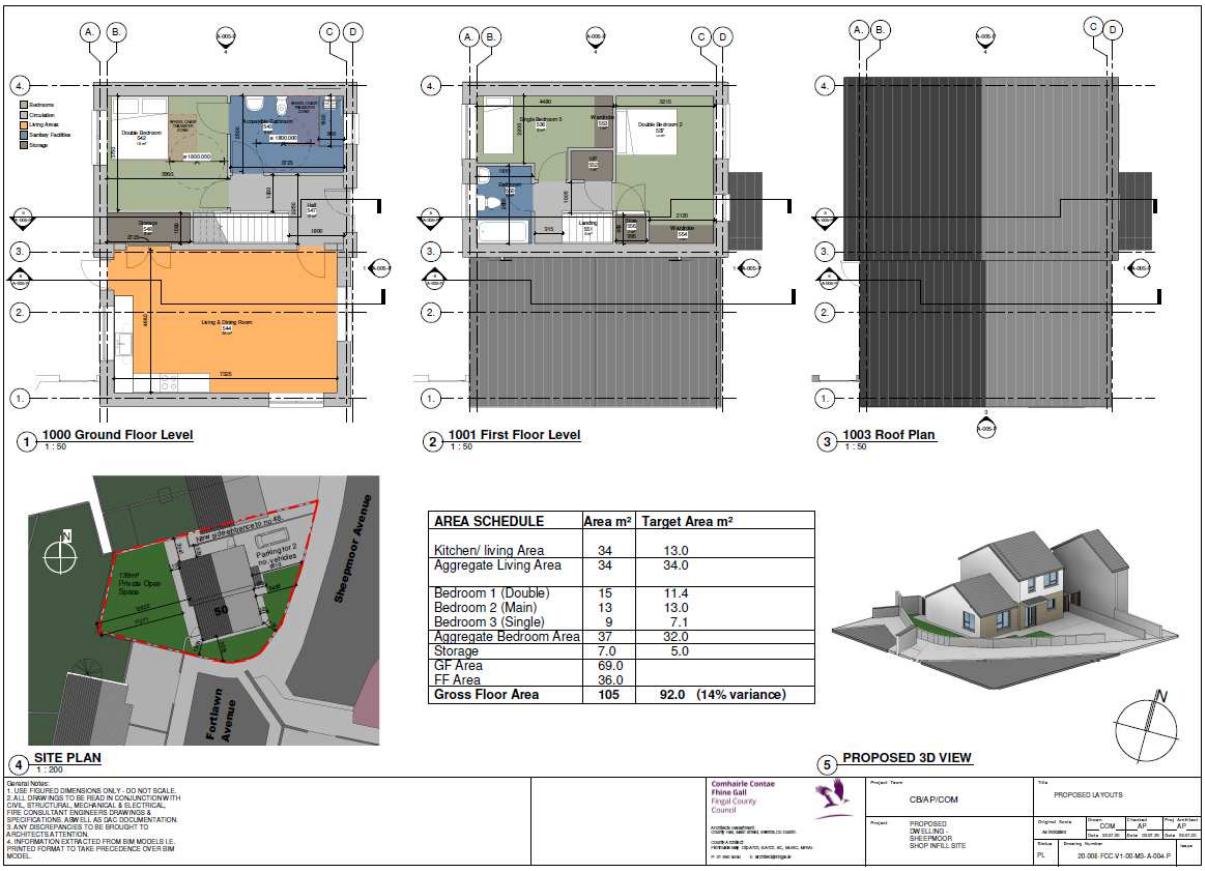
Site Location Map



Existing Drawings



Site Plans



Proposed Layouts



Proposed Site Elevations

APPENDIX B:
Planning Report.

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING & STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT PRELIMINARY PLANNING REPORT

Register Reference:	Part XI/010/21
Proposed Development:	One three bedroom dwelling
Location:	50 Sheepmoor Avenue, Blanchardstown Dublin 15.
Proposing Department:	Architects' Department
Application Type:	Part XI (development by Local Authority)

Site Location

The subject site is located within the Hartstown area of Blanchardstown, on the western side of Sheepmoor Avenue and at the southern end of an existing terrace of two storey houses. The site is occupied by a single storey structure which was formerly in use as a shop. There is hard surfacing around the structure.

The Sheepmoor area is a relatively well-established residential area of mainly two storey and terraced housing with also detached and semi-detached two storey houses. Within the residential area, there are also areas of open/green space. The existing development on site adjoins existing residential development which is located to the north and which runs in a north-south direction.

Proposed Development

The proposals for the subject site are as follows:

- The demolition of the existing single storey shop and storage area.
- The erection on site of a two storey detached house of stated floor area, 105 sqm.
- The house comprises on the ground floor a living room/dining room and a double bedroom with 'accessible' bathroom and on the first floor, a double bedroom, a single bedroom and a bathroom.
- The proposed house is set back behind the front building line of No. 48 Sheepmoor, the dwelling to the immediate north.
- A vehicular entrance is provided to the front of the proposed house, with the existing vehicular access to the side of the site to be closed off.
- A new side entrance to No. 48 Sheepmoor is also included as part of the development

Fingal County Development Plan 2017 – 2023

Area Zoning Objective

The subject site is located in an area which is subject to the zoning objective 'RS' i.e. Residential - 'provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity' in the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.

The stated vision is:

> *Ensure that any new development in existing areas would have a minimal impact on and enhance existing residential amenity.*

Urban Development

Chapter 4 of the Development Plan states that Blanchardstown is the largest commercial and residential centre within the Metropolitan Area of Fingal and will continue to be promoted as a key urban settlement within the County providing retail, social, cultural, leisure and administrative services.

Infill Development

Policy relevant to the development of one-off houses on infill, corner and backland sites is set out in Placemaking – Chapter 3 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. The development of underutilised infill, corner and backland sites in existing residential areas is generally encouraged. A balance is needed between the protection of amenities, privacy, the established character of the area and new residential infill. The use of contemporary and innovative design solutions will be considered for this type of development.

Objective PM44

Encourage and promote the development of underutilised infill, corner and backland sites in existing residential areas subject to the character of the area and environment being protected.

Objective PM45

Promote the use of contemporary and innovative design solutions subject to the design respecting the character and architectural heritage of the area.

Policy related to the development of corner sites is set out in Development Management Standards – Chapter 12. This identifies corner site development as the sub-division of an existing house curtilage and/or an appropriately zoned brownfield site to provide an additional dwelling in existing built up areas.

All new dwellings must comply with Development Plan standards in relation to accommodation size, garden size, and car parking. Where the proposed height is greater than that of the surrounding area a transitional element should be provided.

Objective DMS39

New infill development shall respect the height and massing of existing residential units. Infill development shall retain the physical character of the area including features such as boundary walls, pillars, gates/gateways, trees, landscaping, and fencing or railings.

Objective DMS40

New corner site development shall have regard to:

- *Size, design, layout, relationship with existing dwelling and immediately adjacent properties.*
- *Impact on the amenities of neighbouring residents.*
- *The existing building line and respond to the roof profile of adjoining dwellings.*
- *The character of adjacent dwellings and create a sense of harmony.*
- *The provision of dual frontage development in order to avoid blank facades and maximise surveillance of the public domain.*
- *Side/gable and rear access/maintenance space.*
- *Level of visual harmony, including external finishes and colours.*

Residential Development Standards

Objective DMS24

Require that new residential units comply with or exceed the minimum standards as set out in Tables 12.1, 12.2, and 12.3.

Objective DMS28

A separation distance a minimum of 22metres between directly opposing rear first floor windows shall generally be observed unless alternative provision has been designed to ensure privacy. In residential development over 3 storeys, minimum separation distances shall be increased in instances where overlooking or overshadowing occurs.

Objective DMS87

Ensure a minimum open space provision for dwelling houses (exclusive of car parking area) as follows:

- *3 bedroom houses or less to have a minimum of 60 sqm private open space located behind the front building line of the house.*
- *Houses with 4 or more bedrooms to have a minimum of 75 sqm of private open space located behind the front building line of the house.*

Narrow strips to the side of houses shall not be included in the private open space calculations.

Objectives DMS85 and DMS86.

Table 12.8 outlines parking standards for new development.

Planning History

Reg. Ref. 92A/0649

This was an application to retain three gates at front gate, at side gate and at rear yard and palisade fencing 8 ft (sic) high at a location of the subject site and surrounding

Blakestown Stores on Sheepmoor Avenue. Final permission was granted on the 10th August 1992.

Pre-Application Consultations
No pre-application consultations appear to have been held regarding the proposed development.

Departmental reports
Water Services Department: A report was received from Water Services the 17th August 2021 which addresses flood risk, surface water drainage and water services infrastructure within the site. There is no objection raised to the proposed development subject to condition.

Transportation Planning Section: A report was received from the Transportation Planning Section 4th August 2021 which states that the proposed development will not impact unduly on any potential traffic hazard within the area subject to condition.

Irish Water: Received the 23rd August 2021, this report states that the proposed development is acceptable from an Irish Water perspective subject to standard Irish Water conditions.

Assessment
The proposed scheme has been considered in the context of the following issues:

- Drawings prepared
- Principle of the development
- Impact on Visual Amenity
- Proposed Residential Amenity
- Impact on Residential Amenity
- Roads and Traffic
- Water and Drainage

Drawings Prepared
The 'existing roof plan' drawing includes details of proposed works. In the interests of clarity, it is recommended that the proposed works are omitted from this drawing and included instead on the site layout plan.

The elevation drawings should specifically state the proposed external finishes in the interests of clarity.

North signs should be put on all site layout and floor plan drawings for clarity.

A context elevation drawing showing the proposed boundary treatment along the front and side of the site should be provided and this should state the height of the front boundary wall. The height should be 900mm in accordance with the report received from the Transportation Planning Section.

Principle of Development

The proposed Part XI scheme concerns the erection of a detached two storey house which is located upon a site on the western side of Sheepmoor Avenue. The lands are subject to the 'RS – Residential' zoning in the Fingal Development Plan where the objective is 'provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity' and where residential use is permitted in principle.

The Development Strategy for Blanchardstown states that a strategic objective for Blanchardstown is the provision of residential activity within Blanchardstown at a level appropriate for a Metropolitan Consolidation Town. The proposed development is consistent with this strategic objective.

The principle of the proposed development is furthermore considered to be consistent with Objective PM44 and with the stated policy of encouraging the development of underutilised infill and corner sites in existing residential areas.

The principle of the proposed development is therefore considered to be acceptable.

Impact on Visual Amenity

The following characteristics of the proposed development are noted:

- The proposed development comprises a two storey gable-ended house with single storey gable ended annex located to the side. The external finishes appear to be brick to ground level and render finish to first level. The house would be constructed in a contemporary design.

- The proposed development is a stated 3.191 metres south of the adjoining properties to the north.

- The proposed front building line of the subject house is located c. 4 metres behind the existing front building line of the terrace of houses to the immediate north and the house projects c. 3.5 metres beyond the established building line to the rear of the terrace of the houses to the immediate north.

The divergence of proposed building line from established building line to the immediate north is not considered to have an unduly negative impact on the visual amenities of the area. The height of the subject house at 7.879 metres is consistent with the general height of residential development in the vicinity of the subject house. The proposed form and external design of the house is generally considered acceptable.

The proposed development will not impact unduly in a negative manner upon the visual amenity of the area and the proposed development is considered to be consistent with Objectives PM44, DMS39 and DMS40 of the Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023 which relate to infill and corner development.

Proposed Residential Amenity

The Area Schedule contained within Drawing no PL-008-FCC-V1-00-M3-A-004-P indicates that the proposed floor space provision generally complies with the requirements of DMS24 of the Development Plan and specifically with the requirements of Table 12.1. There are concerns regarding the storage space provided. For this size of dwelling house, 5sq.m. of dedicated storage space is required. This quantity has been provided. However, all of the storage spaces are located in bedrooms. This is not considered satisfactory given that this type of storage space is envisaged to provide for larger household items and appliances, such as vacuum cleaners. A revised internal layout should be prepared to provide dedicated storage spaces off kitchen/living/hall rooms.

The proposed development includes a stated provision of 139 sqm of private open space. The private open space complies qualitatively and quantitatively with the Development Plan requirements.

Impact on Residential Amenity

Due to the configuration of dwellings in the nearby Fortlawn Avenue estate, the proposed house does not directly back onto any dwelling and therefore overlooking associated with opposing rear first floor windows, as referenced in Objective DMS28 of the Development Plan, will not arise. Having regard to the orientation of the site and positioning of the proposed house, the development is not considered to give rise to undue overshadowing of adjoining properties.

The proposed development will not impact unduly upon the residential amenities of property in the area through overbearing taking into account that the proposed development projects c. 3.5 metres to the west, and beyond, the established building line to the rear of the terrace of the houses to the immediate north.

The front boundary will consist of a low wall which will enable greater passive surveillance of the public space in front of this site which is beneficial. It is stated that this wall is to be 900mm and in the form of a blockwork wall. The finish to this wall should be clarified. It has not been included in the context elevations and so a drawing should be prepared which shows it and specifies the height.

A side access is being provided to No. 48 as part of the proposed development which is beneficial to the amenities of that property.

Roads and Traffic

Car parking to the proposed dwelling has been provided in accordance with Development Plan standards. The report received from the Transportation Section has advised that there is no objection to the proposed development. The width of the vehicular entrance should not exceed 4 metres. This distance should be stated on the site layout drawing for clarity. The report also advises that the footpath and dished kerbs for the entrance should be constructed as part of the development and underground or overhead services and poles should be relocated as necessary to a suitable location adjacent to the new boundary as part of the development. The

carrying out of these works as of the development should be clarified in the application documents.

Water and Drainage

The proposed development is generally satisfactory with respect to surface water drainage and flood risk. The proposing department should ensure that the surface water drainage system complies with the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works Version 6.0" FCC April 2000. It is also required to consult with Irish Water directly regarding connection agreement for water and foul sewer supply.

Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (Screening) Report has been submitted with the subject planning application. This report states that the Proposed Project site is not directly connected with any European (Natura 2000) site and there is no realistic pathway between the Proposed Project site and any European sites and there will be no direct, indirect, or secondary impacts which will occur to Natura sites.

Having regard to the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Project, in comparison with the existing baseline, it is considered that there is no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites during the construction or operation of the Proposed Project, and it is further considered that there are no other plans or projects that will act in combination with the Proposed Project to have a significant effect on European sites. It is considered that the Proposed Project, individually or in combination with another plan or project, will not have a significant effect on any European sites. This assessment was reached without considering or taking into account mitigation measures or measures intended to avoid or reduce any impact on European sites.

Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report is included with the submission. The proposed development concerns the development of a detached two storey dwelling. The Screening Report concludes that Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for the project.

The conclusions are considered reasonable taking into account the scale of the proposed development, nature of works involved and environmental sensitivities of the area. The proposal is not of a scale which would fall within the fifth schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) requiring an EIA. It is also noted that of the environmental receptors detailed in the seventh schedule of the same regulations, that significant environmental effects are unlikely to arise from the proposed development and that there are no characteristics of the proposed development which would require an EIA to be undertaken.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the Planning Department is that proposed scheme and package of drawings/documents requires amendment prior to proceeding to public display as the

internal layout of the dwelling is not satisfactory. The following issues should be addressed:

- A revised floor plan for the dwelling should be prepared in which the dedicated storage areas are located in kitchen/living/hall rooms.

- It is recommended that the text detailing proposed works should be omitted from the roof plan drawing and included on the site layout plan.

- It is recommended that the site layout plan should include the distance from the proposed house to the site boundaries and show the width of the vehicular entrance, which should not exceed 4 metres.

- The elevation drawings should state the proposed external finishes to the house and front boundary wall.

- A context elevation drawing showing the proposed boundary treatment along the front and side of the site should be provided and this should state the height of the wall. These heights should be in accordance with the heights specified in the report received from the Transportation Planning Section.

- A north point should be included on Drawing No. 20-008-FCC-V1-00-M3-A-003-P.

Deirdre Fallon
Senior Executive Planner

Colm McCoy
Senior Planner

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL CONSULTEE

PLANNING REPORT

Report of the Transportation Planning Section

Register Reference:	PARTXI/010/21
Registration Date:	27-Jul-2021
Development:	1 No – 3 Bedroom Dwelling at No 50 Sheepmoor Avenue (Existing Shop Site), Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
Location:	50, Sheepmoor Avenue, Blanchardstown, D 15
Applicant:	Architects Department
Application Type:	Part XI (Dev by LAs)

General

The proposed development is located in a 50km/hr speed limit.

Parking

Parking would be in accordance with Development Plan Management Standards, 2 in-curtilage parking spaces per 3 bed.

The proposed works to the front boundary wall be an improvement to the passive surveillance for the walk way between Sheepmoor Avenue and Fortlawn Avenue.

Conclusion

The Transportation Planning SEction has no objection to the proposed development subject to the following conditions:

1) The width of the driveway entrance shall not exceed 4.0 meters between piers.
2) The front boundary walls/hedges shall not exceed a height of 900mm and the dividing/boundary wall between the driveways shall not exceed a height of 900mm over the last 3 m adjacent to the public footpath.
3) The footpath and dished kerbs for the entrance shall be constructed at the developer's expense to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.
4) All stormwater shall be disposed of to soak pits or drains within the site and shall not discharge onto the public road.
5) All underground or overhead services and poles to be relocated, as may be necessary, to a suitable location adjacent to the new boundary at the developer's expense.
6) All works to be carried out at the applicants' expense and to the requirements of the Planning Authority.

Officer: _____ Endorsed: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

(Irish Water)

Fingal County Council
Planning department
County Hall,
Main street, Swords, County Dublin

23 August 2021

RE: Part 8 – PartXI/010/21

Development description: 1 No – 3 Bedroom Dwelling

Dear Sir, Madam,

Please accept this submission in respect of the above-referenced planning application for development at 50, Sheepmoor Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Irish Water has reviewed the proposed development and would like to make the following observations:

Where a new connection(s) for water and/or wastewater is required, the applicant shall sign a connection agreement with Irish Water prior to the commencement of the development and adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement. All development shall be carried out in compliance with Irish Water Standards codes and practices.

Reason: To ensure proper planning & sustainable development

Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to planning@water.ie

Signed on behalf of Irish Water:

Yvonne Harris
Connections and Developer Services

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL INTERNAL CONSULTEE

PLANNING REPORT

Report of the Water Services Department

Register Reference: PARTXI/010/21

Registration Date: 27-Jul-2021

Development: 1 No – 3 Bedroom Dwelling at No 50 Sheepmoor Avenue (Existing Shop Site), Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Location: 50, Sheepmoor Avenue, Blanchardstown, D 15

Applicant: Architects Department

Application Type: Part XI (Dev by LAs)

Report

Foul Sewer: ***NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO:***

1. IW standard details document IW-CDS-5030-01 and IW Code of Practice IW-CDS-5030-03 apply.
2. Note that the statutory consultee in this regard is Irish Water, accordingly:
    a. Where the applicant proposes to connect directly or indirectly to a public water/wastewater network operated by Irish Water, the applicant must sign a connection agreement with Irish Water prior to the commencement of the development and adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.
    b. In the interest of Public Health and Environmental Sustainability, Irish Water Infrastructure capacity requirements and proposed connections to the Water and Waste Water Infrastructure will be subject to the constraints of the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme.

Surface Water: ***NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO:***

1. No surface water/rainwater shall discharge into the foul sewer system under any circumstances.
2. The surface water drainage shall be in compliance with the "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works Version 6.0" FCC April 2006.

Flood risk: ***NO OBJECTION***

The proposed development is located in its entirety within ***Flood Zone C*** (ie <0.1% AEP).

Water Supply: ***NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO:***

1. IW standard details document IW-CDS-5030-01 and IW Code of Practice IW-CDS-5030-03 apply.
2. Note that the statutory consultee in this regard is Irish Water, accordingly:
    c. Where the applicant proposes to connect directly or indirectly to a public water/wastewater network operated by Irish Water, the applicant must sign a connection agreement with Irish Water prior to the commencement of the development and adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.
    d. In the interest of Public Health and Environmental Sustainability, Irish Water Infrastructure capacity requirements and proposed connections to the Water and Waste Water Infrastructure will be subject to the constraints of the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme.

Officer: DC

Date: 30/07/2021

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING & STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

ADDENDUM TO PRELIMINARY PLANNING REPORT

Register Reference:	Part XI/010/21
Proposed Development:	One three bedroom dwelling
Location:	50 Sheepmoor Avenue, Blanchardstown Dublin 15.
Proposing Department:	Architects' Department
Application Type:	Part XI (development by Local Authority)

Introduction

This is an addendum to the Preliminary Planning Report which was prepared following the internal consultation for the proposed development of 1 no. house at 50 Sheepmoor Avenue in Blanchardstown. The Planning Report concluded that the proposed scheme and package of drawings/documents required amendment prior to proceeding to public display as the internal layout of the dwelling, and provision of storage, was not satisfactory. A number of recommendations were made in terms of issues to be addressed.

Recommendations from Preliminary Planning Report

The Report advised that the following issues should be addressed:

- A revised floor plan for the dwelling should be prepared in which the dedicated storage areas are located in kitchen/living/hall rooms.
- The text detailing proposed works should be omitted from the roof plan drawing and included on the site layout plan.
- The site layout plan should include the distance from the proposed house to the site boundaries and show the width of the vehicular entrance, which should not exceed 4 metres.
- The elevation drawings should state the proposed external finishes to the house and front boundary wall.
- A context elevation drawing showing the proposed boundary treatment along the front and side of the site should be provided and this should state the height of the wall. These heights should be in accordance with the heights specified in the report received from the Transportation Planning Section.
- A north point should be included on Drawing No. 20-008-FCC-V1-00-M3-A-003-P.

Revisions

A number of revisions were made to the scheme prior to the development going on public display as part of the Part VIII process. In relation to the recommendations made, these revisions included:

- A revised internal layout for the house in which a storage area of 3sq.m. is located in the kitchen/living/dining room. A hotpress with 1sq.m. storage is located on the first floor landing and a store of 1sq.m. is present in the bedroom. The minimum storage requirement for a 5 person, 3 bedroom (two storey) house in the Fingal County Development Plan is 5sq.m. While it would be desirable for all of the dedicated storage space to be located external to bedrooms, the majority of the storage space is located in main living area and circulation space, is considered acceptable and would provide a satisfactory standard of amenity for future residents.

- The elevation drawing illustrates the boundary treatment (drawing title Proposed Site Elevations/ Sections). The height of the wall is shown as 900mm which is in accordance with the height specified in the report of the Transportation Planning Section.

- The external finishes have been stated (drawing title Proposed Elevation and Sections) and include brickwork to the ground floor and coloured render to the upper level of the front and northern side of the house. The remaining facades would be finished in coloured render.

- A north point has been included on Drawing No. 20-008-FCC-V1-00-M3-A-003-P.

- The site layout plan (drawing title Site Plans) illustrates the proposed works. The distance from the proposed house to the site boundaries has been provided in addition to the width of the driveway, at 4metres.

Conclusion

The changes made to the proposed development satisfactorily address the issues raised in the Preliminary Planning Report and there are no objections to the Internal Consultation Agreement being signed.

Deirdre Fallon
Senior Executive Planner

Colm McCoy
Senior Planner

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

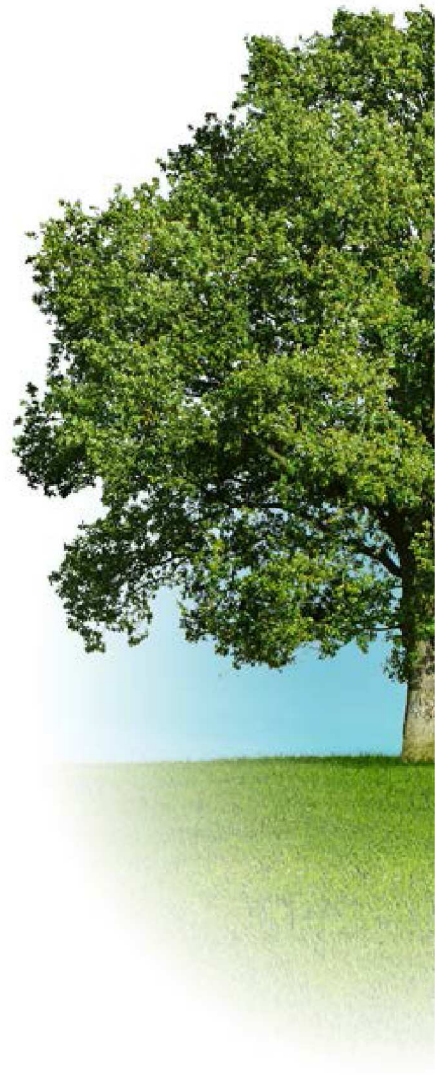
MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 19

THE FOREST OF FINGAL, A TREE STRATEGY FOR FINGAL

A presentation will be given to the Members at the meeting.

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Forest of Fingal

A Tree Strategy for Fingal



Foreword

The revision of Fingal County Council's Tree Strategy '*Forest of Fingal*' is an indication of the Council's continued commitment to looking after one of its most important natural resources and assets: its trees. Fingal County Council manages approximately 2,000 Hectares of Public Open Space and many public parks in the county have significant stands of woodland framing important and often iconic landscapes. Fingal also has approximately 70,000 street trees, most of which are maintained by the local authority. The Council recognises how significant urban trees, parkland trees and green space have helped to shape the landscape of towns and villages across the county. Even in the harsh urban environment many trees will live for a long time, given enough space, care and attention. The Council's current streetscapes host quite a diverse range of street trees from London Planes to Cherry Blossoms and Lime Trees. Trees represent fundamental elements of green infrastructure across the county in both urban and rural environments. The *Forest of Fingal* Tree Strategy aims to ensure that the economic, social and environmental benefits that trees provide today will continue and increase for generations to come.

The *Forest of Fingal* encapsulates the planning, establishment, protection and management of trees and associated plants, individually, in small groups, or under forest conditions within towns, villages, suburbs and rural areas within the county.

The *Forest of Fingal* is aligned with the Council's Corporate Plan 2019–2024:

Vision: Fingal - a great place to live, work, visit and do business

Mission: To be a vibrant, outward looking, well run Council that shows leadership and embraces diversity and opportunity

The Strategy outlines the Council's position regarding the ongoing maintenance, renewal and management of trees to improve the Council's Corporate Plan objectives:

- Quality of Life
- Quality and Climate Resilient Environment
- Quality Business Environment
- Quality in Our Work

This document has also been prepared in the context of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2019–2024, Biodiversity Action Plan, and Open Space Strategy. Trees enhance citizens' quality of life and will help to secure a future of sustainability in Fingal.

Ten years have passed since the adoption of the first Fingal Tree Strategy which at the time was the first of its kind in Ireland. Its implementation on the ground has been a success, with a significant reduction in all tree related incidents, complaints and requests.

Foreword

In the intervening time however, the approach to urban tree management has evolved significantly, to the point that it is necessary to update the Tree Strategy. As environmental awareness improves, more and more of us are conscious that the importance of our trees greatly outweighs their negative aspects. Besides their visual amenity value, trees help remove pollutants from our air and water, provide us with oxygen, reduce flooding and erosion as well as making a huge contribution to wildlife, biodiversity and climate change.

The scope of the revised Strategy applies to all trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the public realm of the county, as well as seeking to influence and support tree planting and management of trees on privately owned land, including farmland and gardens.

This Strategy aims to use every opportunity to continually develop a thriving, diverse and sustainable tree population in line with the county's fast paced urbanisation.

The aims set out in this document can be achieved through implementing sensible policies, robust guidelines, sound management approaches and by setting realistic targets, while continually searching for new ways to improve the delivery of a thriving tree population for the lifetime of *Forest of Fingal* 2021 – 2031 and beyond.

"To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as people, we must have trees."

Theodore Roosevelt

The Forest of Fingal Tree Strategy Vision Statement

'To protect and enhance Fingal's trees and woodlands, to maximise both the benefits they offer and the character they bring to the county, to ensure a greener and healthier Fingal for now and future generations'

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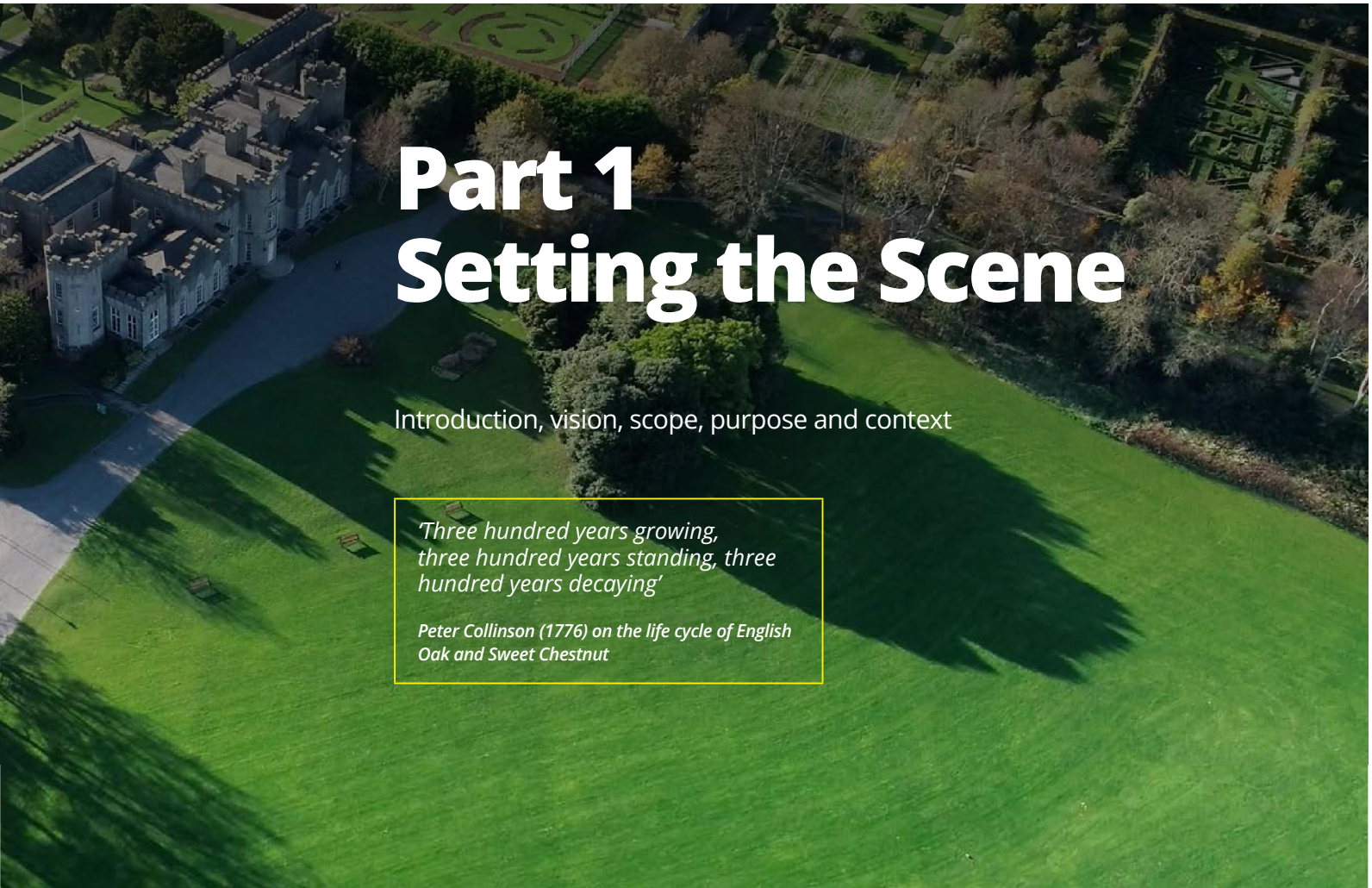
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Part 1
Setting the Scene

Introduction, vision, scope, purpose and context

'Three hundred years growing, three hundred years standing, three hundred years decaying'

Peter Collinson (1776) on the life cycle of English Oak and Sweet Chestnut

Part 1
Setting the Scene

1.1 Introduction - Why do we need a tree strategy?

The purpose of this document is to define the appropriate strategy for the sustainable management of trees in Fingal over the next ten years 2021 – 2031.

Fingal is continually changing and will continue to need to accommodate growth. New development needs to provide people with a high-quality environment as well as one that adapts to and mitigates the effects of climate change, and enhances the Council's landscape and its biodiversity.

Trees in Fingal provide a positive impact, particularly on the environment and in climate change mitigation, greenhouse gas emissions and in enhancing the county's green urban infrastructure.

The delivery of a higher level of tree canopy cover will enhance and improve the quality of public streets, open spaces, parklands and waterways of Fingal. It will improve the county's health, welfare and development, providing a county that delights the senses. Fingal County Council has a duty of care and responsibility for the management and maintenance for trees in the public realm – streets, parklands, open spaces and woodland demesnes. The estimated numbers are 70,000 publicly owned or managed trees, and approximately 400 hectares of public woodland. These numbers also increase annually as the Council takes ownership and charge of additional lands. Trees and woodlands are living and everchanging features integrated throughout both the urban landscape and urban life. They impart a unique range of environmental, social and economic benefits, and have specific requirements regarding their management and care. This is why the overall tree and woodland resource merits its own specific strategy.

1.11 An Historical Perspective

Fingal has a rich history associated with trees and woodland. The origin of many place names is evidence of the prominence of trees and woodlands in the county and their value from earliest times. The following are some interesting examples that illustrate this close association.

- The name Ardgillan is derived from the Irish *Ard Choill*, or 'High Wood'.
- The townland names of Hazelwood and Beechwood in Portmarnock relate to local historic houses.
- In Swords, the townlands of Forest Great, Forest Little and Forestfields refer to the fact that there was once a large forest to the southwest of Swords.
- Skidoo, a townland north of Swords, comes from *Sceach Dubh* or 'Black Bush'.
- Kilsallaghan, a townland near Swords, comes from *Coill Shalchán* or 'Willow Wood'.

Part 1
Setting the Scene

- In Lusk, Bridetree is a townland south of the village. The name refers to a tree associated with a holy well dedicated to Saint Brigid.
- The townland of Rush Demesne used to be known in medieval times as Kenure, which comes from *Cionn Iúir* or 'Headland of the Yew'.
- In Dublin 15, the name Clonsilla comes from *Cluain Saileach* which means the 'Meadow of Willows'. There used to be 'Sally Gardens' along the River Road, where locals would source willow for making baskets to sell in Dublin.
- Much of present-day Blanchardstown was once covered by a huge oak forest called the Scaldwood.

1.12 The Role of the Strategy

A tree strategy provides a framework for the management of the local tree population in order to achieve agreed aims and objectives. It helps put trees on an equal footing with other types of infrastructure when it comes to decision making. This provides a clear statement of Fingal's overall tree policies and practices. It is envisaged that a successful Tree Strategy will generate increased funding in future budgets for the entire tree population under the Council's care, which the Council will manage in terms of maintenance, planting, planning and safety management, through a coherent and structured approach. Caring for trees requires careful management and joint work by landowners, local authorities and other stakeholders. The Strategy will be a one stop shop point of reference for audiences such as elected members, staff, public, developers, and designers.

It is to be used as a framework for all stakeholders who have a role to play in protecting and increasing tree cover across Fingal. It addresses how to enhance the benefits trees can give and how challenges can be met in order to deliver a tree population which will benefit all people who visit, work and live here. Different services may provide for tree provision across the Council's different land use forms over a wide variety of capital projects. To ensure appropriate delivery there must be a coherent approach, which is also covered by this Strategy. Such an approach will reduce future potential maintenance and liability issues. There is also the opportunity to recognise the planting potential inherent in any given site.

1.13 The Scope of The Strategy

Every part of Fingal contributes to the Council's urban forest as a whole: gardens, schools, business and sports campuses, industry, local communities etc. Nearly 60% of urban Fingal's tree canopy cover is on private lands (Dublin Tree Canopy Study, March 2017). It is therefore prudent that the Council encourage the continued planting of trees on private lands through working with community and residents' groups, and providing information and advice.

Where possible, tools such as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), planning control and legislation will also be used to influence the protection and retention of important trees and vegetation on private lands. However, *Forest of Fingal* primarily covers those trees, woodlands, and hedgerows within the public realm of the county for which the Council is solely responsible, . The main focus is urban Fingal, where the ecosystem services and public good of trees is most in need.

1.14 Tree Strategy Structure

Forest of Fingal proposes a series of 12 Policies: these are referenced throughout the document as well as in Appendix I.

The vision of the Tree Strategy outlined below is supported by a range of Guiding Principles, Aims, Objectives and, finally, Actions which give effect to the Strategy. The diagram below illustrates the relationship between these elements of the Strategy.



Guiding Principles

Values and main drivers underpinning and guiding our future decisions

Aims

What we must achieve in the long term

Objectives

Targets and goals to set in order to reach our aims

Action Plan

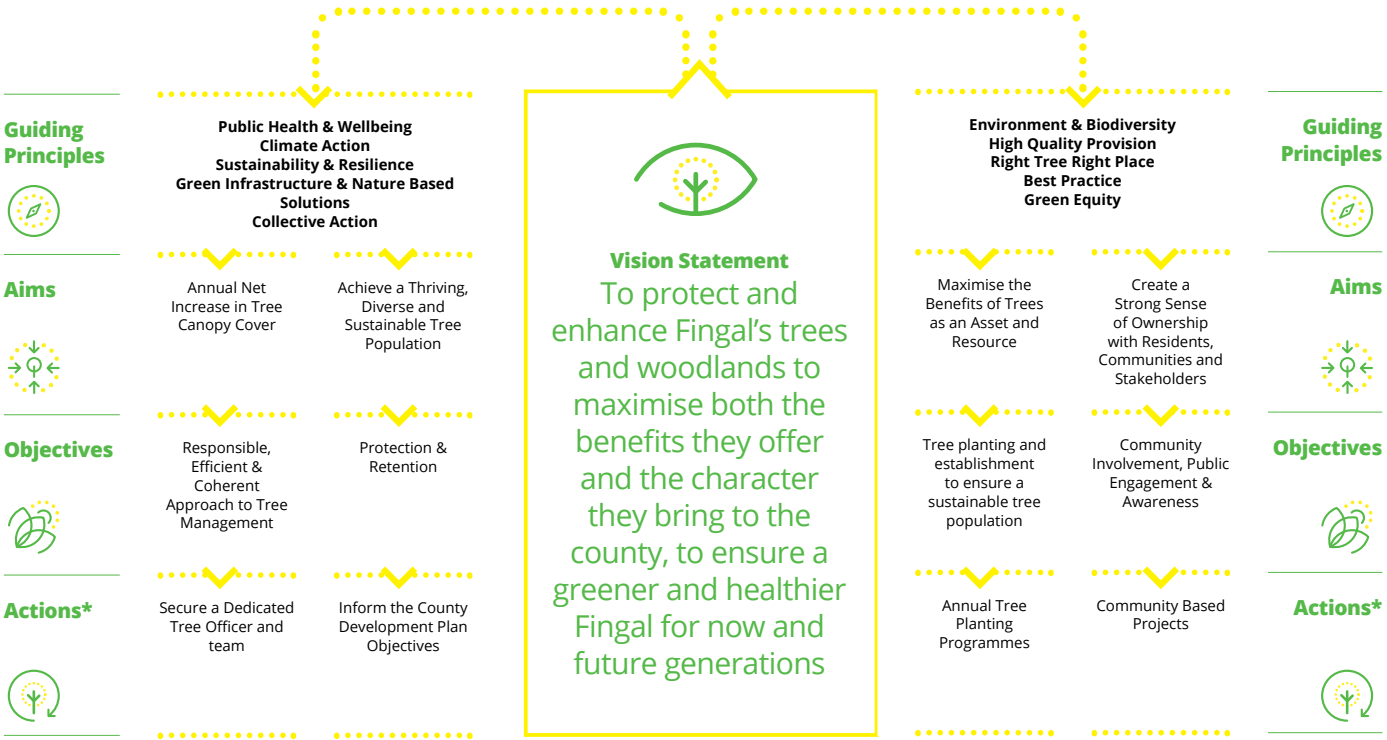
Specific, measurable tasks and methodologies

Policy Statements

A series of 12 Statements are outlined throughout the text of the document as well as Appendix I

Part 1
Setting the Scene

The diagram below illustrates the structure of the Strategy to achieve the vision over a ten year lifespan and beyond.



* Full list of Actions are included in Part 5 of this document

1.15 Guiding Principles and Values

There is a wealth of information and knowledge today informing how trees contribute positively in providing a resilient future. The approach of the Strategy is derived from the following underpinning values upon which trees have a direct impact.

Trees Improve Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life

Trees and a connection to nature enhance the lives of the many residents, workers and visitors of Fingal, and will continue to do so in terms of both physical and mental health. Studies show that spending as little as two hours per week in nature, including trees, is associated with good health and wellbeing (White et al., 2019).

Trees for Climate Action

Trees, forests and woodlands play a large role in the global solution to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. (See 2.3)

Trees for a Sustainable and Resilient Fingal

Ireland's cities and infrastructure are vulnerable to Climate Change, and the contribution of trees as part of Green Urban Infrastructure and nature-based solutions is vital in adapting to its effects. The intrinsic value trees have in terms of these nature-based solutions can play a fundamental role for a resilient county going forward.

Trees for the Environment & Biodiversity

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows provide an invaluable habitat for biodiversity. Urban trees are vitally important for nature. They may act as the only link to habitats beyond the urban boundaries and they provide food and shelter for wildlife within the urban forest, such as birds, bats, and many important insects like bees and other pollinators.

High Quality Tree Provision

The ten-year approach to this Strategy will lean largely on how this very important Principle is followed, with 'Quality' taking the driving seat in guiding decisions. The intrinsic value of trees is that they increase the quality of any environment, particularly urban streets and public open spaces where other Green Infrastructure opportunities and elements may be lacking. Quality, in terms of planning, selection, planting and aftercare, will take priority over the quantity of trees planted in a given area, or time period.

Part 1
Setting the Scene

'It is the policy of the Council to ensure all development is of a high quality design and promotes the achievement of accessible, safe and sustainable built and natural environments, which reflect the special character and heritage of the County and its varied townscapes and landscapes'

FCC Development Plan 2017 – 2023

Right tree in the right place
This is possibly the most important Principle in the approach to the lifetime of the Tree Strategy. Careful selection and planning will go into species selection for a given location, always keeping in mind where trees will grow to their full potential, provide maximum benefits and at the same time avoid future conflict.

The role trees play in terms of Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions
Due to their multi-functionality, trees are invaluable as Green Infrastructure and delivering Nature Based Solutions, see Appendix III Glossary of Terms for definitions and for delivering.

Best Practice
Throughout the implementation of this Strategy and for its lifetime the Council will ensure that the best practice will be to the fore in all deliverables, from planning and selection, to planting and aftercare, ensuring a tree population that not merely survives, but thrives.

Green Equity
The Council understands that every neighbourhood and community in Fingal is entitled to the access and use of green spaces, trees and nature in their environment regardless of address. The Council will seek to continually improve on tree provision in this regard. Trees are not a luxury, but a vital element of urban infrastructure and an environmental asset for public good.

Collective Action
If everybody planted one tree in their garden or on their land, this would go a long way towards achieving the Council's vision of increasing the *Forest of Fingal* and securing its future. Over the lifetime of the Strategy, the Council will continue to encourage, support and promote private tree planting initiatives.

Conclusion
Trees provide a direct link to our past and are fundamental to our future. Provision and care for the county's trees will be given so that the county is in a better state when it is handed over to future generations. According to Census 2016, Fingal has the youngest population in the country with more than one in four under the age of 15 and an average age of 34. A high quality and renewable tree population will contribute greatly to achieving a long lived, thriving tree population, while planting the right tree in the right place will allow new trees to flourish and grow to their full potential. The fulfilment of this Strategy will provide Fingal with a thriving and well managed urban forest resource.

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in."

Greek Proverb





1.2 Tree Policies and Guidance

1.21 Global Context: Policy decisions taken at a global level can have significant implications for what we do locally

Paris Climate Change Agreement
Members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed the Paris Agreement in 2016. Its central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global average temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Trees, forests and green infrastructure contribute by carbon sequestration, offsetting the emissions needed to meet the Paris Agreement targets which must be in conjunction with decarbonisation of key industry sectors. Increased tree planting represents an excellent and practical example of a nature-based solution which will contribute to this process.

IPCC Report
In August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published their Sixth Assessment Report. The most serious conclusion is that the window of time to stabilise our climate is closing. For Ireland, the report predicts more intense heatwaves and increased flooding as temperatures rise.

UN Sustainable Development Goals
The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States including Ireland in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals.

The goals are voluntary and address the global challenges we face, including those related to inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. With fewer than ten years until the target date of 2030, the benefits trees provide can play a key role in meeting and endorsing these goals as a nature-based solution to climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and much more. The implementation of the Fingal Tree Strategy can make a positive contribution to the fulfilment of the following Sustainable Development Goals:



Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.



Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Goal 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Part 1
Setting the Scene

For further information on how a thriving tree population can help to deliver these goals and more, see Part 2 of this document, Value of Trees.

The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in its 1987 report 'Our Common Future' defines sustainable development as:

> *"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

1.22 European Union Policies
The following EU policies are relevant in the context of this Tree Strategy:

European Green Deal
On 11th December 2019, The European Commission announced this deal to transform the EU into the first Climate Neutral Continent by 2050. One initiative of this is the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030, which was set up in order to achieve biodiversity objectives and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

EU Plant Health Directive
In acting to control plant diseases, Ireland like all other EU Member States must comply with EU plant health legislation.

1.23 National Legislation and Guidance
The information provided below is intended as a guide and does not constitute legal advice.

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
Signed into law in the summer of 2021, Ireland is now on a legally binding path to net-zero emissions, to transition to a climate resilient and biodiversity rich country by no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade.

The Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended 2000) is the principle legislation protecting nesting birds in Ireland. The Act makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take, damage or destroy any nest that is either in use or being built. In general terms, bird nesting in Ireland can be expected to take place between March 1st and August 31st.

Policy 1

The Council will carry out tree pruning and felling outside of the nesting period as far as reasonably practicable. An example of an exception to this would be on the grounds of health and safety concerns. The National Parks and Wildlife Service will be informed in these instances.

Forestry Act 2014
A Tree Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons.

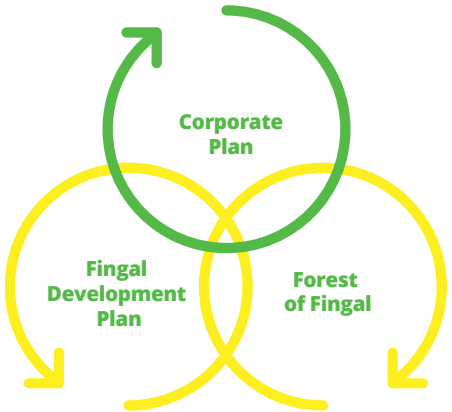
The Planning & Development Acts 2000 to 2011
Local authorities have a mandatory responsibility to include objectives in their Development Plans relating to the preserving of amenities such as trees. This empowers the planning authority to make provision for tree preservation by establishing a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). No tree covered by a TPO may be felled, topped, lopped or destroyed without the consent of the planning authority.

Occupier's Liability Act 1995
As landowners, the Council is responsible for the safety and maintenance of trees on public land. This is also true for private tree owners and trees within their ownership.

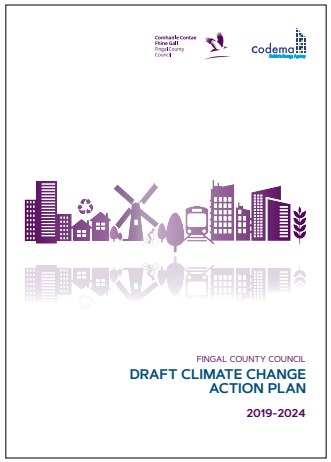
Environmental Protection Agency - An Integrated Assessment of the State of Ireland's Environment 2020
The evidence from this assessment reveals that the overall quality of Ireland's environment is not what it should be, and the outlook is not optimistic unless we accelerate the implementation of solutions across all sectors and society.

1.24 Local Tree Related Policies
Forest of Fingal is a strategic document aimed at supporting a range of initiatives such as tackling Climate Change, boosting biodiversity and enhancing quality of life for residents, workers and visitors of the county. These local policies include:

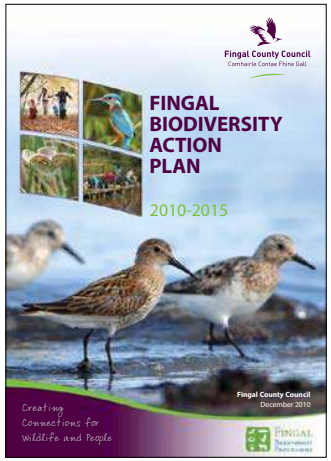
- **Corporate Plan 2019-2023**
- **Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023**
- **Keeping it Green – An Open Space Strategy for Fingal**
- **Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024**
- **Biodiversity Action Plan**



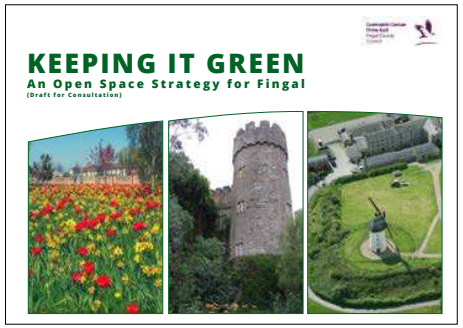
Part 1
Setting the Scene

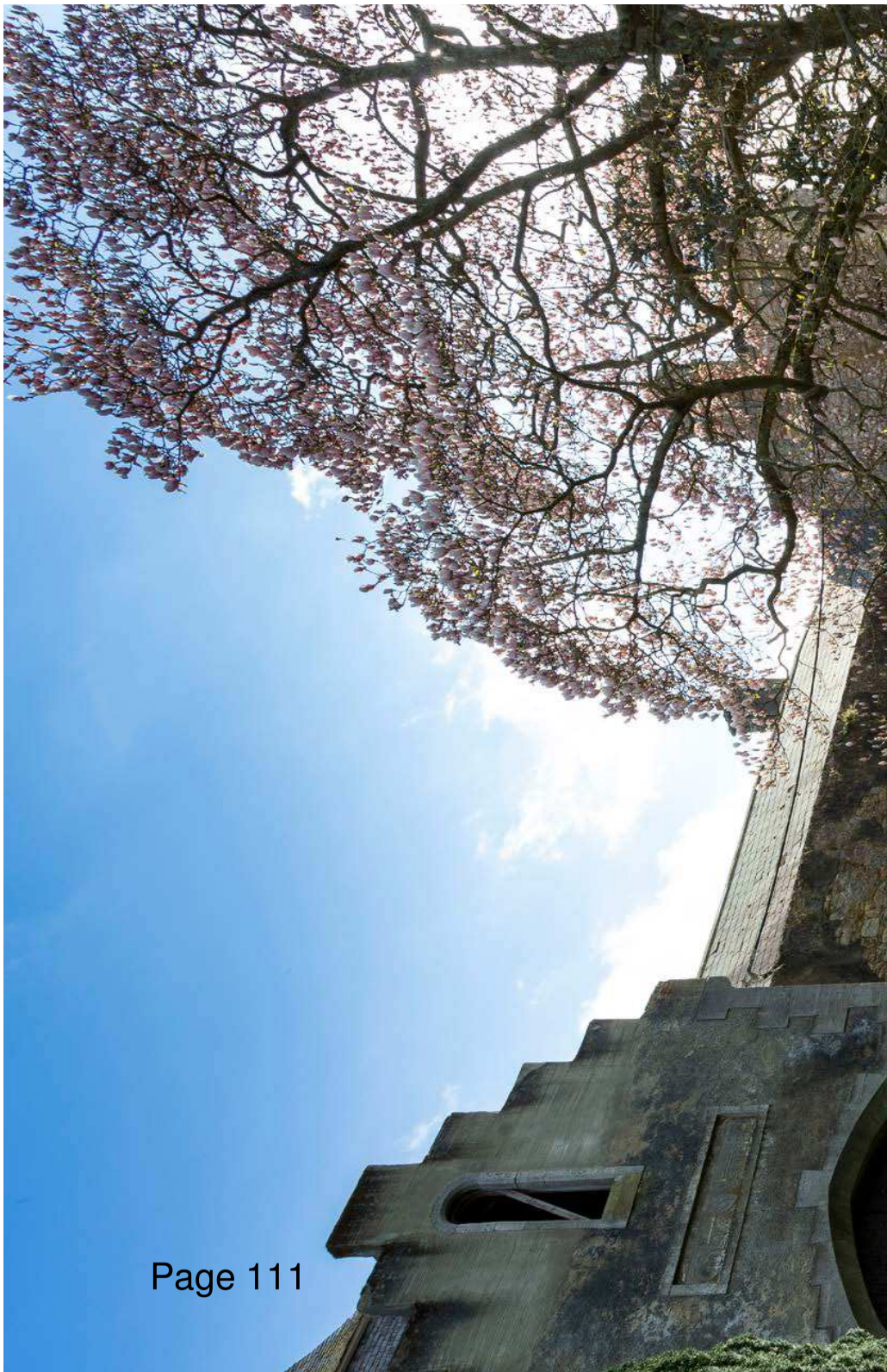












1.3 Tree Related Issues and Challenges



Low Tree Canopy Cover



Climate Change



Pests and Diseases



Increasing Population and Urbanisation Pressures

While trees enhance the urban environment, the growing conditions are often hostile to good tree growth. Trees face challenges from the day they are planted, through their establishment to growth and maturity. Many factors threaten not only the tree's survival but its ability to reach its full potential and deliver its many benefits. To achieve the aims of this Strategy the current and future distribution, health and suitability of the Council's tree stock will be considered and managed. The following section discusses the main threats to all trees within Fingal, both public and private.

1.31 Climate Change

It is likely that Climate Change is impacting our trees and woodlands due to predicted increases in extreme weather, such as high winds, heavy rainfall and periods of drought. These effects will probably be seen in declining tree health in some species or increased difficulty establishing young trees. As Climate Change progresses, some mature trees will be lost through both direct causes, such as windthrow due to gales, or indirectly as weather conditions increase stress and thereby decrease their tolerance to pests and diseases. Other factors such as increased winter rainfall may lead to water logging, which can affect tree roots and stability. If our woodlands are affected, this has a knock-on effect upon the plants and animals found there.

1.32 Pests and Diseases

Various insects and diseases can affect trees, reducing both their health and value, and therefore the sustainability of trees. As most pests generally tend to have a specific range of tree hosts the potential damage that can be caused by each pest will differ. A strong diversity of tree species is therefore prudent to reduce the risk to our trees' health and the possible loss posed by pests and diseases. Present in Fingal at the time of writing is Ash dieback, *Chalara fraxinea*, which affects and poses a serious threat to

this native species. Ash trees are a prominent feature in woodlands, hedgerows, and parklands nationwide. In terms of planting, careful selection of tree stock from reputable suppliers is also key in lowering the risk.

Climate Change increases the range and threat of pests and diseases and trees' susceptibility. Early detection, vigilance and raising awareness is a prudent approach.



Policy 2

The Council will review and implement biosecurity measures and protocols to keep tree pests and diseases under control within Fingal.

1.33 Development

Changes of land use and development can put severe pressure on trees. Demolition and construction cause damage in a variety of ways. This may be through direct loss to accommodate development, a reduction in space for retained trees' future growth and spread, direct damage due to compaction of soil, severing roots or branches or from spill of chemicals or fire. Infrastructure and service installation can also be damaging due to open trenching. For new trees, the presence of pre-existing or new utility provision must be carefully considered if future conflict is to be avoided.

The Council considers tree planting an integral part of urban design and requires that substantial tree pit provision be given equal consideration as other infrastructure.

1.34 Damage and Vandalism

Damage to trees, both deliberate and through lack of knowledge, is common. Criminal damage includes cutting down or lopping/topping, snapping saplings, setting fires beneath trees and various other attempts to kill Council trees. Some damage to trees is through a lack of understanding, e.g. failing to maintain trees or leaving on stakes, ties, metal grilles etc., or through the fixing of decorative lights which are not loosened on a regular basis. Damage related to highway use and maintenance causes compaction of rooting areas, while branches can be torn by high vehicles, the installation of driveways can cut across verges, and contamination can be caused by salt in grit or hydrocarbons. Enforcement action will be taken against anyone who damages Council trees as a measure of protection.

1.35 Resources / Budget

A dedicated annual tree management budget is lacking and an action of this Strategy is to seek the specific provision of this resource.

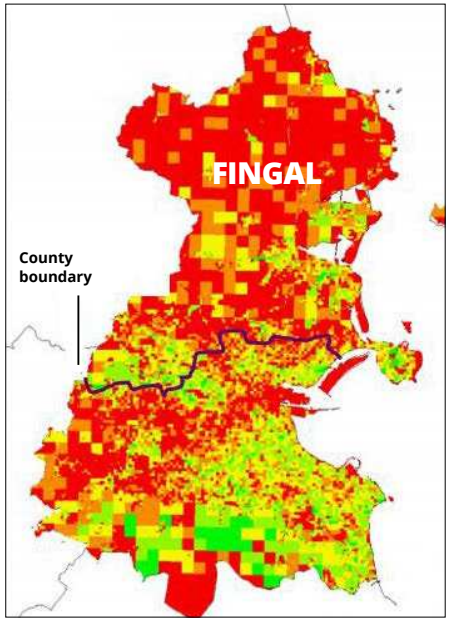
Part 1
Setting the Scene

1.36 Population Increase and Urban Intensification

Between 2011 and 2016, the population of Fingal rose by 8%, the highest increase nationally. The population of Fingal reached 296,020, the third highest in the county. In Ireland, 63% of the population lives in urban areas. In Europe, currently over 70% of the population lives in cities, and this is expected to increase to over 80% by 2050. Responding to this population increase inevitably requires the provision of new open space amenities including urban trees.

1.37 Low Canopy Cover

According to the Dublin Tree Canopy Study (undertaken by the UCD School of Geography), the total tree canopy cover of Fingal stands at 6.5%, the lowest of the four Dublin local authorities and well below the European city average of 15%. Although this is partly due to different land uses the study does highlight a significant deficiency in the valuable natural resource provided by trees, and this must be addressed.



% Canopy cover	
0 – 5	
5 – 10	
0 – 20	
20 – 40	
40 – 100	

Clearly visible from this Dublin Canopy Study image that there is a deficiency of tree cover in the county

1.38 After Care of Newly Planted Trees
Typically, around half of newly planted urban trees do not live beyond ten years. Incorrect pruning and failure to remove tree stakes and tree ties can negatively affect tree growth. The Council will plant the number of trees that can be managed with the resources available using a qualitative approach to selection, planting, monitoring and maintenance to ensure their survival and longevity.

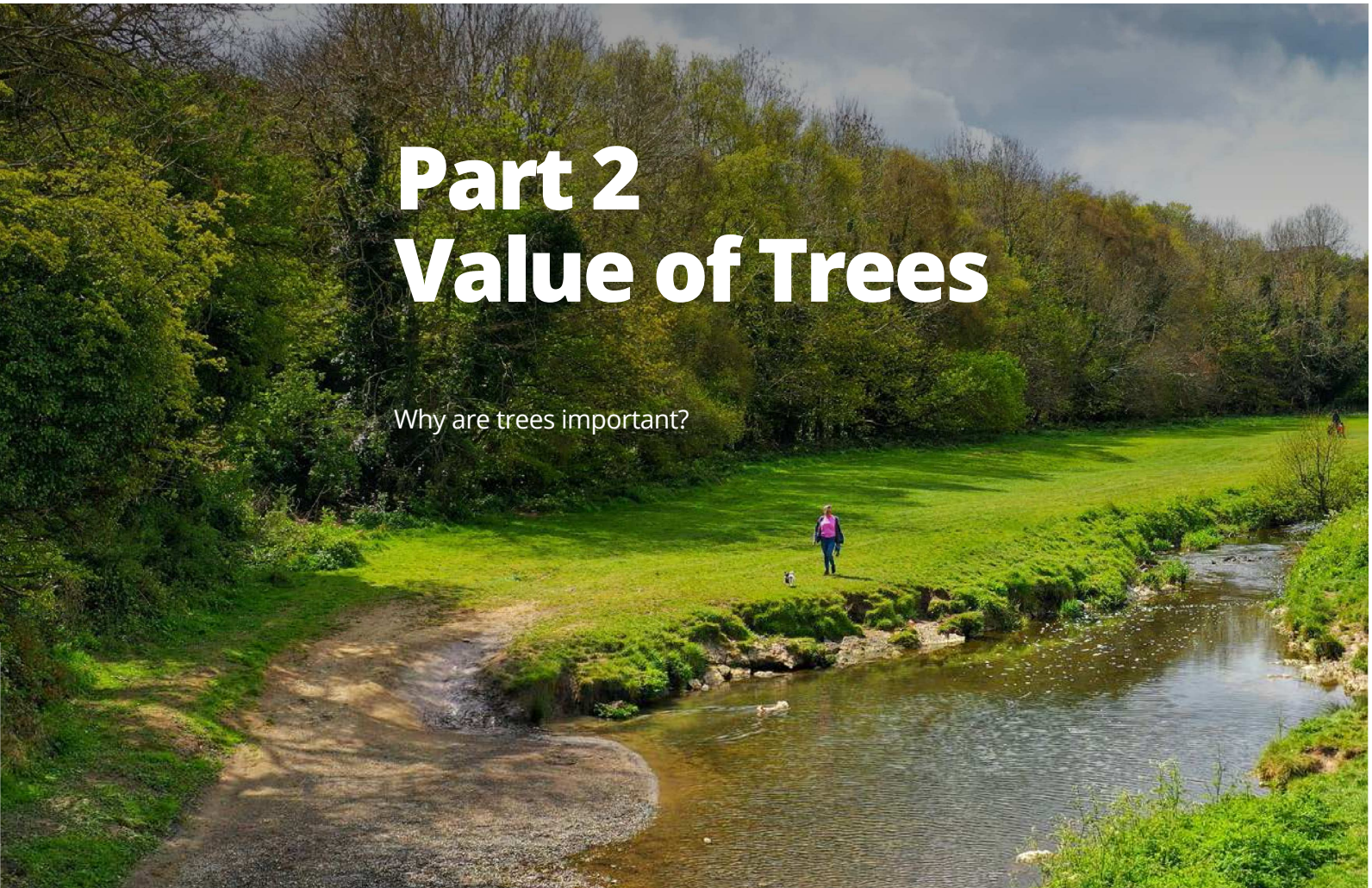
1.39 Ageing Tree Population and General Mortality
Even as new trees are planted many of the Council's existing trees are nearing the end of their lives. Fingal will continue to manage the ageing population through regular assessments to determine which trees need to be maintained or removed, and by planning when, how and with what tree species they will be replaced. At some point all trees will go into decline.

1.40 Conflicts Caused by Trees
From semi-maturity onwards trees occasionally present problems, varying in severity from nuisance (such as unwanted shading and blocking views) to danger due to defective branches, roots, the effects of disease, or extreme weather. In most cases these issues can be effectively managed. There are variations between species and varieties in the probability and severity of problems occurring and, in this regard, it is essential to select the right tree for the right place.

1.41 Conclusion
In summary, urban trees strive to survive in the most challenging of environments, both immediately after planting and throughout their lives. They compete against utility networks, road works and a variety of pollutants such as car fumes, salt and de-icing agents on footpaths and roadside margins. Physical damage and disturbance to trees roots are frequent consequences of road and footpath reconstruction or trenching works. Vehicular damage, particularly by skips and high-sided vehicles, and vandalism can damage trees causing death or disfigurement resulting in misshapen or weakened trees. There is also an increasing trend by car users to park their vehicles on verges causing rutting and soil compaction, which causes damage to tree roots as well as leaving the verge in an unsightly and unsafe condition. Despite these challenges, urban trees can and do survive, albeit with a more limited life expectancy and with varying degrees of success. However, the above challenges demonstrate the need for a strategic approach to tree management, planting and maintenance.

Policy 3

The Council plans to promote the importance of trees as part of the urban environment affording them a similar status to other urban infrastructure.



Part 2
Value of Trees

Why are trees important?

Part 2
Value of Trees

2.0 Introduction

There is now a growing wealth of knowledge and evidence for the wide range of services and value that trees bring to urban environments. While emphasis was once more typically placed on the costs associated with the presence of trees (e.g. leaf removal, ongoing maintenance etc.) it is now more commonly known how trees establish a sense of place and provide healthy environments as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation.



Human Benefits

- Improved health, wellbeing and mental health
- Play & Learning
- Shade & Comfort
- Relaxation
- Tourism
- Sense of Place



Environmental Benefits

- Air pollution removal
- Carbon storage
- Urban cooling
- Wind abatement
- Stormwater control
- Healthy soil
- Water filtration



Ecological & Biodiversity Benefits

- Improved health of ecosystems
- Pollination
- Buffer for pollution
- Improved species' balance & diversity



Economic Benefits

- Increased land and property value
- Energy savings
- Tourism
- Less financial burden on health & emergency services
- Increased productivity & creativity

Part 2
Value of Trees



Trees in the Townscape (2012). © Trees and Design Action Group Trust, Trees in the Townscape (2012)

2.1 Physical & Mental Health and Wellbeing

At the time of writing, access to trees and green spaces has never been as relevant and important as in the Covid–19 global pandemic. Trees have a positive effect on health through the provision of shade, outdoor recreation amenity and clean air. Trees reduce stress and give a greater quality of life. Seasonal changes, flowers, colours and aromas can stimulate positive emotions. Studies from over 30 years ago have shown trees speed up recovery times from illness and reduce the need for medication (Ulrich, Robert 1984).

Trees also reduce exposure to harmful UV rays. The Japanese term *shinrin-yoku* ('forest bathing') emerged in the 1980s as a physiological and psychological exercise. A 2016 report (Ulmer, J.M, et al, 2016) indicated that more neighbourhood tree cover, independent from green space access, was related to better overall health.

2.2 Air Quality – 'Breathing Space'

Everyone deserves to breath clean air and clean air is a human right. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), air pollution is the greatest environmental health risk we face, yet nine out of every ten people worldwide do not breath safe air. WHO estimates that around 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air. There is evidence that urban trees remove large amounts of air pollution and improve urban air quality, particularly in the urban environment (Nowak et al 2006).

> *'Nine out of ten people worldwide do not breath safe air'*
>
> ***World Health Organisation***

2.3 Climate Change

TTrees, especially large ones, can store significant amounts of carbon as they grow, temporarily reducing CO_2 in the atmosphere (Nowak et al. 2013).

Cities throughout the world, including some in Europe, are increasingly experiencing summer heatwaves. Trees work like pumps: through evapotranspiration they breath out into the atmosphere the water they receive, which is a highly effective mechanism for lowering air temperatures.

A naturally growing diverse woodland can store carbon at a far greater capacity than monocultural plantations for production. Increasing tree cover in Fingal will contribute to a reduction in atmospheric carbon.

2.4 Water

In urban areas, the natural hydrological cycle carried out by vegetation is disturbed by the increase in impervious surfaces, which is why urban trees and forests are vitally important. Trees help to reduce localised flooding by intercepting rainfall and maintaining soil permeability. They reduce water run-off in extreme rain events, taking the pressure off the urban drainage system. The canopies themselves retain large volumes of rainwater, delaying the time it takes to hit the ground and cause run-off.

As well as flood relief, trees can also enhance water quality and control soil erosion with their roots.

Part 2
Value of Trees

2.5 Biodiversity

Trees and their associated ecosystems provide habitats for wildlife: tree and timber with cavities are especially valuable for animals such as bats and birds.

Trees connect habitats by providing green links between parks and open spaces allowing opportunities for wildlife to travel from place to place to access new habitats. Trees provide food for wildlife including nectar for bees and other insects. There is a significant range of pollinator-friendly trees which can be maintained and planted to mitigate the current decline in bees and pollinator insects.

2.6 Visual Amenity

Trees bring a sense of place and maturity to new developments, while larger species help to create a more human scale to old and existing townscapes.

Trees are also used effectively to screen unsightly structures or views and soften the built environment.

Trees can form an integral part of the design of new schemes whether using existing tree cover or through the planting of new trees as part of the scheme.

2.7 Economic Benefits

Research (Morales 1980) shows that the presence of trees can increase the value of residential and commercial properties by 5%–18%. In retail areas, trees positively affect people's behaviour by attracting consumers to visit. Trees provide shade, shelter in wind and a regulation of local air temperature thus reducing energy and heating costs. Planting areas of woodland into amenity grassland can reduce the cost of maintenance by at least 60% (Trees or Turf, Woodland Trust 2011). The urban forest has an impact on a town's image and the business climate it provides to attract inward investment. Studies have proven that production in the workplace is higher in environments with tree cover while other studies have proven that trees have financial benefits as opposed to a cost liability for local authorities, such as their contribution to SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage).

Trees provide ecosystem services, removing airborne pollutants, storing carbon and diverting storm water runoff away from local sewer systems. The Council plans to conduct research into the extent this occurs in the county and to put a value as to the avoided treatment costs annually.

Research in the US, comparing the costs and benefits of trees, has shown a positive return ranging from 1.7 to 2.4 times the expenditure of the tree depending on the context. Urban trees are not only essential to quality of life, they also offer good value for money.

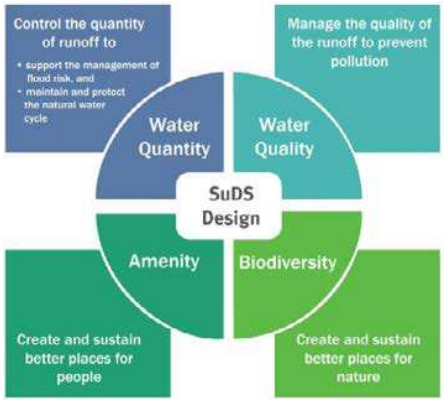


Image depicting the four pillars in successful SuDS design. The SuDS Manual, CIRIA, 2015.

A single mature tree, if planted under the Principle of right tree, right place can arguably be defined as a successful SuDS element in its own right, due to its invaluable benefits which fit under the four main pillars illustrated on the left.

2.8 Crime and Public Safety

There is evidence to suggest that in urban areas the presence of trees can deter crime and anti-social behaviour. Fewer crimes were reported in locations with greater amounts of vegetation (Kuo and Sullivan 2001b). Donovan and Prestemon (2012) also reported a decreased incidence of crime when street trees were present, suggesting that the presence of trees was perceived as indicating a more cared for environment. Similarly, Burden (2006) has suggested that trees improve security due to better use of these spaces and hence increased surveillance.

Roadside trees have been shown to have a marked impact on road safety, while properly positioned trees have been shown to reduce roadside accidents and incidents of road rage. Roads lined with trees affect speed perception, resulting in considerably lower speeds than on adjacent open roads (Burden 2006). Roadside trees also create a safer environment for pedestrians by providing a visual and physical barrier between pedestrians and road users.

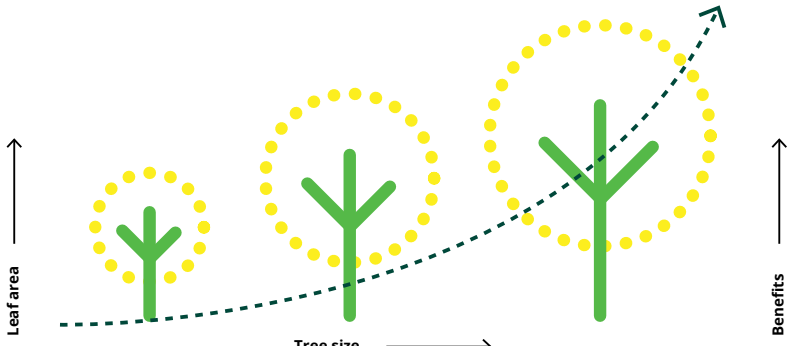
Part 2
Value of Trees

2.9 Conclusion

Depending on the tree species in question it takes between 15 and 40 years for a tree to grow a sufficiently large canopy to deliver meaningful aesthetic, air pollution removal, rainwater management and other benefits. Size does matter. Trees are the only part of urban infrastructure that can appreciate in value while the rest generally depreciate.

Urban trees do, however, have a finite useful life expectancy. The Council will therefore seek to retain, protect and care for as many of these trees as reasonably practicable to optimise their benefits. Further details follow in the policy and management sections of this Strategy. The benefits highlighted above are non-exhaustive and interconnected: for example, the health benefits associated with contact to nature will in turn provide economic benefits with reduced costs to our healthcare system.

Extensive studies along with modern technology and software, such as iTree, can now provide hard numbers in terms of putting a figure on the environmental services that trees provide. Consideration in planning, design and provision of future trees can maximise these benefits for many years to come.





Part 3 Quality and Quantity of Fingal's Trees

An overview of Trees in Fingal

Part 3
Quality and Quantity of Fingal's Trees

3.1 Types of Tree Cover

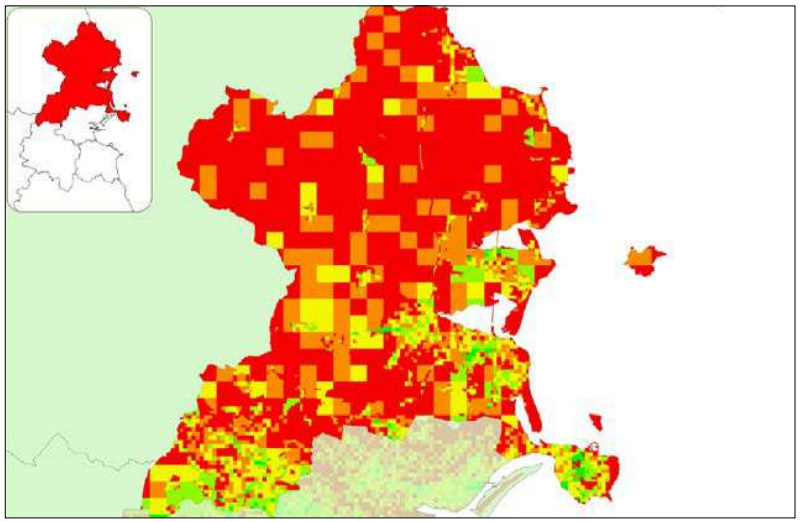
The variety of tree and vegetation cover within the urban forest of Fingal is vast depending on the variety of land use – mainly streets, parks, open spaces, woodlands, river embankments, motorways, campuses, and hedgerows. Most of the total tree canopy cover within urban Fingal is privately owned. None-the-less, the primary focus of this Strategy, and the actions recommended within, is the public realm for which Fingal County Council has responsibility.

3.2 Current Canopy Cover - information from the Dublin Tree Canopy Study

The 'Dublin Tree Canopy Study' undertaken by the School of Geography, University College Dublin, and published in March 2017, provides an analysis of data from an aerial survey of the tree cover for the Greater Dublin Region across the lands managed by the four Dublin local authorities and the Office of Public Works. The survey data is analysed in terms of the environmental services (biodiversity, air quality, water management) provided by the tree cover across the county.

The report indicates that '*A tree canopy cover of 15% would make Dublin comparable to other European cities. Currently cover across County Dublin is 10% but there are large variations between local authorities*'. With a predominantly rural landcover of 74%, Fingal is the least 'leafy' in terms of proportion of canopy cover, although due to its large size it has the second largest amount of canopy in terms of area. Fingal's rural areas are used for large scale and productive agriculture activities, which may make afforestation incentives less effective compared to SDCC or DLR. Somewhat counterintuitively, Fingal's continued and fast paced urbanisation provides the authority with an opportunity to increase canopy by mandating street tree planting in the design of any new developments through the planning process. At present, Fingal has 1,506 km of road suggesting space for a maximum of 75,328 street trees. In terms of areas to be prioritised, approximately two thirds of urban Fingal is below 10% canopy cover, meaning most areas of Fingal would benefit from additional plantings. That being said, the more northerly towns in the county, i.e. Lusk, Rush, Donabate, Balbriggan and Skerries, could be said to be in particular need of additional tree planting.

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Quality and Quantity of Fingal's Trees



% Canopy cover	
0 – 5	
5 – 10	
0 – 20	
20 – 40	
40 – 100	

Tree canopy cover across Fingal, which has predominantly rural landcover (74%) is estimated at 6.5%

Canopy cover breakdown in each of the four local authorities

Local Authority	Area (ha)	Canopy (ha)	Percent canopy	Percent urban
DCC	11,772	1,197	10.2	97.1
DLR	12,660	2,398	18.9	59.8
Fingal	45,806	2,996	6.5	25.7
SDCC	22,350	3,872	17.3	42.2
Total	92,588	9,284	10.0	43.4

3.3 Number of Street Trees, Woodlands etc.

70,000 Council-owned / managed trees
400 hectares of woodland which is approximately 20% of the publicly owned open space within the county.

3.4 How Trees Are Currently Managed

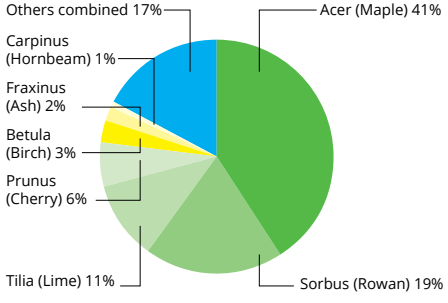
All the street trees within Fingal County Council are currently being resurveyed and uploaded onto a new tree management software system. All recommendations within this survey will assist with scheduling and

Part 3 Quality and Quantity of Fingal's Trees

prioritising future works. This is to assist with working to a planned schedule rather than a reactive works schedule. Residents may still ring or email with concerns or requests for tree works, but these requests must be assessed and prioritised in line with the proposed works as detailed in Section 4.5 Maintenance.

3.5 Current Breakdown in Terms of Species

According to the Council's inventory of trees, over 70% of the population comprises three genus types: Acer - Maple (41%); Sorbus – Rowan (19%); and Tilia – Lime (11%). This highlights the need to greatly diversify the tree stock. It could prove costly to depend on such high quantities of similar genus and species should future outbreaks of pests and diseases occur. The recommended approach for a resilient tree population in terms of pest and disease control, as well as climate change adaptability, is to diversify the tree stock.



The Council will use and promote the use of a wide variety of trees in terms of family, genus and species in future planting programmes and projects.

3.6 Protected Trees (TPOs)

Currently there are three locations with trees under Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) in Fingal: The Vicarage, Church Road, Swords; Santry Demesne; and Brackenstown/Brazil, Swords.

3.7 Tree Trails

Fingal currently has Tree Trails in public parks in Ardgillan Demesne, and Glebe Park in Balrothery. The development of Tree Trails is a good way of introducing the public to tree identification as well as increasing appreciation of the Council's trees.





Part 4
The Sustainable Management of Trees in Fingal

Management & Maintenance of Trees in Fingal

Part 4
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4.0 Management of Trees

In all references below, the standards of decisions and tree work to be undertaken by both the Council's own and contracted arboricultural teams are carried out in accordance with current relevant Ireland and EU legislation, British Standards, and general industry accepted standards and guidance.

4.1 Inspections

Knowing the local tree resource is a prerequisite to its effective management. Surveys of the main tree populations, therefore, are to be conducted, particularly trees in the public realm (e.g. streets and open spaces). Creating an evidence base will provide strategic understanding of Fingal's tree cover, enable effective monitoring of its evolution, and facilitate the best proactive management approach of its trees. Inspecting the trees is a vital way of monitoring and recording the condition of the Council's tree population.

4.2 Trees and Risk Management

The Council recognises that trees are living organisms that naturally lose branches or fall. The overall risk to human safety, however, is low. The Council plans to develop a tree risk management policy which strikes a balance between risks and benefits of trees. It will be integrated as part of the Council's overall tree management plan.

Guidance to make reasonable decisions about tree management needs to be backed up by reliable data on the actual level of risk posed by falling trees. The UK-based National Tree Safety Group commissioned the Centre for Decision Analysis and Risk Management at Middlesex University to quantify the risk of fatal and non-fatal injuries from falling or fallen trees and branches to the UK public. The research identified 64 deaths during the 10 years after 1 January 1999. With a UK population of roughly 60 million, this leads to an overall estimated risk of about one death in 10 million people per year from falling or fallen trees and branches.

Regarding non-fatal injuries in the UK, the number of accident and emergency cases (A&E) attributable to being struck by trees (about 55 a year) is exceedingly small compared with the roughly 2.9 million leisure-related A&E cases per year: footballs (262,000), children's swings (10,900) and even wheelie bins (2,200) are involved in many more incidents.

UK study findings (Health and Safety Executive and National Tree Safety Group)

Cause of death	Annual risk	Basis of risk and source
Cancer	1 in 387	England and Wales 1999
Injury and poisoning	1 in 3,137	UK 1999
All types of accidents and other external causes	1 in 4,064	UK 1999
All forms of road accident	1 in 16,800	UK 1999
Lung cancer from radon in dwellings	1 in 29,000	England 1996
Gas incident (fire, explosion or carbon monoxide poisoning)	1 in 1,510,000	GB 1994/95-1998/99
From trees	1 in 10,000,000 or less if high wind incidents are excluded	This study
From lightning	1 in 18,700,000	England and Wales 1995-99

Policy 4

In balancing tree risks and benefits the Council will:

1. Manage the risk of significant injury or property damage to levels that are as low as reasonably practicable.
2. Operate a system of proactive and reactive tree inspections.
3. Maintain a detailed record of trees and inspections.
4. Ensure competent individuals carry out tree inspections.
5. Ensure work identified through the inspection programme is undertaken by suitably qualified staff or competent contractors within the appropriate timeframe.

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4.3 Reactive and Emergency Works

There will always be a need to carry out reactive works, although the quantity of this work should reduce over time as the proactive work is embedded. Reactive works are carried out to manage risks to the public. They include felling dead trees, removing hazardous branches, and clearing obstructions to sightlines and infrastructure. Reactive works are carried out in response to enquiries from other Council services, residents and Council members, or where staff have identified them when travelling in the county.

The Council has an emergency plan for severe weather conditions and has tree maintenance crews on call 24 hours a day for any tree related emergencies.

4.4 Planting

The Council aspires to increase the county's urban tree cover, which currently stands at 6.5% tree canopy cover, and is working to increase this annually. In principle, planting is one straightforward way to achieve this.

> *"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is right now."*
>
> ***Chinese Proverb***

Types of Tree Planting:

- Annual tree planting programme. Realistic and sensible targets to be set in place.
- Joint interest opportunities with stakeholders such as community groups and NGOs.
- Private tree planting. Continue and improve on tree giveaways and advice.
- Planning conditions, replacement, integrated tree pits with SuDS.
- New developments.

Urban Tree Planting in Hard Landscapes

Such environments are among the most challenging for tree survival and establishment. Specialised integrated tree pits, incorporating SuDS, will reduce risk of pavement lift in the future and they are particularly suited to key urban centres and main streets.

Planting will be targeted where need is greatest and the Principle of the 'right tree in the right place' and quality will take precedence over quantity. Planting a tree is an investment and the returns are all the greater when the longevity of the tree is maximised. Securing quality nursery stock and adequate rooting environments should be made a priority. Quality aftercare will be prioritised.

The planting standards will also refer to BS8545:2014 T*rees: From nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations*

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Policy 5

The Principle of planting the 'right tree in the right place' will apply for all new tree planting.

Native vs Non-native (Exotic) Species Selection

While the selection, planting and protection of native species is highly desirable there is a large palette of exotic species available that can thrive in challenging urban environments. Exotic trees may be selected for planting in urban centres, which will provide an opportunity to diversify the urban forest. Such diversity will gradually decrease to native selection transitioning from urban to peri-urban and eventually through to Fingal's rural geographical areas. Native species are generally more appropriate in natural locations than in man-made and urbanised areas.



London Plane trees which feature on Swords Main Street are a common sight in cities - hence their name – and for good reason as they have a proven track record of disease and storm resistance and can thrive in harsh urban environments.

Urban Environment
Predominantly non-native

Peri Urban Environment
Native / Non Native

Rural Environment
Predominantly native

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Policy 6

Following instances of tree removal, and subject to availability of space and resources, replacement trees will correspond to the size of the removed tree.

4.5 Maintenance

What is proposed in relation to maintenance is a hierarchal approach with urban centres and main streets receiving the greatest resourcing in terms of inspection and maintenance.

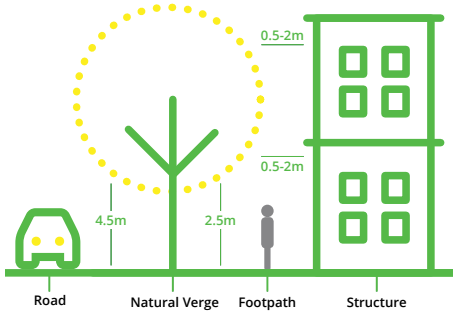
Pruning

All pruning works will be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines and in particular by reference to the BS3998:2010 *Tree Work – Recommendations*

Policy 7

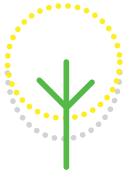
As well as pruning for arboriculture reasons, the following will be the general standard for (street)trees in the public realm:

- **Footpaths:** 2.5m overhead clearance
- **Roads:** 4.5m overhead clearance
- **Buildings:** 0.5 - 2m clearance



Typical standards to be achieved with urban street trees within the public realm

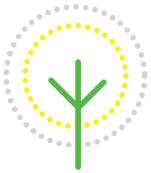
Methods of Pruning and typical scenarios within the hierarchy approach to tree maintenance:



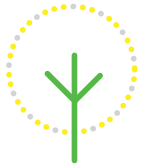
Crown Lift or Crown Raising

Crown lifting is the removal of the lowest branches and/or preparing of lower branches for future removal. Good practice dictates crown lifting should not normally include the removal of large branches growing directly from the trunk as this can cause large wounds which may become extensively decayed leading to further long term problems or more short

term biomechanical instability. Crown lifting on older, mature trees should be avoided or restricted to secondary branches or shortening of primary branches rather than the whole removal wherever possible. Crown lifting is an effective method of increasing light transmission to areas closer to the tree or to enable access under the crown, but it should be restricted to less than 15% of the live crown height and leave the crown at least two thirds of the total height of the tree. Crown lifting should be specified with reference to a fixed point, e.g. 'crown lift to give 5.5m clearance above ground level'.



Crown Reduction
This is the reduction in height and/or spread of the crown (the foliage bearing portions) of a tree. Crown reduction may be used to reduce mechanical stress on individual branches or the whole tree. It may also be used to make the tree more suited to its immediate environment or to reduce the effects of shading and light loss, etc. The final result should retain the main framework of the crown and, therefore, a significant proportion of the leaf bearing structure while leaving a similar, if smaller outline. This may not necessarily achieve symmetry for its own sake. Crown reduction cuts should be as small as possible and in general not exceed 100mm diameter unless there is an overriding need to do so. Reductions should be specified by actual measurements where possible and reflect the finished result, but may also refer to lengths of parts to be removed to aid clarity, e.g. 'crown reduce in height by 2.0m and lateral spread by 1.0m, all round, to finished crown dimensions of 18m in height by 11m in spread (all measurements approximate)'. Not all species are suitable for this treatment and crown reduction should not be confused with 'topping', an indiscriminate and harmful treatment.



Crown Thin
Crown thinning is the removal of a portion of smaller/tertiary branches, usually at the outer crown, to produce a uniform density of foliage around an evenly spaced branch structure. It is usually confined to broad-leaved species. Crown thinning does not alter the overall size or shape of the tree. Material should be removed systematically throughout the tree, should not exceed the stated percentage and not more than 30% overall. Common reasons for crown thinning are to allow more light to pass through the tree, reduce wind resistance, reduce weight (but this does not necessarily reduce leverage on the structure) and is rarely a once-only operation, particularly on species that are known to produce large amounts of epicormic growth.



Formative Pruning
Minor yet essential pruning during the early years of a tree's growth to establish the desired form and/or to correct defects or weaknesses that may affect structure in later life.

Building Clearance
Pruning branches away from buildings for reasons of avoiding future conflict to, ideally, 2m with a minimum standard of 0.5m.

Pruning Methods according to the Hierarchal Approach

Main Streets and Urban Centres	All methods of pruning as required
Housing Estates and Residential Areas	• Building Clearance • Crown Raising • Formative pruning If these methods are not sufficient to address requirements, it may warrant removal. Each individual tree is assessed on a case by case basis.

Removal of Trees

Policy 8

The Council aims to ensure that every tree felled is replaced to guarantee a renewable tree stock in Fingal for future generations

Across Fingal's public realm, approximately 1,000 trees are removed and replaced every year. Trees are removed only when necessary and as a last resort. The Council aims to ensure, subject to available budget resources, that every tree felled should be replaced to ensure that over the years, the County retains its tree stock for future generations. It is not always practical or prudent, however, to replace a tree in the same location or with the same species that was previously planted.

The main criteria for tree removal are:

Tree is dead, dying or is considered hazardous due to its poor structural or biological condition. Hazardous conditions may exist above and/or below ground and may include significant root, trunk or crown decay, split trunks and crotches, and large dead limbs.

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The tree has declined beyond the point of recovery and is no longer meeting the functional or aesthetic requirements of a street tree. Typically, a tree with 50 percent or less of its foliage remaining would meet this criterion.
Fatally diseased trees (eg. Ash dieback, Fireblight Disease) may be removed before they reach the primary threshold in order to prevent the spread of disease to healthy trees.
To allow space for development of nearby trees that may be more desirable for retention
To allow space for new planting
To make way for any approved engineering or building works when unavoidable construction work will immediately compromise the stability or viability of the tree.
Tree proven to be causing significant structural damage that cannot be reasonably addressed by an alternative solution and proactive tree management has had no mitigating effect.
When a tree is located in close proximity to a public lighting column and the viability of the tree would be compromised by a requirement for ongoing maintenance to maintain the effectiveness of the adjoining streetlight.

Policy 9

The Council will not remove trees without adequate justification. When felling work is proposed, the reasons for the work will be documented and recorded.

Tree removal or pruning will not be undertaken in the following instances:
Trees are perceived to be too large.
Satellite dish TV reception is interrupted.
Sunlight may be blocked from reaching properties or gardens.
Views are obstructed.
Seasonal or naturally occurring events happen, e.g. falling leaves, fruit, seeds or berries, honeydew sap, bird droppings, pollen allergies.
Insects or other non-hazardous wildlife are present.
To facilitate the widening of driveways unless it is acknowledged in the planning application.
Due to cracked private boundary walls unless evidence is provided. (Structural engineers report).

Clarification of each of these points can be found in Section 4.9 Maintaining Fingal's Trees.

Fingal County Council will retain records of all tree work carried out and monitor the nature and extent of this.

Requests for Tree Maintenance Services
Requests will result in an inspection within 28 days. The Council will inspect trees that are dead, damaged, diseased or causing a physical obstruction. The Council is not able to give specific timeframes of any work ordered as a result. Some work can only be done in the winter months outside the growing and nesting season. This will also be planned by area and by level of need.

The following guidelines intend to show in what circumstances the Council inspects trees:

Cases where the Council will look at trees	Cases where the Council cannot look at trees due to resources
• Potentially hazardous trees • Trees affecting public access, highway safety and visibility • Reported tree damage to road surfaces • Reported tree damage to buildings • Overhanging tree branches where a physical obstruction is caused, such as preventing access • Trees hit by vehicles • Trees physically touching properties • Trees touching streetlights	• Loss of light to a property or garden • Solar panels • Tree debris - fruits, nuts, seeds, leaves or sap • Bird fouling or bird nesting • Satellite, TV and phone reception • Pollens and allergies • Blocked drains and gutters • Height or size of the tree

Tree Stumps
Where a tree is felled by the Council, it is not always possible to remove the stump immediately. Removal may be delayed for a period until a sufficient quantity builds up for their removal to be economical. A short stump of about 1m high will be left in the intervening period so as not to constitute a trip hazard.

Where a stump has been removed, sufficient time needs to elapse to allow breakdown of residual underground root material before supporting the planting of a new tree in its place, if the location is deemed suitable.

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Depending on the diameter of the original tree this could take between 3-5 years for the timber to decompose sufficiently.

In some circumstances the Council may leave stumps and standing monoliths of dead timber where practicable for biodiversity reasons, typically in parks and large open spaces. Deadwood supports a vast array of invertebrates which in turn are a source of food for birds and bats etc.



4.6 Woodland Management

The Council intends to map significant existing woodlands and to plan for the creation of new areas of urban forestry. Woodlands help to meet local needs for recreation, as well as delivering environmental services (water quality enhancement, soil contamination removal, carbon sink) and economic returns (energy from wood could contribute to the local economy). One of the actions proposed in this Strategy is to develop a plan to manage approximately 400 hectares of woodlands in Fingal, ensuring sustainability and biodiversity for the future.

Some of the main considerations of woodland management planning relate to:

- Invasive species
- Species diversity
- Recreation and amenity
- Natural regeneration
- Ecosystem services
- Woodland by-products such as timber and biofuels
- Biodiversity
- Future proofing
- Habitat connectivity
- Expansion of existing woodlands
- Pests and diseases
- Public Health and Safety

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4.7 Tree Protection

Tree protection measures are essential when construction takes place near existing trees. This will avoid damage, particularly to roots, which can lead to failure and death of the trees, often several years later. The most important element for a tree's survival is the parts that cannot be seen: its roots.

During their lifetime, trees will be vulnerable to disturbance, injury, environmental changes, pests and diseases. Construction work often exerts pressures on existing trees, as do changes in their immediate environment following the construction. A tree that has taken many decades to reach maturity can be damaged irreparably in a few minutes by actions that might be unwitting, negligent or wilful. The early provision of physical protection from damage is therefore critical.

Root damage inflicted by excavation or construction work is responsible for many premature tree failures, leading to increased safety risks as the damaged tree undergoes early decline. Tree root damage can be avoided through wider adoption of tree protection measures on construction sites and the more systematic use of trenchless or root safe excavation techniques routinely employed in other countries. These techniques need to be better documented and promoted. The Council will continue to raise awareness among designers, developers, private individuals etc.



The Council will use its powers to ensure that where it is complementary to the objectives of the County Development Plan, and other planning objectives, there is maximum retention of trees on new development sites.

Existing trees will be retained and protected in accordance with best practice and specifically with the document BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*

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4.8 Planning and Design Guidelines for Trees and Woodlands

Protected Trees (Tree Preservation Orders)
Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) may be made under Section 205 of the Planning & Development Act 2000. A TPO can be made if it appears to the planning authority to be desirable and appropriate in the interest of amenity or the environment and can apply to a tree, trees, group of trees or woodland.

Currently there are three locations where trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order in Fingal. These are The Vicarage, Church Road, Swords, Santry Demesne, and Brackenstown/Brazil, Swords.

Protection of existing trees on a development site
Where a proposed development retains existing trees on-site, a satisfactory Arboricultural Impact Assessment must be submitted in accordance with BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations*. This assessment will analyse the potential impact on the retained trees. Where a proposed development would have an impact on trees, particularly where it would impinge on root protection areas of trees - both within and outside the development site - a site specific Arboricultural Method Statement should be submitted. The statement should demonstrate that mitigation measures are in place to ensure the development works do not harm the existing tree.

A tree bond will be placed on trees which are to be protected as part of a site's planning permission. A tree valuation system, such as CAVAT (Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees) or equivalent, will be used to place a monetary value on the tree bond.

Tree Removal

- Development requiring the loss of a protected tree or hedgerow (including trees and hedgerows in High Amenity Areas and SAAO; aged and veteran trees and trees classified as being of categories A or B in value and Townland boundaries) will only be permitted where:
  a) the removal of a tree or hedgerow will enhance the survival or growth of other protected trees or hedgerows;
  b) it would allow for a substantially improved overall approach to the design and landscaping of the development that would outweigh the loss of any tree or hedgerow.
- Where the loss of trees is accepted in these circumstances, developers will be required to provide at least equivalent replacement in terms of biomass. This should be provided on-site unless the developer can show exceptional circumstances which would justify replacement provision elsewhere.

- Where permission is granted for the removal of street trees / vegetation on public property, in order to facilitate the construction of a driveway/ entrance, road widening etc., the applicant will be conditioned to pay a financial contribution for replacement tree planting in the vicinity of this development. This is to ensure that there is no net loss of tree canopy cover in the area.

Maintaining and Increasing Tree Canopy Cover

It is the Council's objective to ensure tree cover is maintained and increased within Fingal.

- In order to achieve this in relation to new developments, a minimum of 20% green area (open spaces, street trees, green roofs & walls) in public and communal spaces will be required as part of all Local Area Plans. This will be broken down as follows:
  - A minimum of 10% public open space is required with the remaining 10% made up of street trees, green roofs and green walls. Private open space will not count towards this target and only SuDS features which can demonstrate a biodiversity benefit may be included in this calculation.

- Major development proposals with a frontage onto a new or existing road of more than ten metres will only be permitted where they provide for the planting and maintenance of street trees of appropriate species at intervals appropriate to the site, except where the site's location clearly requires a building-dominated design approach that would be prejudiced by the inclusion of street trees.

New Tree Planting Within Developments

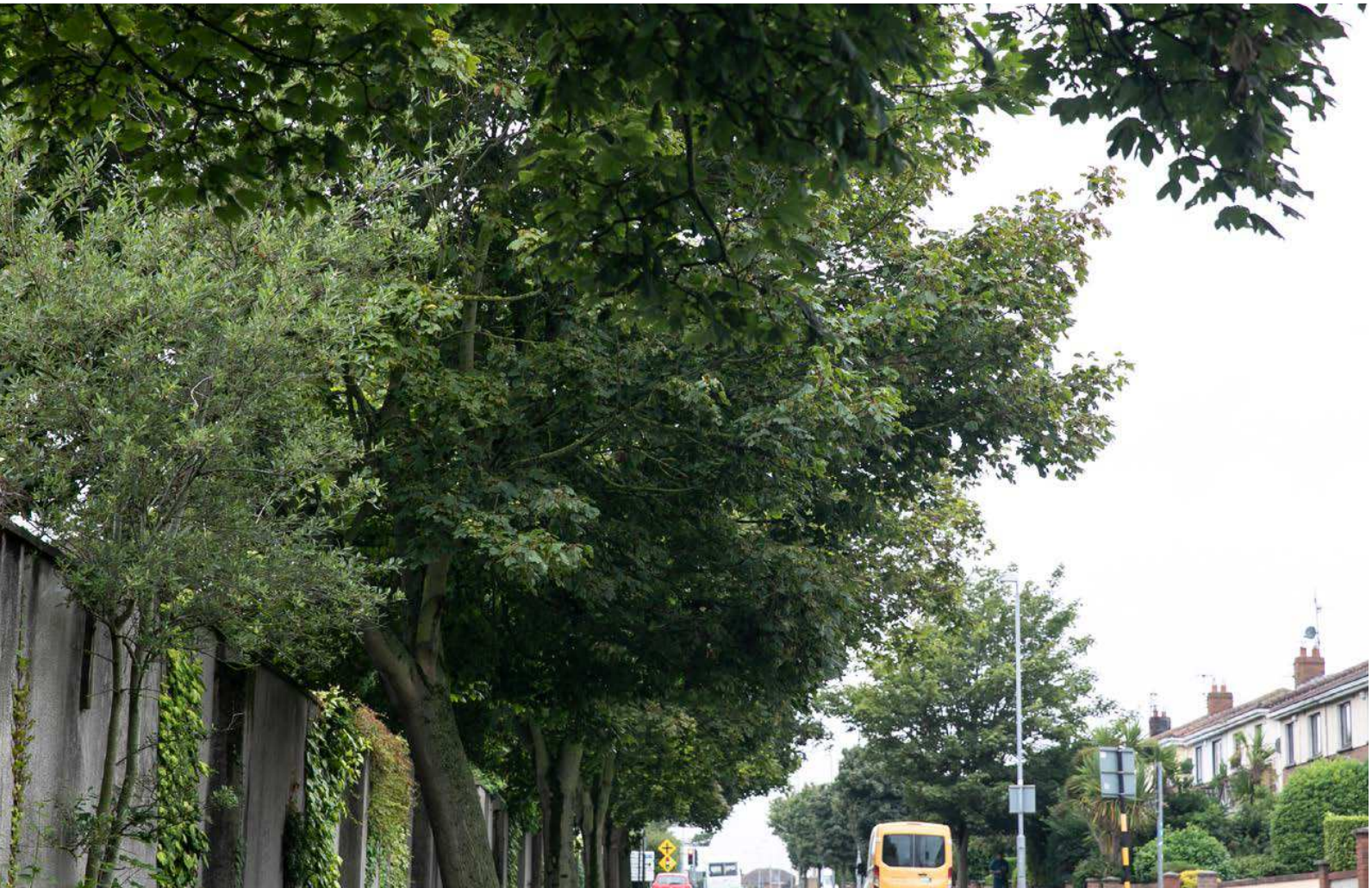
Street Tree Planting Plans

Street tree planting plan must be supplied for developments over 50 units. Constructed tree pits will be required where trees are planted in hard surfaces and grass verges less than 1.2m wide.

These plans will include the location of each constructed tree pit of a minimum rooting volume of 16 cubic metres, lamp standards and underground services.

The location of tree planting in proximity to built features including footpaths must refer to BS5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendation*s

The width of grass verges where tree planting is proposed must be labelled on landscape plans.



Tree Selection for New Housing Developments
Landscape designers will be directed to the Council's list of recommended trees and to TDAG's (Trees and Design Action Group) Tree Selection Guide for tree selection in their landscape plans. These will include the use of native species of Irish provenance or those grown on a nursery in Ireland for at least one year, in order to maintain best practice Plant Health routines.

Policy 10

To correct imbalances or over reliance on certain genera or species in the existing stock, species and varieties will be selected to meet the requirements of the 30:20:10 rule - no more than 30% of trees from any one family, 20% from a single genus or 10% from a single species.

4.9 Maintaining Fingal's Trees

Although trees have many benefits they do in some cases conflict with our way of life. Problems such as damage to structures, branch, sap and leaf drop, pollen and shade can range from minor inconvenience to serious consequences. Many of the problems can be resolved or mitigated through appropriate management and maintenance. It is common when a path or wall is damaged by a tree to suggest that the tree is removed, but this is not always required. It can be less expensive to repair the structure using slightly different methods which allow the tree to be retained and so save the felling and reinstatement cost. Due to the issues trees can cause it is important to have clear guidance on what action can be taken in various scenarios and the need to balance problems against benefits. Guidance on how decisions will be reached is presented below. It is the Council's aim to protect, manage and maintain trees in public areas and in a safe manner throughout the county. Where new tree planting is proposed it is essential to ensure a good design which takes all factors into account and ensures the right tree in the right place.

Trip Hazard / Pavement Lift
The Council will undertake measures to repair or make safe an unacceptable trip hazard on a public footpath or road caused by the growth of a Council-owned tree. Typically a level difference of 10mm or greater will constitute a trip hazard and, in such situations, the deformation will be assessed by the Council.

The roots of trees exploit soil in various ways dependent on species, local conditions and history of site disturbance. Pressure exerted by the radial growth of roots can deform the surfaces of footpaths, roads or other light structures, especially in the close confines

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of the urban setting. Damage occurs most commonly close to the tree and will diminish rapidly with distance. Where a hazard exists and is attributable to tree roots engineering options will be explored before root pruning or tree removal is undertaken.

It is often possible to repair paths to take account of adjacent trees and tree roots. Where roots protrude, pruning may be appropriate or the path can be reconstructed around the tree using flexible material such as asphalt to provide a smooth surface or using reinforced concrete or other engineering solutions.

Where damage is caused to paths or footpaths, the Council will only consider tree removal where there is a risk to public health, which cannot otherwise be mitigated. This will usually be the last resort, except in circumstances where the tree is of low value or easily replaced. In such instances removal may be the most appropriate solution. The Council will seek to explore engineering options to reduce trip hazards, before root pruning or tree removal, through internal consultation within the Operational Department. The Council will develop a protocol for resolving issues where tree roots under hard surfacing conflict with public areas. The Operations Department should be notified about trip hazards as tree roots may not be the cause of the problem.

Trees in Conflict with the Built Environment
The Council will not normally consider removal of a tree where structural damage can be repaired or reasonably resolved by appropriate engineering solutions.

Trees in an urban environment will inevitably cause conflict with people and infrastructure, which creates pressures for trees to be pruned or felled. The perceived threat of damage by tree roots is sometimes a worry people have about trees near to buildings or built structures. Much of this concern is unwarranted as most trees growing near buildings cause no damage. Tree roots are also unlikely to directly penetrate sound footings. Lightly loaded structures with inadequate foundations, such as a light boundary wall, may be affected by pressure exerted by tree roots or trunks, but in such cases trees are not the primary cause of damage. The Council recognises that trees under its ownership/management may be implicated in damage to nearby built structures but it is also aware that trees are not always the causative agent. Investigations should be carried out before blame is apportioned.

Some reasons for structural failure are inadequate foundation design, general structural failure, poor quality construction, nearby excavations or major works to adjacent properties. In circumstances where structural damage can be repaired or reasonably resolved by appropriate engineering solutions, the Council will

not normally consider removal of a tree, except where the tree is structurally or physiologically in poor condition. Property owners will, at their own expense, be expected to provide evidence from an appropriately qualified professional, such as an arborist or engineer, that a tree is causing or has caused damage to their property such as a boundary wall. All reasonable engineering alternatives must be explored before felling will be considered. Where evidence is provided which demonstrates a Council-owned tree is the cause of damage, the Council will take appropriate action on a case by case basis.

Trees and Utilities

Trees themselves very rarely break or damage drains or underground services. Tree roots found in a drain are usually symptomatic of an underlying problem requiring repair of the broken pipe. The Council's presumption is that the appropriate way to deal with tree root blockage of drains is to ensure that the drains are watertight. Any concerns about the condition of public drains should be reported to the water authority.

Utility companies have certain legal rights to carry out works to public or privately owned trees to address health and safety problems and to maintain a clearance between trees and their apparatus. This may sometimes involve the loss of trees or the removal of large parts of a tree, which can leave a misshapen and unbalanced crown, thereby reducing the amenity value of the tree. Excavation works near to street trees brings considerable potential disturbance within the root zone of trees, often reducing their stability and long-term viability.

Where works to trees are necessary as a result of proximity or conflict, the Council will encourage utility operators to adopt the most appropriate long term solution, giving consideration to tree health, local tree cover and visual amenity. Utility companies must consult with the Operational Division of Fingal County Council in advance of any pruning, trenching or other works likely to affect Council-owned trees. The Council will develop protocols for dealing with trees and utilities in consultation with the main utility providers and adhere to the recommendations of the current NJUG (UK National Joint Utilities Group) Guidelines for The Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees, as well as BS 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*

Where residents are concerned about trees conflicting with utility wires the relevant utility company will be the first point of contact.

Part 4
The Sustainable Management of Trees in Fingal

Trees Overhanging Neighbouring Properties / Roots Encroaching into Gardens / Driveways
The Council will not generally prune trees that overhang neighbouring properties unless the trees are dangerous or are causing significant nuisance.

The Council has no legal obligation to prune overhanging trees unless they are causing direct damage to an adjacent property or are imminently dangerous. This reflects the Council's position as an owner of thousands of trees and the resources available. Given that many thousands of Council trees overhang boundaries, it is not an effective use of resources to prune every overhanging limb.

Tree roots in gardens are a natural occurrence and root presence is unlikely to be affected by tree pruning. However, situations where a tree is genuinely generating root encroachment to an exceptional, severe and unreasonable degree are dealt with on a case by case basis. Adjacent landowners are entitled to prune encroaching tree branches or roots back to the boundary of their property. Legally, they are required to retain the arisings and offer them back but the Council is not obliged to accept them.

Trees Touching or Causing Direct Damage to Property
If a tree in Council ownership or managed by the Council is touching a resident's property (dwelling house, garage etc) the Council will take action to remove the nuisance.

The Council will cut back trees to provide a minimum of 0.5 - 2m clearance where possible from properties where they touch windows, walls, roofs or gutters in order to avoid damage. In many cases the solution will be for the Council to prune the tree, but in exceptional circumstances it may be more appropriate to fell the tree. If pruning is appropriate, the Council will endeavour to undertake works to stop the problem reoccurring within a number of years. A balance will be struck between the nuisance experienced by individuals and the benefits offered by the tree to the wider community.

Trees Blocking Natural Light
The Council will not normally prune, top or fell a Council-owned tree to improve natural light.

Trees are often perceived to block light to nearby properties and the level of alleged nuisance is variable and subjective. There is currently no legal right to direct sunlight and there is no expectation for existing buildings or other structures that trees be removed for this reason.

However, situations where trees are genuinely blocking daylight from habitable rooms to an exceptionable, severe and unreasonable degree may be dealt with on a case by case basis. Minor pruning works may be acceptable in some situations; however, any decision will consider the health and significance of the tree, its contribution to the house, and whether the tree was already present when the occupier moved into the property.

Obstruction of Views
The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned tree to improve the view from a private property.

There is no legal right to a 'view'. Vegetation and trees grow and, over time, contribute to the county's distinctive character. It would be impracticable to prune every tree that affected a view and this would have a major negative impact on public amenity. However, where there are historic vistas or area-defining views appropriate tree maintenance will be considered to preserve the landscape character.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour / CCTV
An Garda Síochana will be the first point of contact in relation to trees and anti-social behaviour. Pruning of trees to reduce crime may not be the solution and the felling of trees will be carried out as a last resort.

The Council may continue with the practice of removing the shrub vegetation in areas considered to be anti-social behaviour blackspots.

Unauthorised Pruning, Removal or Damage to Council-Owned Trees
The unauthorised removal of trees affects the amenity of an area and destroys the many positive benefits of trees in a locality.

All Council staff operate from vehicles displaying the Council's logo and tree contractors operating on behalf of the Council are required to erect signage which refers specifically to Fingal County Council. If someone is observed pruning, removing or causing damage to a Council-owned tree who may be without consent (person not associated with a relevant sign or vehicle and / or without clothing that clearly identifies who they are) the Gardai should be called and the Council notified. Unauthorised damage, pruning or removal of a Council-owned/ managed tree may be prosecuted by an Garda Siochana under the Criminal Damage Act 1991.

Part 4
The Sustainable Management of Trees in Fingal

Unauthorised works or damage to Council-owned trees may result in a compensation charge being levied. This charge will reflect the amount of damage sustained and, where the life/safety of the trees is undermined, it will include the cost of total tree replacement and compensation for loss of tree value. These charges will be drawn up by professional parks staff and each case will be assessed on an individual basis using a recognised tree valuation system (e.g. CAVAT or Helliwell).

Policy 11

The Council may seek to prosecute anyone found to be carrying out unauthorised work or causing damage to its trees without permission and, where appropriate, apply the maximum penalty.

Obstruction of Street Lighting
The Council will undertake work to a tree to ensure that trees do not unduly obstruct the streetlight.

In line with the hierarchal approach to tree maintenance, trees in residential areas that are within 5m of a public lighting standard and obstructing the light to an unreasonable level may be removed. In total, 2,439 of the Council's inventoried trees are within such a distance and, due to significant resourcing issues, it is not always feasible to retain and prune trees in every such scenario. In addition, the long-term viability of the tree if retained in such a location would be compromised by a requirement for ongoing maintenance in order to maintain the effectiveness of the street light.

In addition to the above, the feasibility and appropriateness of modifying public lighting infrastructure for the purpose of tree preservation will be examined in consultation with the public lighting section

Trees located in areas with higher footfall such as main streets of towns and village centres in close proximity to streetlights may be considered for pruning in order to maintain the tree-lined avenue. Trees considered for pruning must have a high amenity value and regular pruning must not cause too high maintenance or negatively impact the trees health. Pruning works can only be carried out where this will not unduly disfigure the tree.

Policy 12

Where new trees are being planted, these will be located so they do not cause future interference to existing streetlights, typically no closer than 7m from the centre of the main stem to the pole.

Obstruction of Signage and Sight Lines
The Council will undertake work to a tree in Council ownership/management to maintain clear sight lines, where reasonably feasible, at road junctions and access points and for traffic signals and street signs.

Where an ongoing pruning requirement arises as a result of sightlines, road signs or traffic signals being obscured by tree growth or regrowth, consideration will be given to the removal of trees to minimise ongoing repeat maintenance costs.

Trees Located Within Gardens of Council-Owned Housing
Trees located within the residential gardens of Council-owned housing are to be maintained by tenants as part of their tenancy agreement, except in cases subject to the Housing Department's discretion.

Driveways and New Entrances
The Council will not normally support either the removal of a tree or cutting of a tree's roots for the construction of vehicle crossovers and/or alterations to residential driveway access, unless the tree is of limited life expectancy or is small enough to be relocated elsewhere. Exceptional circumstances will be considered by the Council on a case by case basis. Planning permission is required if a property owner wishes to widen an existing access or create a new access to the public road. The Council should be consulted if the grass verge or any roadside trees are affected in order to get advice on the acceptability of a specific proposal and other technical requirements before any planning application is made. A minimum clearance of 3 metres or 10 times the diameter of the tree trunk at its base, whichever is greater, must be provided between the trunk of any street tree and the edge of the crossover, unless the Council determines otherwise. The Council's Operations Department should also be consulted if the roadside kerb is to be dished [IS THIS THE CORRECT TERM?] and a roadside concrete apron laid to provide vehicle access to car parking spaces in front of a house. As part of the application assessment the Council will apply a standard Tree Amenity Valuation formula to fully determine the costs associated with the removal and or retention of specific trees associated with the development activity. If the condition of the street tree is declining and its life expectancy is short, tree removal may be considered to allow for the installation of a new driveway crossover. Removal and replacement of trees will be at the cost to the applicant and a new tree will be replanted as close as possible to the original tree.

The design of vehicular entrances that impact on adjacent trees will need to be considered to avoid conflicts with street trees. Where a conflict is unavoidable and where a tree, located on-street, requires removal



to facilitate a new or widened vehicular entrance, and cannot be conveniently relocated within the public domain, then a financial contribution will be required in lieu.

Obstruction of Roads, Cycleways and Footpaths

The Council will undertake work to a tree in Council ownership/management where a tree is causing an obstruction to a public highway, public footpath or cycleway, public right of way, or access to property or public open space, where reasonably feasible.

Tree pruning to achieve the following height clearance is considered appropriate where reasonably practical and where it can be achieved without harming tree health or form:

- Footpaths: 2.5m
- Cycleways: 3m
- Roads / streets: 4.5m

Any works necessary to prevent an obstruction in the width of a public footpath due to the presence of a Council-owned tree will be considered on a case by case basis.

If a privately owned tree or other vegetation is causing an obstruction to a footpath or road, powers exist under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 which enable the Roads Authority to deal with the matter. The section allows for the serving of notice on the landowner setting out remedial works to be carried out. Failing action by the landowner, the Roads Authority can arrange to have the necessary works carried out and seek to recoup the cost of the works from the landowner concerned.

Other Tree Related Issues

Fruits / berries

Problems caused by falling fruit, berries, nuts or blossom are natural and seasonal occurrences and not something the Irish legal system recognises as a 'legal nuisance'. Whilst the Council appreciates these problems, they are judged a relatively minor inconvenience when considering the many benefits of having trees within an urban environment. Fruit trees such as apple, cherry and pear are welcomed in many locations for having the double benefit of spring blossom and autumn fruit. This makes fruit trees good for wildlife and a source of free food. However, where fallen fruit is leading to a significant anti-social behaviour problem, the Council will consider measures to reduce the problem including whether a phased removal and replacement with alternative species is reasonable. If there is a hazard on the public footpath the Council's Operations Department should be notified of the problem to arrange clearance.

The Council will not fell or prune Council-owned trees solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena such as fruit / berries, nuts or blossom which are legally outside their control.

Part 4
The Sustainable Management of Trees in Fingal

Pollen
It is not feasible to remove prune or remove trees to remove pollen sources. The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned tree to remove or reduce the release of pollen.

Wild Animals and Insects
The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned tree to remove or reduce incidents of perceived pests such as bees, wasps or wild animals. Exceptions to this may relate to interventions necessary for ensuring the health of the tree.

Bird droppings
Bird droppings can be unpleasant and a nuisance but the problem is not considered a reason to prune or remove a tree. Roosting birds are a natural occurrence as is their production of droppings. Generally, felling a tree will not alleviate the problem as birds will relocate to another tree in the locality. Similarly, pruning will not resolve the problem as birds will relocate to other branches. Warm soapy water will usually be enough to remove the bird droppings. Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and Habitats Regulations 1997–2005.

The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned tree solely to remove or reduce bird droppings.

Sap / honeydew
Certain species of tree, for example lime and sycamore, are susceptible to aphids or other leaf feeding insects. Honeydew is the sugary sap / sticky deposit which results from insects feeding and is subsequently colonised on surfaces by sooty mould fungi giving it a black appearance. Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem and the severity varies from year to year depending on conditions. A balance between the inconvenience of honeydew deposits and the wider benefits of trees must be achieved and as such there is unlikely to be justification for the pruning or removal of trees due to honeydew deposits. Residents are advised to make their own arrangements to minimise the problem: regular car washing, covering the car or parking in an alternative location. Where honeydew affects cars, warm soapy water will easily remove the substance.

The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned tree solely to remove or reduce honeydew or other sticky residue from trees.

Leaf Fall
The loss of leaves from trees in the autumn is part of the natural cycle and cannot be avoided by pruning. The composting of leaves is encouraged as a way of environmentally recycling this valuable resource. In addition, the Council organises a street cleaning service which sweeps leaves from most streets and residential roads during the autumn period.

The maintenance of gutters is the responsibility of the property / landowner. Where gutters are regularly blocked by fallen leaves the installation of gutter guards by the landowner may provide a low maintenance solution.

The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned tree to remove or reduce leaf fall or remove fallen leaves from private property.

Satellite Dishes
The Council acknowledges that television and satellite entertainment are important to residents. However, a balance must be found between these and the local environment. The responsibility for receiving a satellite television signal is with the company that erects the satellite dish or aerial. The company should erect their equipment in a location that receives a clear signal.

The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned/managed tree solely to improve TV and / or satellite reception, where the trees in question would not otherwise require works.

Solar Panels
Whilst the Council appreciates that there is a need to provide renewable energy resources, trees have an important role in maintaining and improving local amenity, as well as contributing to local and national targets in tackling climate change. The presence of existing trees and how these trees will grow in the future must be fully appreciated when considering a suitable location for the placement of solar panels.

The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned/managed tree to facilitate installation or improve natural light to a solar panel.

Trees Considered too Large
Residents may feel apprehensive about the size of a tree and consider it dangerous. However, trees are not dangerous just because they are perceived as tall, too big for their surroundings or move in the wind. Tree movement in high winds is natural and one of the ways they can withstand strong winds. Other problems would need to be shown for the Council to consider the tree to be dangerous.

The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned/managed tree because it is considered ‘too big’ or ‘too tall’.

Part 4
The Sustainable Management of Trees in Fingal

Trees competing with privately owned trees and shrubs

The Council will not prune or fell a Council-owned/managed tree because it is competing with privately owned garden plants with its shade cast or water uptake. The best gardening approach is to work with the environment in a given location such as introducing shade or dry tolerant plants.

Exceptional circumstances

The Council recognises that in some exceptional circumstances the problems caused by a tree on public land are so great that undertaking remedial works will be considered. Where these problems and likely future maintenance costs are excessive the tree may be removed and replaced with a more suitable species.

Exceptional circumstances will be assessed individually on their merits.





Part 5
Moving Forward

Aims and Objectives of the Fingal Tree Strategy

Part 5
Moving Forward

5.1 Main Aims of the Strategy

Our 4 main aims derived from the Vision and Guiding Principles are as follows:



Annual Net Increase in Tree Canopy Cover

Achieve a Thriving, Diverse and Sustainable Tree Population

Maximise the Benefits of Trees as a Valuable Asset and Resource

Create a Strong Sense of Ownership with Residents, Communities and Stakeholders

5.11 Annual Net Increase in Tree Canopy Cover

The Dublin Tree Canopy Study, published in 2017 by the University College Dublin School of Geography, has estimated that Fingal has a 6.5% cover of tree canopy, with an estimated cover of 10% across the entire county of Dublin. With a recommended target of 15% to achieve the European city average, Fingal can help to achieve this in implementing targets, policies and objectives set out in this Strategy.

There are many ways this can be achieved, from direct tree planting to encouraging the residents in Fingal to plant trees in their gardens. Government level incentives to plant native broadleaf woodland on privately owned commercial and farmland are to be promoted.

5.12 Have a Thriving, Diverse and Sustainable Tree Population

Trees should be protected, maintained and enhanced as a resource. This resource should be considered as an urban forest. Protecting, managing and enhancing trees and woodland will maximise their potential and will improve the quality of life for the citizens, visitors and workers of a resilient Fingal.

5.13 Maximise the Benefits of Trees as a Valuable Asset and Resource

This can be achieved in numerous ways: plant the right tree in the right place; make sensible species' selection; ensure trees not only survive but thrive for many years; protect trees from unnecessary removal or damage; maintain and care for trees using the best and latest industry guidelines; and identify areas where trees are in most need and where they can provide a good service.

5.14 Create a Sense of Ownership with the Public, Community Groups, and Stakeholders

Engage with communities and other stakeholders regarding the value of trees and the services they provide, and inform them of future management work such as planting and maintenance. Liaising with residents on planting schemes and taking suggestions on where to plant etc., will form part of this approach and will result in local communities having a sense of ownership of the trees in their area.

Example: Involving communities in tree projects in the London borough of Hackney has proven very successful with a very low 1% death rate of newly planted trees since the scheme was introduced in 2006.





Part 5
Moving Forward

5.2 Objectives of the Strategy

5.21 Objective 1: Manage Trees Coherently, Responsibly and Efficiently

Sensible management is key to a positive outcomes arising from the Fingal Tree Strategy. Many of the proposals are under the remit of a Tree Officer and management team to coordinate and implement. The analysis and surveys of the Council's trees and woodlands proposed under this objective will help to inform SMART (Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic Timely) Targets going forward. This will give the Council a clearer picture in terms of the Baseline (what the Council has now), Vision (where the Council wants to be) and Actions (how to get there). The findings and recommendations from surveying trees, woodlands and lands available to accommodate planting will inform the setting of specific targets, such as an increase in tree canopy cover across the county and neighbourhoods. For this reason, the Strategy is to remain a live document to reflect and adapt to new findings, recommendations and developments as they arise.

5.22 Objective 2: Protection and Retention of Existing Trees

This is a key objective in achieving the Council's aims. Firstly, to allow already established trees to thrive and not merely survive will ensure that they grow to their full potential, increasing the canopy cover and benefits simultaneously. There is a wide range of threats and stresses to trees as outlined in section 1.3, from direct human intervention to climate change and associated pests and diseases.

5.23 Objective 3: Tree Planting and Establishment Initiatives to Ensure a Sustainable Tree Population

Tree planting is part of the solution to increase tree canopy cover and enhance the resilience of Fingal. There are numerous methods and tools to achieve this, including prioritised planting, in terms of which areas are in most need, and where planting could serve a valuable purpose when considering factors such as flooding, pollution etc., or a combination of several scenarios.

5.24 Objective 4: Community Involvement, Public Engagement and Awareness Building

Fingal currently consults with various communities, NGOs and residents with regards to tree management but there is always potential to build and strengthen further this key objective, potentially with very positive results. The Council will continue to support planting of trees on private land to encourage a collective action approach to increasing tree cover.

Initiatives under this objective will align with and strengthen the previous objectives. Community planting schemes, such as the new Miyawaki Forestry phenomenon increasingly used across Europe, involves communities planting dense self sustaining forests in marginal lands. This is also a platform for education and raising awareness in relation to tree benefits, such as adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

Another positive outcome will be increased confidence following improved protocols for proactive engagement and dialogue with communities and residents where significant tree management works and works affecting trees are proposed.



Popular Tree giveaway event during the 2019 National Tree Week in Ardgillan

Part 5
Moving Forward

5.3 The Action Plan

Making it happen
The following proposed Objectives and Actions summarise the main outcomes from the implementation of the Strategy over its lifetime

Objective 1: Responsible, Efficient & Coherent Approach to Tree Management

Action	
1.1	Secure an Annual Dedicated Tree Budget for adequate resourcing of tree management
1.2	Recruit a Tree Officer and Tree Management Team to coordinate and implement the Strategy
1.3	Resurvey and update the public realm tree inventory data (street and open space trees) to refresh Council inventory and inform maintenance
1.4	Develop a cyclical, proactive tree management programme based on the survey's data, in the interest of tree health and public safety
1.5	Commission a woodland management plan to specify required works and ensure sustainability among existing woodlands and use them to their full potential, in line with the biodiversity action plan
1.6	Commission the study and report on the ecosystem services/nature-based solutions provided by Fingal's trees with reference to their economic/climate change adaptation benefits

Objective 2: Tree Protection & Retention

Action	
2.1	Prepare tree related planning and design guidelines for inclusion in the next Fingal County Development Plan
2.2	Review the Council's existing TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) with a view to revising and updating this list with additional trees and sites
2.3	Develop best practice guidelines/requirements for utility companies and contractors when working in proximity to trees, including open spaces
2.4	Map and survey all significant/historic stands of woodland within the county e.g. in excess of 5ha with a view to updating the County Development Plan's Specific Zoning Objectives in relation to woodlands
2.5	Assess and adopt tree valuation methods for compensatory / replacement planting, e.g. Cavat, iTree
2.6	Participate as a member with the Tree Council of Ireland with a view to influencing national policy relating to trees

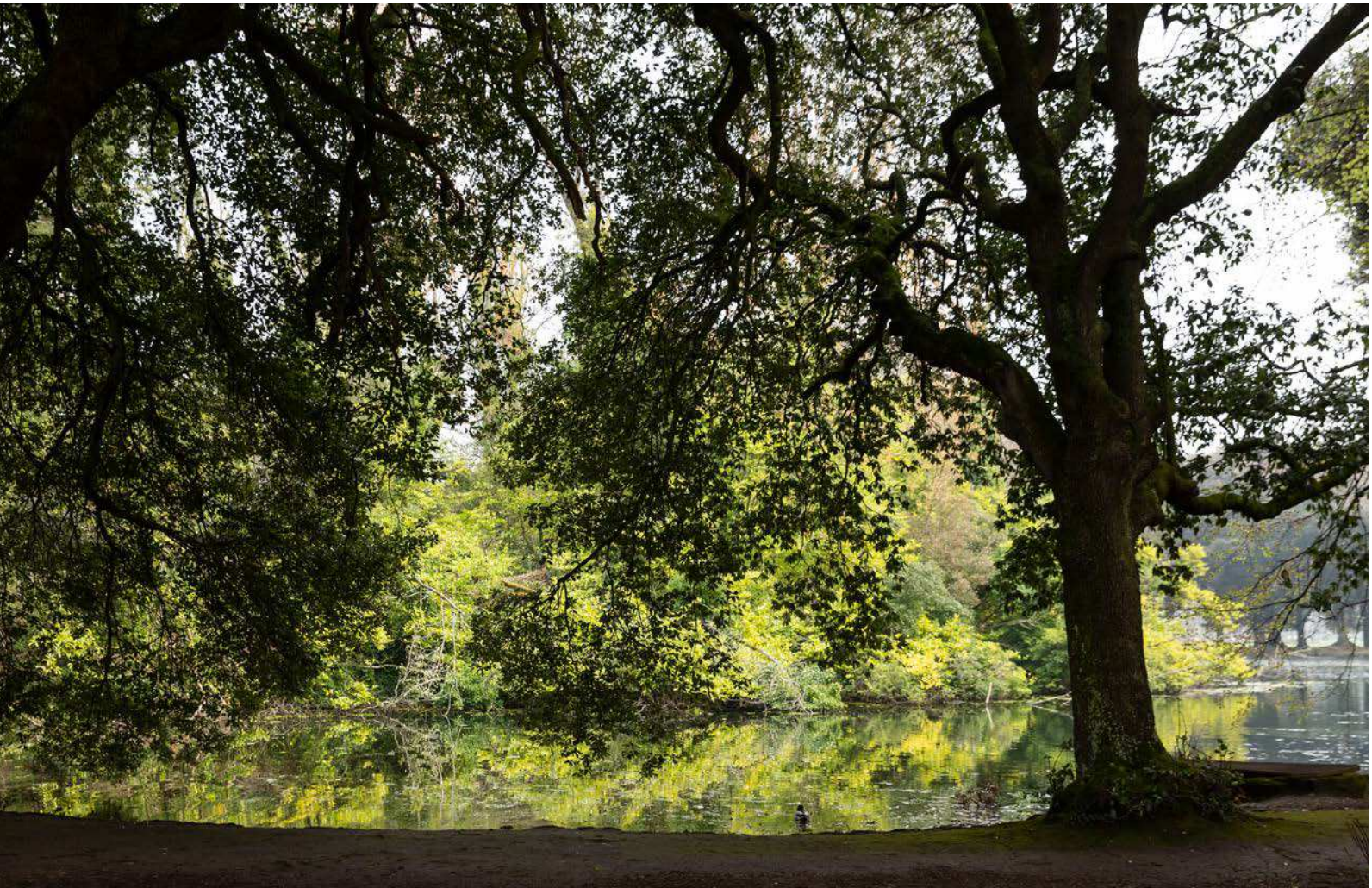
Part 5
Moving Forward

Objective 3: Tree Planting and Establishment Initiatives to Ensure a Sustainable Tree Population

Action	
3.1	Initiate a programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations, to include sites suitable for woodland creation. Reviewed in an annual works programme, presenting what is planned for the coming year. Taking advantage of government funding programmes such as the New Woodland Creation Scheme on Public Lands
3.2	Promote the retrofitting of integrated constructed tree pits incorporating SuDS within urban areas with low levels of tree cover
3.3	Prepare a list of suitable tree species recommended for differing situations / functions and make available to developers and other stakeholders following the Guiding Principle of 'right tree in the right place'
3.4	Explore opportunities to partner with companies and other entities for Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives involving tree planting

Objective 4: Community Involvement, Public Engagement & Awareness

Action	
4.1	Construct a dedicated and interactive tree webpage on the Council's website. This will provide opportunities such as a Tree Champions contact list, citizen science/public participation schemes for tree identification and surveying etc. and other tree related matters. It will also assist with knowledge sharing and public information and awareness purposes
4.2	Continue to build on participation in National Tree Week/Day events such as Tree Giveaways and community planting, to include community orchards, nurseries and the introduction of Miyawaki Forest schemes
4.3	Develop protocols for engaging with communities and residents for proposed significant tree management works and works affecting trees
4.4	Involve residents and community groups, e.g. tidy town/community garden groups, in the establishment of newly planted trees in their area, e.g. watering



Appendices

Appendices

APPENDIX I: Proposed Tree Related Policies

(for inclusion in the adopted Tree Strategy and other relevant Council documents)

Policy 1: The Council will carry out tree pruning and felling outside of the nesting period as far as reasonably practicable. A typical exception of this is on the grounds of health and safety concerns. The National Parks and Wildlife Service will be informed in these instances.

Policy 2: The Council will explore and implement biosecurity measures and protocols to keep tree pests and diseases under control within Fingal.

Policy 3: The Council plans to inform and promote the importance of trees as part of the urban environment and put them on a level footing with all urban infrastructure.

Policy 4: In balancing tree risks and benefits the Council will:

1. Manage the risk of significant injury or property damage to levels that are as low as reasonably practicable.
2. Operate a system of proactive and reactive tree inspections.
3. Maintain a detailed record of trees and inspections.
4. Ensure competent individuals carry out tree inspections.
5. Ensure work identified through the inspection programme is undertaken by suitably qualified staff or contractors within the appropriate timeframe.

Policy 5: The Principle of planting the 'right tree in the right place' will apply for all new tree planting.

Policy 6: Following instances of tree removal, and subject to availability of space and resources, replacement trees will correspond to the size of the removed tree.

Policy 7: As well as pruning for arboriculture reasons, the following will be the general standard for (street)trees in the public realm:

- Footpaths: 2.5m overhead clearance
- Roads: 4.5m overhead clearance
- Buildings: 2m clearance

Policy 8: The Council aims to ensure that every tree felled is replaced to guarantee a renewable tree stock in Fingal for future generations

Policy 9: The Council will not remove trees without adequate justification. When felling work is proposed, the reasons for the work will be documented and recorded to include photographs.

Policy 10: To correct imbalances or over reliance on certain genera or species in the existing stock, species and varieties will be selected to meet the requirements of the **30:20:10** rule - no more than 30% of trees from any one family, 20% from a single genus or 10% from a single species.

Policy 11: The Council may seek to prosecute anyone found to be carrying out unauthorised work or causing damage to its trees without permission and, where appropriate, apply the maximum penalty.

Policy 12: Where new trees are being planted, these will be located so they do not cause future interference to existing streetlights, typically no closer than 7m from the centre of the main stem to the pole.

Appendices

APPENDIX II: References

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Appendices

APPENDIX III: Glossary of Terms

Arboriculture is defined as the cultivation, practice and study of the care of trees and shrubs in the landscape. Professionals working in the trade have expanded the definition to include the production, selection, planting, maintenance, management and removal of all wooded plants for amenity purposes.

Biodiversity describes the 'variety of life', or the range of plants, animals and habitats that exist in a given area.

Carbon Sinks are natural systems like forests, soil and oceans that store carbon removed from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Carbon Sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. This helps to either mitigate or defer dangerous climate change.

Climate Change is primarily a problem of too much carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere. This carbon overload is caused mainly when we burn fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas or cut down and burn forests.

Crown Lift or crown raising is the removal of the lowest branches and/or preparing of lower branches for future removal. It is an effective method of increasing light transmission to areas closer to the tree or to enable access under the crown. Crown lifting is generally specified with reference to a fixed point, e.g. 'crown lift to give 5.5m clearance above ground level'.

Evapotranspiration is the process by which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere by evaporation from the soil and other surfaces and by transpiration from plants.

Face reduction is the pruning of branches on one side of the tree. It is carried out when the branches of a tree are touching an adjacent building or extensively overhanging a private property.

Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, which is designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings.

Nature-Based Solutions are defined by the International Union for Conservation of nature as 'actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits.

Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) 'total' solution to rainwater management and is applicable in both urban and rural situations. SuDS can also provide amenity benefits to local communities and benefits for biodiversity simultaneously. In this way SuDS features are not just part of the county's drainage infrastructure but a vital part of the county's Green Urban Infrastructure.

Tree Canopy Cover is the metric used to indicate the benefits provided by the urban forest. It is measured as tree canopy cover percentage of the total area under review. It has the advantage of being relatively simple and inexpensive to assess using spatial analysis techniques. Increases in tree canopy cover can most efficiently be realised by maximising tree protection and maintenance in combination with new plantings. If trees are managed such that their anticipated mature crown projections are realised, significant canopy cover increases can occur in conjunction with new planting (Grove et al; 2006). As trees and their canopies take time to grow, more than twenty years will generally be needed to achieve a measurable change in canopy cover.

Urban Forest is an internationally used term to define an integrated, city wide approach to the planting, care and management of trees in the city to secure multiple environmental and social benefits for urban dwellers.

Appendices

APPENDIX IV: Useful Tree and Environmental Related Websites

www.treesaregood.org

www.treeCouncil.ie

www.trilliontreecampaign.org

https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/

www.treesforcities.org

https://www.cityoftrees.org.uk/

www.epa.ie

https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/

https://www.heritageCouncil.ie/

https://dublinclimatechange.codema.ie/

https://www.climateireland.ie/

https://www.worldwildlife.org/

https://www.observatree.org.uk/

https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/

https://www.treetalk.co.uk/

https://www.trees.org.uk/

https://www.tdag.org.uk/

APPENDIX V: Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

Under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2011, local authorities have a mandatory responsibility to include objectives in the Development Plan relating to the preserving of amenities. In guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment in 1986, local authorities are encouraged to undertake special tree surveys as part of the general process of preparing the Development Plan. It suggests that trees of amenity interest be mapped and listed and that owners and occupiers of land on which such trees stand be notified. It also suggests that TPOs be made in appropriate cases, taking account of the relative amenity importance and degree of risk to the particular tree(s).

Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 provides for the making of a TPO by the planning authority where it seems to that authority to be necessary to preserve tree(s) on amenity or environmental grounds. This prevents the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of the trees. In addition, the TPO may require the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of any trees (including the replanting of trees), subject to the planning authority providing assistance (including financial) towards such management as may be agreed.

TPOs cannot apply to dying, dead or dangerous trees or where felling is otherwise required by statute. Where a TPO has been made, an application may be made under the Act for consent to fell trees covered by that TPO. If consent is given by the local authority, that local authority may also attach conditions.

Regarding TPOs, or indeed Planning Permission, there is no statutory link between the Planning Acts and the Forestry Act 2014. Both operate separately. This means, for example, that Planning Permission may have been obtained to develop an area, which may itself involve felling trees. However, the felling should not take place without a felling licence from the Forest Service of the DAFM. Similarly, with TPOs, a felling licence may have been issued from the Forest Service for felling, but the trees cannot be cut down unless the local authority also issues consent.

Appendices

APPENDIX VII: Infographic Depicting Headline Figures from a Study of the Ecosystem Services that Trees Provide (See Action 1.6)



Appendices

APPENDIX VII: Infographic Depicting Headline Figures from a study of the Ecosystem Services that Trees Provide (See Action 1.6)

Report carried out by Treeconomics for Ealing Borough Council

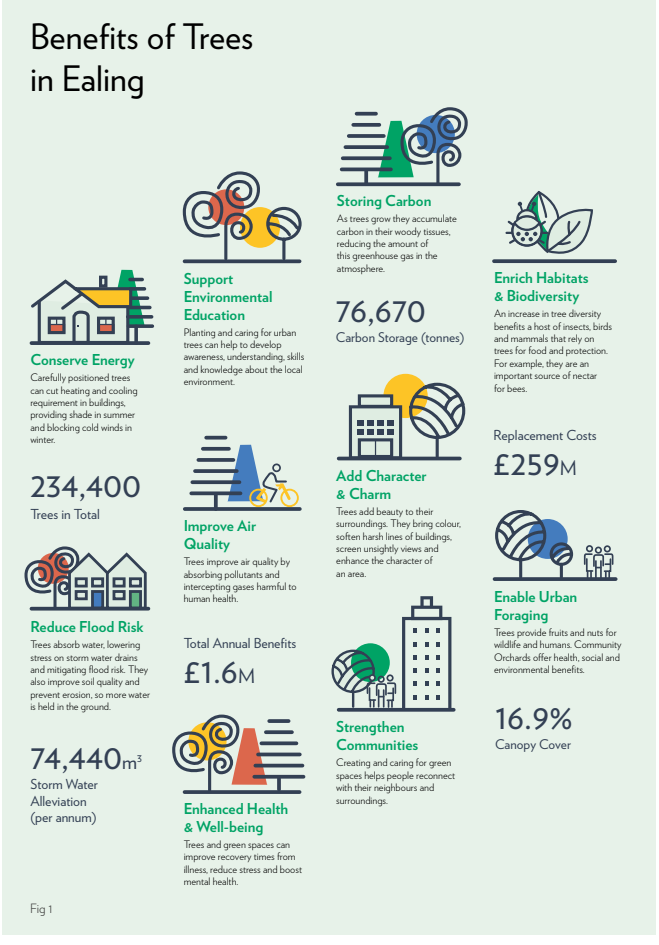


Fig 1



Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Chief Executives Report

Forest of Fingal – A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Public Consultation

Introduction

On National Tree Day Thursday 1st of October 2020, the Council launched the revised draft Tree Strategy, Forest of Fingal along with a short promotional video, inviting submissions through the online public consultation portal up to and including the end of National Tree Week 28th March 2021.

During this period, the strategy and its contents were actively promoted through an extensive campaign of presentations to Area Committee Meetings, Strategic Policy Committees, Community Groups, and Public Participation Networks. The Tree Strategy was also regularly highlighted through the Council's social media platforms and press releases before hosting three public information and Q&A webinar events in February and March 2021. Notices were also issued to prescribed bodies such as An Taisce, Tree Council of Ireland and ESB Networks.

56 submissions were received, each highlighting a range of support, agreement, concerns, issues, observations and suggestions in relation to the new tree strategy. Following the initial recording of all submissions, each was read to allocate the issues raised to the appropriate theme, these are outlined in 9 themes below with corresponding sub themes listed and summarised.

The themes are displayed in the order of number of submissions, from highest to lowest. Responses follow the summary of each of the sub themes.

Observations vary greatly in range which indicates a good level of interest, engagement and enthusiasm when making submissions.

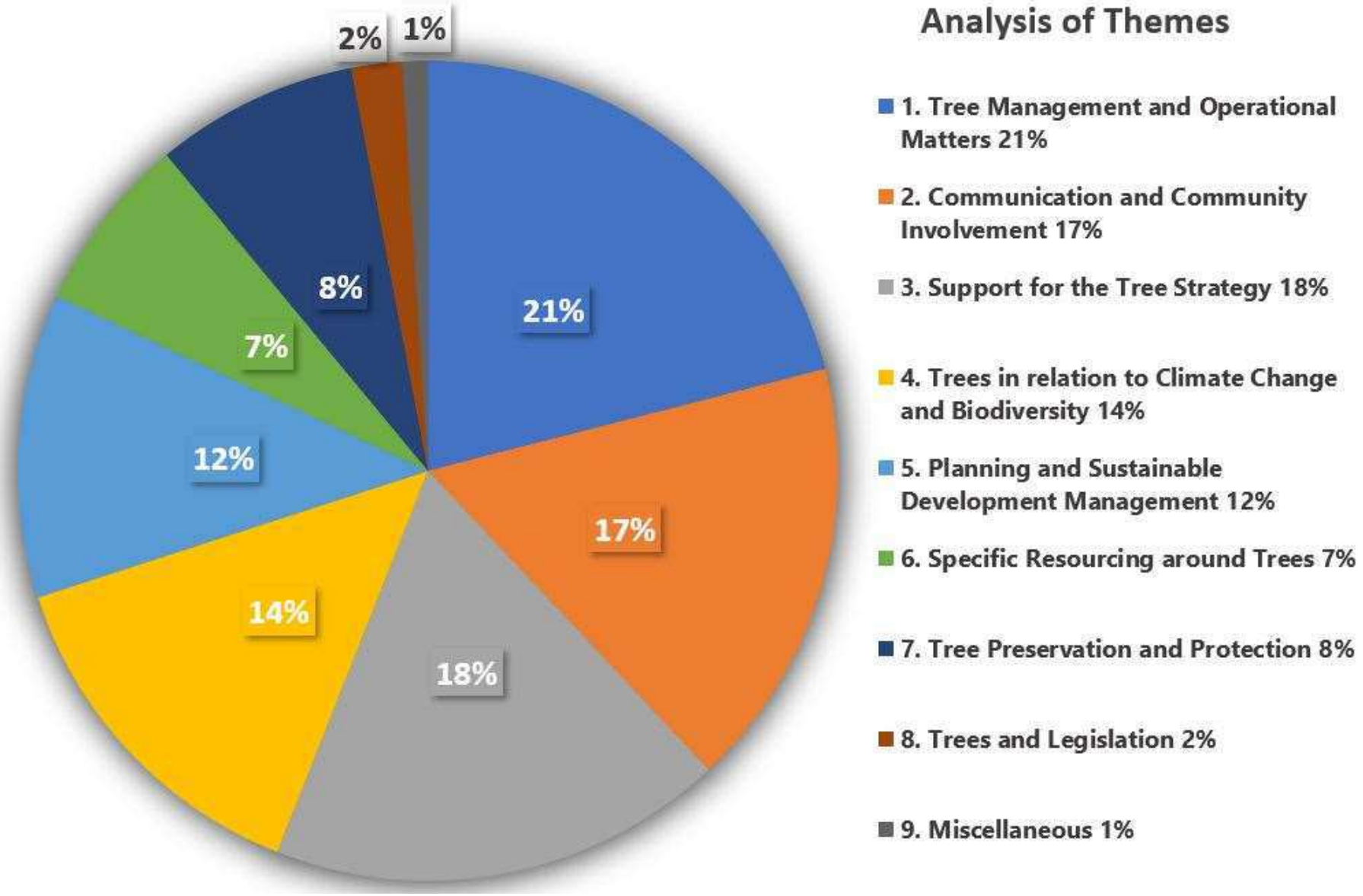
The Strategy will be amended to take into account the observations outlined in this report where necessary.



Registration Notice Ahead of Public Information Sessions

Description of the contents and structure of the draft tree strategy for review through the non-statutory public consultation process:




Analysis of Themes
2%
1%
8%
21%
7%
12%
17%
14%
18%
1. Tree Management and Operational Matters 21%
2. Communication and Community Involvement 17%
3. Support for the Tree Strategy 18%
4. Trees in relation to Climate Change and Biodiversity 14%
5. Planning and Sustainable Development Management 12%
6. Specific Resourcing around Trees 7%
7. Tree Preservation and Protection 8%
8. Trees and Legislation 2%
9. Miscellaneous 1%

Theme 1 - Tree Management and Operational Matters

(45 submissions made observations under this theme)

1.1 Tree Planting Policies and Initiatives

(37 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Includes types of trees planted for varying situations, consideration of environmental factors in decision making and planting for the right reasons, the importance of aftercare, identifying potential sites and producing planting masterplans, the importance of native tree species, taking advantage of available funding, ensuring suitable conditions such as sufficient root space, prioritising urban areas, and community planting schemes such as orchards and *Miyawaki* mini-forests. Some tree planting policies in the draft strategy may restrict options going forward.

Other issues raised:

- Sizes of tree to be planted
- Ambitious tree planting programmes required due to urgency
- Planting for diversity and renewability
- Keeping records of trees planted
- Welcoming of the strategic approach and prioritising locations
- Some of our tree planting policies may be restrictive
- Educational signage on new trees

FIN-C345-1, FIN-C345-3, FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-11, FIN-C345-13, FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-22, FIN-C345-23, FIN-C345-24, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-28, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-30, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-35, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-51, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-53, FIN-C345-54, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: The various actions set out under **Objective 3***: 'Tree Planting and Establishment Initiatives to Ensure a Sustainable Tree Population'* will address the concerns highlighted, particularly **Action 3.*1*** *'A programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations'.* Native trees will be used as far as reasonably practicable, community based projects such as Miyawaki forest planting will be piloted when adequate resourcing is in place under the key high level actions of **Objective 4:** '*Community Involvement, Public Engagement and Awareness'.* This will be clarified further in the document text to give assurance that such initiatives will be implemented. It is agreed that **Policy 10:** '*The Council will not plant large canopy deciduous trees within a distance equal to their maximum potential height on the south or west side of private dwellings. For evergreen trees this distance will be increased to twice their maximum height. This will minimise or eliminate afternoon and evening shade problems going forward*' may be restrictive and has been removed.

1.2 Need for strong, robust tree removal and replacement policies

(27 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Included requests for swift replacement schedules with commitments, transparency and communication in advance of removal, justification of removal, alternative measures to removal such as transplanting, relocating & reducing heights of light standards and timely tree stump removals.

Other issues raised:

- Certain estates have not had replacement trees planted
- All alternative options must be explored before tree removal as a last resort

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-6, FIN-C345-7, FIN-C345-11, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-28, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-32, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-38 FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-43, FIN-C345-44, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-51, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: In **Policy 8** *'The Council aims to ensure that every tree felled is replaced to guarantee a renewable tree stock in Fingal for Future Generations'* and **Policy 9:** '*The Council will not remove trees without adequate justification. When felling work is proposed, the reasons for the work will be documented and recorded to include photographs'*, emphasise is given that trees will be removed only when necessary and as a last resort and when doing so, justifications will be given. This may include cases where excessive pruning will leave trees in an unduly disfigured state with negative health impacts in which removal will be the only viable option. Adequate resourcing is fundamental in terms of retaining many trees, particularly in residential areas, for this reason, a hierarchal approach to tree management is proposed going forward. See **Part 4**, *The Sustainable Management of Trees in Fingal*, section 4.5 Maintenance.

1.3 Support for a proactive approach to tree management

(22 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Included setting timelines for routine and cyclical maintenance, using best arboricultural practice by competent, trained personnel overseen by a tree officer, encouraged to see procurement of new tree management software. Some criticism here included that the Council do not have a strong track record when it comes to recording, monitoring, documenting and retaining trees. A hierarchal approach to management was commended. A good management approach will encourage other landowners to follow suit.

FIN-C345-6, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-24, FIN-C345-27, **FIN-C345-31**, **FIN-C345-33, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-43, FIN-C345-45, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56**

Response: Actions under **Objective 1:** '*Responsible, Efficient & Coherent Approach to Tree Management'* have the potential to address issues raised regarding proactive management, particularly **Action 1.4** '*Develop a cyclical proactive tree management programme based on the surveys data, in the interest of tree health and public safety'.*

1.4 Management around conflict with utilities and other infrastructure

(15 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: To give priority to trees conflicting with their surrounding environment, and alternative solutions to removal, other comments reference careful consideration to future planting, liaising with utility companies, and the need for firm and robust guidelines and protocols.

FIN-C345-3, FIN-C345-6, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-28, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-32, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-43, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-56

Response: Action 2.3 '*Develop best practice guidelines/requirements for utility companies and contractors when working in proximity to trees, to include open spaces'* is proposed to address the issues raised in this regard. **Policy 5**: *The Principle of planting the ''right tree in the right place'' will apply for all new tree planting'* is intended to proactively minimise future conflict between trees and other infrastructure as far as reasonably practicable going forward. There is a reality on the ground that many mature trees are in conflict which must be also be addressed sustainably in future maintenance programmes.

1.5 The need for risk management and health & safety concerns associated with trees

(10 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Included methods of reporting hazardous trees which must be inspected as early as possible, looking for clearly communicated protocols in this regard. What are the protocols regarding privately owned trees posing a public health and safety risk? Exploring all options of making trees safe, with removal as a last resort.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-19, FIN-C345-20, FIN- C345-25, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-51, FIN-C345-52

Response: Actions 1.3 '*Resurvey and update the public realm tree inventory data (Street & open space trees) to refresh our inventory and inform maintenance'* and **1.4** '*Develop a cyclical proactive tree management programme, in the interest of tree health and public safety'* are to be implemented, taking risk assessments and public health and safety into account. Under the Occupier's Liability Act, hazardous trees in private ownership are the responsibility of the landowner, however significant hazards are notified to the owners. Reports of potentially hazardous trees are inspected as a high priority, see page 46, '*Cases the Council will look at trees'*.

1.6 Problems and issues caused by wrongly selected and located trees of the past

(5 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: There are still problems associated with poorly selected and located trees of the past which are now at maturity, these must be addressed and acknowledged within the strategy.

FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-25, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-43, FIN-C345-57

Response: These issues will be addressed under proactive management, **Action 1.4** '*Develop a cyclical proactive tree management programme based on the surveys data',* currently the Council have no designated resource to follow up on every specific query and request, an annual resource will provide funding and staffing to address issues effectively and efficiently – **Action 1.1** '*Secure an Annual Dedicated Tree Budget for adequate resourcing of tree management'.*

1.7 Concerns related to vandalism caused to trees

(4 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Vandalism is still a common occurrence with associations with anti-social behaviour highlighted. There must be adequate measures put in place to prevent and replace damaged trees due to vandalism.

FIN-C345-11, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-43, FIN-C345-46

Response: Damaged trees will be replaced subject to securing adequate resourcing. Through implementing the objectives and actions outlined under **Aim 4:** *'Create a strong sense of ownership with Residents, Communities and Stakeholders',* reduced incidences of this behaviour is envisaged going forward. Initiatives around this aim include education, awareness raising and outreach to schools and local communities to foster improved attituted towards trees.

1.8 Requests for tree work including pruning and removal

(4 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: The importance of a platform in so that residents can communicate genuine concerns and requests for tree works. Can measures be put in place offering advice on actions that can be taken to rectify problems as opposed to yes / no answers to requests. The Council must provide information in how customers can appeal certain decisions.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-51

Response: The Council propose to develop robust protocols and to regularly update in this regard as part of developing an operational plan. It is envisaged that clear information and communication with regard to the above issues will be in the form of future tree webpage, **Action 4.1** – '*Construct a dedicated and interactive tree webpage on the Council's website'.* The Strategy document comprehensively outlines scenarios where requests and concerns can be investigated, see **Part 4**, '*The Sustainable Management of Trees in Fingal'.*

1.9 Pests and Diseases

(4 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Pests and diseases must be considered in planting, selection and sourcing, with a diverse range of species needed for resilience. Healthy trees will be more resistant to potential pests and diseases.

FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52

Response: This topic is referenced in the strategy as a challenge, **1.32 Pests and Diseases**. The Council have a responsibility in terms of managing pests and diseases and have a specific remit around this, **Policy 2** states *'The Council will explore and implement biosecurity measures and protocols to keep tree pests and diseases under control within Fingal'* as well as common sense approach and due vigilance. The Council will also take the lead and liaise with relevant statutory bodies such as The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Actions and objectives under **Aim 4**, *'Achieve a Thriving, Diverse and Sustainable Tree Population'* will ensure a diverse future planting palette throughout the county.

1.10 Treatment of end of life trees and by-products

(4 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: For a circular and sustainable economy approach regarding trees that have reached the end of their life to include mulch, fuel, and supplying to the craft industry. Encourage land owners to plant trees on unusable land in order to generate timber by-products.

FIN-C345-1, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-46

Response: These helpful suggestions are noted and will be explored primarily under **Action 1.5:** *'Commission a woodland management programme to specify required works and ensure sustainability among existing woodlands and use them to their full potential, in line with the Biodiversity Action Plan'*, another use of trees at the end of their lives is to leave them in situ in suitable locations, where they continue to be a haven for wildlife.

Theme 2 – Communication and Community Involvement (38 submissions made observations under this theme)

2.1 Advocacy for community and involvement and engagement initiatives

(32 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: There is an appetite for the initiatives proposed in the draft strategy, statements to the effect that community initiatives must be highly prioritised. Involving communities in planting projects, decision making, surveying and mapping has the potential to play a pivotal role in delivering the aims and objectives outlined in the strategy. While working closely with schools, NGOs, stakeholders and business will help to foster community pride.

FIN-C345-2, FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-8, FIN-C345-10, FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-19, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-24, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-30, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-35, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-45, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-51, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-54, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: Community engagement is strongly emphasised and accounts for 25% of the proposals under;
Aim 4 – '*Create a Strong Sense of Ownership with Residents, Communities and Stakeholders'* and **Objective 4 – '***Community Involvement, Public Engagement & Awareness Building'*

To implement these ambitious initiatives is reliant upon adequate and dedicated resourcing, led by a Tree Officer. It is envisaged that this public consultation this report is based on being the beginning of community engagement.

2.2 Education around Trees

(23 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Stress the importance of education and awareness raising, suggestions include going directly to and working with schools and community organisations, to introduce more tree trails and signage on the ground, to include QR codes or similar. The Council can also send the right message by doing the right thing and leading by example. Changing the overall mindset away from perceived nuisances such as leaf fall to a better understanding of the positive attributes of trees, using the proposed website as the main resource and platform.

FIN-C345-7, FIN-C345-8, FIN-C345-10, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-30, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-35, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-54, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: Included in the strategy are various proposals relative to education, actions under **Objective 4***: 'Community Involvement, Public Engagement & Awareness'* are proposed to address these issues subject to securing sufficient funding and resourcing.

2.3 The need for improved communication and consultation in advance of significant tree works

(18 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Reference given to situations where mature trees are identified for removal. There has been an element of mistrust and the Council must be transparent going forward under a framework of effective two way dialogue. Documentation should be made available in the interest of transparency. Acknowledgement given that this is not possible in every case such as health and safety grounds. Recent communication in advance of tree management works at Newbridge and Malahide Demesnes has been welcomed and commended.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-9, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-44, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: The Council have begun the process of informing the community in advance of significant tree works and the reasons for same as per **Action 4.3** *'Develop protocols for engaging with communities and residents for proposed significant tree management works and works affecting trees'* with the intention of building and improving on this.
To fully implement this protocol requires dedicated management resourcing outlined in the strategy under **Actions 1.1** '*Secure an Annual Dedicated Tree Budget for adequate resourcing of tree management*' and **1.2** *'Recruit a Tree Officer and Tree Management Team to coordinate and implement the strategy'*

Action 1.3 *'Resurvey and update the public realm tree inventory data to refresh our inventory and inform maintenance'* has begun, the software allows for the input of surveyed data including photographs, age and condition to inform the treatment of trees in terms of maintenance.

Policy 9: '*The Council will not remove trees without adequate justification. When felling work is proposed, the reasons for the work will be documented and recorded to include photographs*'.

2.4 The need for an informative and interactive tree webpage on the Council's website

(**10 observations received relevant to this sub theme**)

Summary of Issues: This initiative is welcomed and encouraged with suggestions including regular management updates, citizen science projects, a dedicated email for tree related matters, FAQ section, interactive maps containing an uploaded tree database. Overall this has been identified as a positive action with potential of raising awareness and education if incorporated with other objectives.

FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-51, FIN-C345-52

Response: The submissions are noted, it is envisaged that the strategy will be in a live format in the form of a website.

Action 4.1 *'Construct a dedicated and interactive tree webpage on the Council's website. Providing opportunities such as a Tree Champions contact list, citizen science/public participation schemes for tree identification and surveying etc. and other tree related matters. For knowledge sharing and public information and awareness purposes'*

2.5 Engage with owners of private trees and woodlands

(10 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: With the majority of land and woodland in Fingal under private ownership, the Council should engage with the owners for the benefit of trees, encouraging best practices. Could the Council take a leadership role in exploring opportunities for woodland and hedgerow expansion through public private partnerships and interested communities. Provide incentives for the planting of native trees, sustainable felling and harvesting practices. Is there a way to estimate the number of trees that are within the private lands throughout the county?

FIN-C345-1, FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-35, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46

Response: Dealing and engaging with private land owners is a task specifically related to the role of a Tree Officer, **Action 1.2** *'Recruit a Tree Officer and Tree Management Team to coordinate and implement the strategy,'* who could demonstrate best practice guidance appropriate for their private woodland and direct landowners to government finances and incentives.

The number of privately owned trees can be estimated via the commissioning of desktop studies, similar to that of the referenced **Dublin Tree Canopy Study 2017**. A more accurate picture with focus in Fingal would require further resourcing including volunteers and citizen science initiatives, coordinated by a tree officer.

Theme 3 - Support for the Tree Strategy (39 submissions made observations under this theme)

3.1 Agreement with Part 2- The Value of Trees

(25 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: A comprehensive document. Strong agreement with values attributed to trees outlined in the narrative, along with additional benefits. There was acknowledgement of the requirement of adequate resourcing and provision, justified by the myriad of benefits provided by trees, which should be prioritised and protected as valuable environmental assets going forward. The Council should raise an awareness in this regard.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-7, FIN-C345-8, FIN-C345-11, FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-17,FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-35, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: The comments are noted. There is a strong emphasise in this regard within the strategy, objectives and actions under **Aim 4: '***Maximise the benefits of Trees as a Valuable Asset and Resource'* are proposed to exploit the multiple opportunities associated with quality tree provision. **Action 3.1** – *'A programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations'*. Identifying priority locations will be based on criteria such as areas prone to flooding, pollution etc., where trees can help by providing natural ecosystem services in mitigating and adapting to environmental issues. **Policy 3:** '*The Council plans to inform and promote the importance of trees as part of the urban environment and put them on a level footing with all urban infrastructure'*

3.2 Advocacy for the Councils intent to increase and improve the tree canopy cover of Fingal

(25 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Concern expressed that the canopy cover is identified as being relatively low on a national and European level with appreciation that the Council recognises this and is up front in this regard. Observations correctly state that the canopy of Fingal encapsulates the entire landbank of the county, regardless of ownership or boundaries. There is optimism that although Fingal's tree cover is relatively low, this can be seen as an opportunity to embark on ambitious tree planting projects. Comments made that the tree canopy cover is lower than when compared to the inception of the 2010 tree strategy.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-7, FIN-C345-9, FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-24, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-28, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-53, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56

Response: The comments are noted, statements that Fingal has lower tree cover when compared to 2010 are incorrect, Fingal manages more street trees now than in 2010, with additional roads and estates taken in charge annually, over 3,000 trees are planted annually across the county including within developments, this justifies the need for additional resourcing and dedicated staff outlined. Objectives and actions under **Aim:** *'Annual Net Increase in Tree Canopy* Cover' are proposed to address the deficit identified in the **Dublin Tree Canopy Study 2017.**

3.3 Agreement and support for the Vision, Policies and associated Action Plan

(23 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Expressions of hope given that the Council can follow through with the vision, policy statements and associated action plan with which there will be a positive outcome if implemented successfully

FIN-C345-14, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-21, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-32, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-45, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-50, FIN-C345-51, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: The comments under this sub theme are noted, the actions and vision can be reached through long term implementation, beginning with the proposed 10 year timeframe proposed, subject to the provision of adequate resourcing including a Tree Officer and Annual Dedicated Tree Budget.

3.4 The Council must set Specific and Measurable Targets as part of the strategy

(20 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Asking the Council to include definitive targets in terms of a percentage of canopy cover increase by 2031, or a cover of 30% canopy for all urban neighbourhoods and detail and clarity is lacking in this regard. To commit to a certain number of new Tree Preservations per year and an annual amount of trees to plant annually. The Council should aspire for a set number of street trees per km of road and to adopt the new 3-30-300 rule – that everyone can see 3 trees from their home, 30% canopy (or vegetation) cover for neighbourhoods, and no more than 300 metres to the nearest green space.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-13, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-26, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-35, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56

Response: Specific targets were omitted at this time in order to set informed, achievable and realistic targets, a level of baseline data is required in the first instance to inform goals in relation to future canopy cover increase. Assessing and identifying areas of land available for additional planting within **Action 3.1** *'A programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations'* will help to inform such targets going forward. It is intended to publish targets subject to further information gathering, this will be made possible as the strategy will be a live document.

3.5 The need for regular monitoring and reporting of the progress of the revised strategy after adoption

(11 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: The importance of regular monitoring has been emphasised to ensure that the relevant aims, objectives and actions are being met, with appropriate measures taken if not. The Council must be clear and transparent in this regard with annual reports. It is important that the Tree Strategy is implemented and not shelved.

FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-53, FIN-C345-55

Response: The points raised are noted, regular monitoring is proposed with a full review after five years.

3.6 Lessons learned, achievements and main changes of the previous strategy

(5 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Noting that the previous strategy's achievements or performance review was not presented, what are the main lessons learned and changes?

FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-32, **FIN-C345-38**

Response: The revised strategy is in response to reviews of its predecessor over the course of its lifetime. New developments in arboriculture and urban forestry has dictated the need for a revised strategy, the original strategy in its current form is not compatible, such as new available management software and significant changes in attitudes towards trees. An increasing population along with an increasing number of trees under the Councils care annually (with taking in charge and land acquisition) underscores the need for a new visionary approach to tree management throughout the county. A success of the previous strategy was the rapid reduction in the number of tree related complaints and claims in the first number of years and it also contained robust management policies.

Theme 4 – Trees in relation to Climate Change and Biodiversity (30 submissions made observations under this theme)

4.1 Expressions of the Importance of Trees in relation to Biodiversity / Wildlife

(23 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: The importance of native trees and hedgerows for the greatest benefits to wildlife, the strategy could provide an opportunity and catalyst for rewilding projects going forward. In terms of management, leaving dead trees where possible, trees within vast uncut areas and mulching at trees bases as an alternative to spraying are suggested.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-13, FIN-C345-15, FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-22, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-28, FIN-C345-30, FIN-C345-35, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-51, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-53, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56

Response: The submissions are noted and will be aligned with objectives contained in the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan which is referenced in the document.

4.2 Woodland of Fingal

(15 observations received in relation to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: The Council urgently need to increase woodland cover throughout the county alongside ensuring long term best practice management in the interest of sustainability, invasive species control and for the benefit future generations. The Council are urged to take advantage of funding opportunities available in this regard. There have been concerns expressed that certain woodlands are under stress due to inappropriate management. Designation and mapping woodlands is vitally important. The strategy does not refer to woodlands and rural Fingal sufficiently enough, with more of an emphasis on urban Fingal, woodland should be included within the vision and policy statements. Advantages of woodlands are tourism, education, and the prevention of urban sprawl.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-5, FIN-C345-13, FIN-C345-15, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-24, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-41, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-56

Response: The Council have proposed the following actions which will be beneficial and address concerns as a whole: **Action 1.5** - '*Commission a woodland management programme to specify required works and ensure sustainability among existing woodlands and use them to their full potential, in line with the biodiversity action plan'* **Action 2.4** – '*Map and survey all significant / historic stands of woodland within the county e.g. in excess of 5ha with a view to updating the County Development Plan's Specific Zoning Objectives in relation to woodlands'.* This demonstrates the Councils acknowledgment of woodlands as valuable assets as well as intent to increase and ensure their sustainability for reasons of biodiversity, climate change and recreation. 40% of Fingal's open space is heritage landscape which highlights the importance of retaining woodlands to keep designed landscapes historically accurate. The Council have begun proceedings for a woodland creation project and woodland management plan at two separate sites. The Vision statement has been changed to demonstrate that woodlands are part of the scope and now reads as *'To protect and enhance Fingal's*

trees and woodlands, to maximise both the benefits they offer and the character they bring to the county, to ensure a greener and healthier Fingal for now and future generations'

4.3 The urgency for incorporating Climate Action Initiatives

(15 observations received relative to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Concerns in how there is no sense of urgency in the context of climate action, the mitigation and adaptation role played by trees is vital. Species of future planting must ensure resilience to effects of climate change such as drought and flooding**.** Additional suggestions were to prune trees in proximity of solar panels to facilitate the transition towards renewable energy and to provide guidance to developers to prevent trees from shading roofs in the future.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-5, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-24, FIN-C345-30, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-47, FIN-C345-48, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-55

Response: The strategy has emphasised the significance of climate change in relation to trees, the strategy is an action of the Council's Climate Action Plan under the Nature Based Solution initiatives.

4.4 Importance of aligning tree strategy with other strategy and policy documents

(**8 observations relevant to this sub theme**)

Summary of Issues: Policies and strategies at local, national, and international level have been named including the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan, County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the recently amended Climate Action Bill.

FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-47, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52

Response: Acknowledgement has been expressed to a number of the above policies and legislation in the context of the Tree Strategy. **Action 2.1 -** *Prepare tree related planning and design guidelines for inclusion in the next Fingal County Development Plan*, shows the Council's intent to align the strategy with and inform future policies such as the County Development Plan 2023 – 2029. Changes to policies and laws highlight the requirement for the strategy to be in the form of a live document, adaptable to change such as the recently amended Climate Action Bill.

4.5 Creation of Marine and Kelp forests at the estuary areas

(**2 observations relevant to this sub theme**)

Summary of Issues: Kelp forests and marine plants are beneficial to the environment and a carbon sink with the added possibility of seafood production.

FIN-C345-14, FIN-C345-22

Response: While admirable aspirations, the Council do not have remit beyond the high-water mark and is therefore beyond the scope of the tree strategy, this is under the remit of the department of the Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Theme 5 - Planning and Sustainable Development Management (26 submissions made observations under this theme)

5.1 Trees and Hedgerows in relation to Planning and Development

(23 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: There is a deficiency in planning conditions and enforcement, trees and hedgerows are removed to make way for development, it is hoped that the strategy will make provision for the protection of existing trees from developments and that replacements must be ensured where removal is necessary. Suggestions include mandatory checklists, arboriculture reports and tree planting plans as part of planning conditions. There must be a net gain or at a minimum, no net loss of tree cover in future developments. There is an opportunity to use the recent growth in the county for development policies regarding trees. Tree bonds must be realistic according to the individual trees intrinsic value and enforced as appropriate, this can be achieved through collaboration across the parks and planning departments. It is essential that trees have equal status with competing infrastructure in developments, with their provision given priority where necessary. The potential for trees and other green infrastructure must be analysed from the very early stages of all future developments processes with their potential for sustainable drainage systems. It is hoped that the revision of the tree strategy can provide improved opportunities for trees and other green infrastructure through planning.

FIN-C345-2, FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-9, FIN-C345-10, FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-29, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-32, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-50, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-56, FIN-C345-57

Response: The strategy recommends the provision of appropriate and dedicated resources for tree protection and provision in the context of development management, resourcing for development management will reflect and acknowledge the importance of implementing tree related conditions and enforcement. **Action 2.1** - *'Prepare tree related planning and design guidelines for inclusion in the next Fingal County Development Plan'*, will inform future planning requirements, which will be reflected in the Council's Development Framework and become a material consideration in evaluating planning proposals.

5.2 Integration of Trees with Future Developments

(10 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: There is recognition regarding the importance of trees and green infrastructure in playing an integral role of all future sustainable development. The Tree Strategy can play a valuable role in planning policies going forward, integrating tree provision with other critical infrastructure initiatives such as footpath widening, traffic calming measures, cycling infrastructure, public transport, and on-street parking. Tree provision should be prioritised, and the strategy lacks detail in this regard. Statements that green infrastructure, if located strategically and is accessible, can provide benefits such as amenity, reduced car journeys and CO^2 emissions.

FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-38, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-47, FIN-C345-53

Response: Valid points are noted, **Action 2.1 -** *'Prepare tree related planning and design guidelines for inclusion in the next Fingal County Development Plan'* will address all issues in more detail going forward.

Theme 6 - Specific Resourcing around Trees (15 submissions made observations under this theme)

6.1 Highlighting and understanding the requirement for a dedicated budget and resourcing to implement the strategy

(15 observations received in relation to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Expressions are broadly in support for the provision of a dedicated tree budget and funding, which is fundamental to the success of the strategy going forward, especially with ambitions to increase tree canopy cover across the county. There is an understanding expressed that the various targets, and actions stated rely on an adequate budget and resourcing. The services and benefits provided by trees justify such resources. Regardless of available budgets, best practice must be delivered due to the climate crisis and our well-being, with concerns expressed that a limited budget will mean limited improvements outlined in the strategy.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-6, FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-36, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-55, FIN-C345-56

Response: Actions 1.1 *'Secure an Annual Dedicated Tree Budget for adequate resourcing of tree management* and **1.2** *'Recruit a Tree Officer and Tree Management Team to coordinate and implement the strategy,''* are key action of the strategy. The issues raised have correctly stated that subsequent actions and the success of the strategy will rely on securing a dedicated budget and resourcing. There is an annual expenditure on trees, but to coordinate and implement the strategy going forward, and management to be delivered more effectively and efficiently will require dedicated resourcing

Theme 7 - Tree Preservation and Protection (16 submissions made observations under this theme)

7.1 Concerns raised around the importance of protecting and retaining our hedgerows

(11 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Statements that hedgerows are a prominent feature in Fingal which should be surveyed, and an inventory created. Comments regarding their value in terms of biodiversity, ecology, carbon storage and heritage. There must be protection protocols on private lands such as farms, with encouraging of best management practices. Suggestions to plant hedgerows where possible. There should be more reference to hedgerows and trees in rural Fingal within the document. To include measures ensuring developers replace hedgerows with appropriate species. Examples given where the Council have removed hedgerows during nesting season which is at odds with the Council's biodiversity policies.

FIN-C345-16, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-32, FIN-C345-34, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52

Response: There is continued advocacy of the council regarding the value of hedgerows in line with the biodiversity action plan.

7.2 Tree Preservation Orders

(10 observations received relevant to this sub theme)

Summary of Issues: Tree Preservation Orders should be prioritised due to protection and retention of trees being a key objective of the strategy. With only three sites under TPO status within Fingal, there is a deficiency. Can the Council provide more information on the criteria for a TPO such as the circumstances they are provided? There is no reference to the adequacy of the current approach regarding TPOS in the draft document, which has a very light section on TPOs. Can more TPOs be designated on private lands? Could the public be given the opportunity to nominate trees for TPO status. Suggestions include producing a data base / registry of exceptional / landmark trees which would strengthen their protection and can promote tourism throughout the County, either as part of reviewing trees under TPO or independently, publishing the findings to include historic interest, location etc.

FIN-C345-1, FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-18, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-51 FIN-C345-52, FIN-C345-56

Response: ***Action 2.2 –*** *'Review the Council's existing TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) with a view to revising and updating this list'* and related initiatives will address issues raised going forward.

7.3 Enforcement of Tree Protection Measures

(**10 observations received relevant to this sub theme**)

Summary of Issues: The Council have been encouraged to take a strong stance on illegal cutting and vandalism for a greater chance of survival, and a similar approach for policing and enforcing in

relation to construction and utility work. Legislation must be enforced where trees and hedgerows are concerned.

FIN-C345-4, FIN-C345-20, FIN-C345-27, FIN-C345-31, FIN-C345-37, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-42, FIN-C345-49, FIN-C345-52

Response: Dedicated resourcing will improve and address enforcement issues raised above, keys **Actions 1.1** *'Secure an Annual Dedicated Tree Budget for adequate resourcing of tree management'* and **1.2** *'Recruit a Tree Officer and Tree Management Team to coordinate and implement the strategy,'* are fundamental in this regard.

Theme 8 - Trees and National Legislation & Policy

(5 submissions made observations under this theme)

8.1 Lobby the government to make National Legislation and Incentives regarding Trees

(**5 observations received relevant to this sub theme**)

Summary of Issues: To lobby the government along with other local authorities and in the interest of protecting non-commercial woodlands, to change legislation in line with Climate Action Ambitions. Incentivising rural landowners to plant trees to offset CO^2, which is relevant in Fingal's case. The government must work with local authorities and An Bord Pleanála to prioritise tree planting in existing and new developments and streets. Impressing upon the government to produce a National Tree Strategy.

FIN-C345-24, FIN-C345-39, FIN-C345-40, FIN-C345-46, FIN-C345-55

Response: Proposals contained in the document satisfy issues raised as follows: **Action 2.6** *'Participate as a member with the Tree Council of Ireland with a view to influencing national policy relating to trees'* where the Council hope to jointly advocate for improved tree legislation.

Theme 9 – Miscellaneous

(2 submissions made observations under this theme)

9.1 Not happy with the Consultation format

(**2 observations relevant to this sub theme**)

Summary of Issues: Restricting consultation solely to the portal, has made it unrepresentative and not a democratic process.

FIN-C345-17, FIN-C345-32

Response: The Council accepted emailed submissions from those experiencing technical issues and it was stated in a press release that we would accept submissions by post. The consultation was a non-statutory process for an extensive period of approximately 6 months, giving people time if they had technical difficulties. The ethos of the revised strategy is to revolve around a model of continuous engagement with communities going forward through the objectives and actions under **Aim 4: *'Create a strong sense of ownership with Residents, Communities and Stakeholders'***

Conclusion, recommendations and next steps

The majority of submissions received express broad support or agreement with the proposals outlined in the strategy, with many of the issues or concerns raised being referenced in the document.

Going forward, securing dedicated resourcing is fundamental to the implementation of this strategy to create meaningful change in the way we manage our trees for a healthy, sustainable and resilient tree population throughout Fingal with maximum benefits. Following annual reviews, to ensure the strategy remains relevant and up to date, it is proposed to be a live and dynamic document that is adaptable to change over its ten year life span and beyond.

The Council wishes to thank all those who gave their time and participated in the non-statutory consultation process, from those who made valuable comprehensive submissions and those who attended the information webinars.

The next steps are as follows;

- Present this report and seek approval for the revised Tree Strategy at the Full Council Meeting on 8th November 2021
- Publish and Launch before or during National Tree Week 2022

Appendix I:

Respondents to Non-Statutory Public Consultation

List of submissions or observations made

Submission	Author	Type
FIN-C345-1	**Humble Pilgrim Ltd**	Individual
FIN-C345-2	**Mairead O'Keefe**	Individual
FIN-C345-3	**Cllr Ian Carey**	Individual
FIN-C345-4	**John O'Reilly**	Individual
FIN-C345-5	**Noel Mahon**	Individual
FIN-C345-6	**Todd Pocius**	Individual
FIN-C345-7	**Karen O'Rourke**	Individual
FIN-C345-8	**Nike Ruf**	Individual
FIN-C345-9	**Sinead Flynn**	Individual
FIN-C345-10	**Lynne Barker**	Individual
FIN-C345-11/12	**Resident and Volunteer of Meakstown**	Individual
FIN-C345-13	**John Halley**	Individual
FIN-C345-14	**Winnie Bosschaert**	Individual
FIN-C345-15	**Padraic Fogarty**	Individual
FIN-C345-16	**Balbriggan Tidy Towns**	Organisation
FIN-C345-17	**Declan Mescall**	Individual
FIN-C345-18	**Skerries Tree Preservation Group**	Organisation
FIN-C345-19	**Brian Tierney**	Individual

FIN-C345-20	**Skerries Tidy Towns and Sustainable Skerries**	Organisation
FIN-C345-21	**Afro Diaspora Center**	Organisation
FIN-C345-22	**Turlough O' Brien**	Individual
FIN-C345-23	**Seamus O' Canainn**	Individual
FIN-C345-24	**Portmarnock Community Association**	Organisation
FIN-C345-25	**Christopher Ledwidge**	Individual
FIN-C345-26	**John O'Reilly**	Individual
FIN-C345-27	**Kirkpatrick Rockfield Coolmine Residents Association**	Organisation
FIN-C345-28	**Billy O'Dea**	Individual
FIN-C345-29	**Rory Scannell**	Individual
FIN-C345-30	**Edward Stevenson**	Individual
FIN-C345-31	**Emma Oldroyd**	Individual
FIN-C345-32	**David Browne**	Individual
FIN-C345-33	**Robert Beckett**	Individual
FIN-C345-34	**Cllr Seána O Rodaigh**	Individual
FIN-C345-35	**Heidi Bedell**	Individual
FIN-C345-36	**Joe O'Brien TD**	Individual
FIN-C345-37	**Sandra Shanagher**	Individual
FIN-C345-38	**Ron Elliott**	Individual
FIN-C345-39	**Cllr Tania Doyle**	Individual

FIN-C345-40	**Castleknock Tidy Towns**	Organisation
FIN-C345-41	**Tom McDonald**	Individual
FIN-C345-42	**Dublin Friends of the Earth**	Organisation
FIN-C345-43	**Cllr Dean Mulligan**	Individual
FIN-C345-44	**Cllr Joe Newman**	Individual
FIN-C345-45	**Allison Bosonnet**	Individual
FIN-C345-46	**Cllr Paul Mulville**	Individual
FIN-C345-47	**Ian Talbot**	Individual
FIN-C345-48	**Gerald O'Halloran**	Individual
FIN-C345-49	**Bayside Community Association**	Individual
FIN-C345-50	**Karla Piner**	Individual
FIN-C345-51	**Senator Emer Currie**	Individual
FIN-C345-52	**Fingal PPN Climate Change, Environment and Water Linkage Group**	Organisation
FIN-C345-53	**George Mongey**	Individual
FIN-C345-54	**Connor Crotty**	Individual
FIN-C345-55	**Blaketown Community Group**	Organisation
FIN-C345-56	**Teddy Otto**	Individual
FIN-C345-57	**Cllr Anne Graves**	Individual

Appendix II:

8 no. Motions raised at the July Climate Action, Biodiversity & Environment SPC with reports (document has been amended to include commitments where necessary)

Item 1

Motion: Cllr Healy

Fingal County Council will work with community-based organisations to support local initiatives to plant trees or support tree-planting including

- Miyawaki forests/ microforests/ pocket forests,
- community nurseries and
- community orchards

Report:

Community tree planting initiatives are covered and proposed under Action 4.2 *'Participation in National Tree Week/Day events such as Tree Giveaways and community planting schemes'*. This will be clarified further within the finalised version of the tree strategy –

Referenced within strategy:

Objective 4: *Community Involvement, Public Engagement and Awareness Building* 'Initiatives under this objective will align with and strengthen the previous objectives. Community planting schemes, such as the new Miyawaki Forestry phenomenon increasingly used across Europe involves communities planting dense self sustaining forests in marginal lands' and **Action 4.2** *To continue and build on participation in National Tree Week/Day events such as Tree Giveaways and community planting to include community orchards, nurseries and the introduction of Miyawaki Forest schemes*

Item 2

Motion: Cllr Healy

Where damage to paths is resulting from tree roots, the Council will explore options to retain trees while repairing paths including taking more space from the carriageway and/or path to facilitate a green verge, planting area or rain garden

Report:

The Council already implement maintenance works on paths and other infrastructure aimed at retaining trees, the strategy provides for improved planning to facilitate larger spaces for urban trees and the incorporation of trees into water sensitive design and this includes integrated constructed tree pits and rain gardens

Referenced within strategy:

Section 4.8 – *New tree planting within developments, Street Tree Panting Plans* - *Constructed tree pits shall be required where trees are planted in hard surfaces and grass verges* less than 1.2m wide

Section 4.9 – Trip Hazard / Pavement Lift, *The Council will seek to explore engineering options through internal consultation within the Operational Department to reduce trip hazards before root pruning or tree removal*

Action 3.2 - *Promote the retrofitting of integrated constructed tree pits incorporating SuDS within urban areas with low levels of tree cover*

Item 3

Motion: Cllr Healy

Review the provision of street trees and the potential for extra street trees within a year to set out a programme for additional planting over the subsequent 4 years

Report:

The provision of extra street trees is proposed under **Action 3.*1*** *'A programme of targeted Strategic Annual Tree Planting including identifying and mapping priority locations, to include sites suitable for woodland creation. Reviewed in an annual works programme, presenting what is planned for the coming year. Taking advantage of government funding programmes such as the New Woodland Creation Scheme on Public Lands'*

Referenced within the strategy: As above

Item 4

Motion: Cllr Healy

The analysis of tree provision will include street trees per km of street and road in Fingal, and tree cover by neighbourhood

Report:

An analysis of Tree Canopy cover is provided for in the Strategy and this will inform where priority tree planting is provided. The Council's Tree Management software also allows for this analysis

Referenced within the strategy:

Objective 1: *The analysis and surveys of the Council's trees and woodlands proposed under this objective will help to inform SMART (Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic Timely) Targets going forward. This will give the Council a clearer picture in terms of the Baseline (what the Council has now), Vision (where the Council wants to be) and Actions (how to get there). The findings and recommendations from surveying trees, woodlands and lands available to accommodate planting will inform the setting of specific targets, such as an increase in tree canopy cover across the county and neighbourhoods.*

Action 1.6 *Commission the study and report on the ecosystem services/nature-based solutions provided by Fingal's trees with reference to their economic/climate change adaptation benefits.*

Item 5

Motion: Cllr Healy

The Council will undertake a proactive programme of Tree Preservation Orders, at a rate of 10 per year per ward over the next year, for review after that complement is achieved

Report:

Under Action 2.2, the Tree Strategy provides for a review of Tree Preservations in the County. Without further analysis it would not be possible to determine how many TPOs are appropriate

Referenced within the strategy:

Action 2.2: *Review the Council's existing TPOs (Tree Preservation Orders) with a view to revising and updating this list with additional trees and sites*

Item 6

Motion: Cllr Healy

The Tree Strategy to include protecting young trees from weed competition by means of mulching rather than herbicide

Report:

The Council commits to this practice of reducing reliance on pesticides / herbicides in line with the Biodiversity Action Plan and Open Space Strategy

Referenced within the strategy:

Section 1.24 *Local Tree Related Policies*

- *Keeping it Green – An Open Space Strategy for Fingal*
- *Biodiversity Action Plan*

Item 7

Motion: Cllr Healy

The Tree Strategy to include an annual implementation report

Report:

The Council will commit to an annual Tree Strategy implementation report

Referenced within the strategy: N/A. Referenced in report only

Item 8

Motion: Cllr Carey

Trees in residential areas that are within 5 meters of public lighting standard and obstructing light to an unreasonable level may only be removed as a last resort if it is not feasible to 1) reduce the height of the light so that light is no longer obstructed, or 2) extend the arm of the light so that light is no longer obstructed

Report:

The feasibility of modifying public lighting infrastructure for the purpose of tree preservation will be examined in consultation with the public lighting section

Referenced within the strategy:

Section 4.9 Maintaining Fingal's Trees – Obstruction of Street Lighting

The feasibility and appropriateness of modifying public lighting infrastructure for the purpose of tree preservation will be examined in consultation with the public lighting section

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council



Forest of Fingal

A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Presentation to the Full Council Meeting November 2021

Michael Staunton
michael.staunton@fingal.ie
Executive Parks and Landscape Officer
Parks and Green Infrastructure Division
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Tree Strategy Presentation

- Process to date
- The Benefits of Trees and the Challenges
- Vision of the Tree strategy
- Overview of the Public Consultation Process
- Aims and Objectives of the Tree Strategy
- Key Outcomes
- Next Steps

Forest of Fingal
A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

The process

Review of original tree strategy
Parks and Green Infrastructure Division / Operations Department - **2020**

Briefings given to SPCs and ACMs

June, September, November 2020

Revised Draft Tree Strategy

Sept 2020

Briefings to SPCs

Non Statutory public consultation – Portal

October 2020 – March 2021

Strategy approved, published and implementation begins
November 2021

We Are Here

Life of the Strategy

10 years with annual reviews

Forest of Fingal
A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

The Benefits

- Health and Wellbeing
- Economic
- Environmental
- Ecology and Biodiversity

Vision

'To protect and enhance Fingal's trees and woodlands to maximise both the benefits they offer and the character they bring to the county to ensure a greener, healthier Fingal for now and future generations'

The Challenge

- Relatively low tree canopy
- Climate Change
- Pests and Diseases
- Increasing population & urbanisation

Forest of Fingal

A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Public Consultation Overview
October 2020 – March 2021

Main Consultees

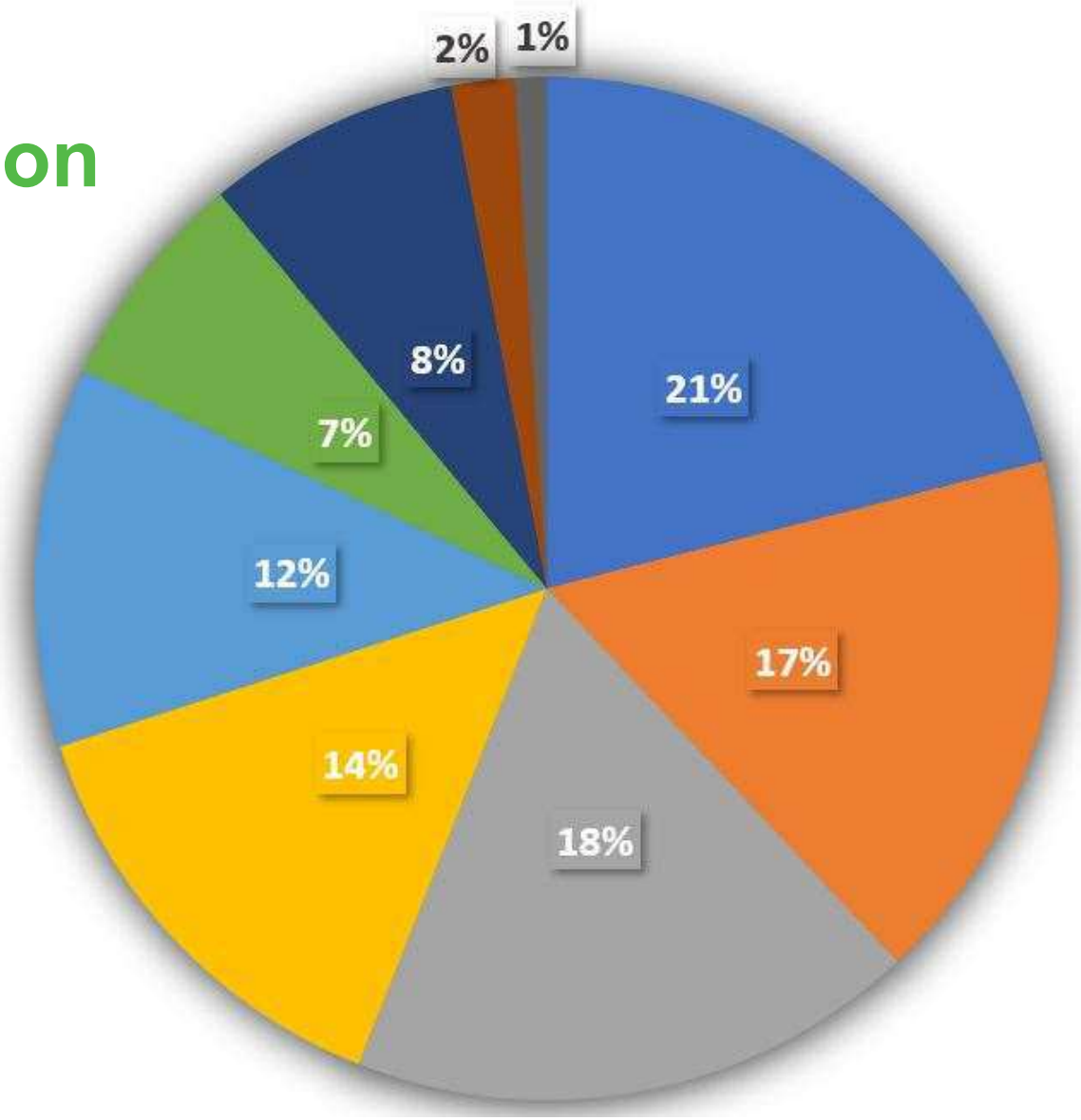
- Residents and Local Volunteers
- Tidy Town Groups / Residents Associations
- Elected Members
- Community Groups and Interest Groups
- NGOs

Forest of Fingal
A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Public Consultation Overview

(Results)



Analysis of Themes

- 1. Tree Management and Operational Matters 21%
- 2. Communication and Community Involvement 17%
- 3. Support for the Tree Strategy 18%
- 4. Trees in relation to Climate Change and Biodiversity 14%
- 5. Planning and Sustainable Development Management 12%
- 6. Specific Resourcing around Trees 7%
- 7. Tree Preservation and Protection 8%
- 8. Trees and Legislation 2%
- 9. Miscellaneous 1%

Forest of Fingal
A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Tree Strategy Aims:



Annual Net **Increase** Tree Canopy Cover



Have a **Thriving**, **Sustainable** and **Diverse** Tree Population



Maximise the **Benefits** of Trees as a Valuable **Asset** and **Resource**



Create a Sense of **Ownership** with the **Public**, **Community Groups** and **Stakeholders**

Forest of Fingal
A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Tree Strategy Objectives:

1. Manage Trees Coherently, Responsibly and Efficiently

2. Protection and Retention of Existing Trees

3. Tree Planting and Establishment Initiatives to ensure a Sustainable Tree Population

4. Community Involvement, Public Engagement and Awareness Building

Forest of Fingal
A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Key Outcomes of the Strategy

- Dedicated Resourcing
- Competent & Trained Tree Management Team / Tree Officer
- Improved appreciation and understanding of our Trees as Assets
- Improved Communication with Communities and Interest Groups
- Successful Tree Establishment
- Proactive Management and Increasing Tree Canopy Cover
- A Diverse and Resilient Tree Population

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Thank you



Newbridge House

Forest of Fingal
A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report

8th of November, 2021
Item 21

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021

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Chief Executive's Foreword

Financial planning and management is a key consideration for all departments across the organisation at all times. At this time of year there is a particular focus in this area with the Members approving a significant capital programme in October and the annual budget meeting scheduled to take place on the 9th of November. The role of the Elected Members and their commitment and expertise is critical in ensuring we can continue to enhance and deliver key services across the county for all of our citizens.

All departments and staff across the organisation are working hard to progress projects and I am looking forward to seeing significant progress on the ground in 2022. I was delighted to see homes and businesses in Balbriggan receiving a 'What Next' leaflet detailing updates on the physical transformation pieces of the Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan. Investing in the regeneration of Balbriggan remains one of our top priorities and confirms our commitment to help drive growth for businesses and residents in the town. Work commenced last month on the construction of a new €1.5million All-Weather Sports Pitch Facility at Ward River Valley Regional Park in Swords with the facility due to be completed by the Second Quarter of 2022. This will be a valuable sporting amenity for the people of Swords and wider area. A lot of work has been done by Councillors, staff and other stakeholders over the last few years to make this project a reality and this is a significant milestone in the journey.

Staff resources are critical to the delivery of our projects and to this end the HR department continue to engage in large scale recruitment campaigns for a wide range of roles.

Fingal Inclusion week which is an initiative of Fingal County Council Community Office, the Integration Officer and the Fingal Public Participation Network will run from the 15th to the 21st of November with a fantastic programme of 76 events taking place around the County. It is very important to raise awareness of the excellent work being done by community groups, PPN and our own Fingal staff to combat social exclusion. The week also seeks to raise awareness of the barriers experienced by citizens of Fingal that lead to social exclusion and promote an understanding of inclusion in Fingal and I hope that you will support this initiative.

Ten Fingal projects and initiatives have been nominated in this year's All Ireland Community and Council Awards. These awards are an opportunity to highlight and promote the work carried out in our communities and showcase the successful collaborations between communities and councils. Five Fingal projects have also been nominated in the Chambers Ireland 2021 Excellence in Local Government Awards. I am very pleased that so many Fingal initiatives and projects have been acknowledged for their innovation and excellence and I wish all Fingal entrants the very best of luck in this year's awards which take place this month.

AnnMarie Farrelly

Chief Executive

HR, CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

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Major Emergency Management
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Major Emergency Management

The Major Emergency Management structures in place within the Council have proven to be very effective and continue to serve us well as we continue our careful and gradual approach to reopening in line with Government guidance.

Fingal County Council's Executive Management Team and senior management continue to meet regularly to ensure continuity of services and put measures in place to align with the Government's plan for the final phase of their response to the COVID-19 pandemic COVID-19: Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting.

Human Resources

The Human Resource Department continues to plan for and respond to the challenges brought by Covid19 in line with the Government's **COVID-19** Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting. Staff continue to be kept up to date on relevant Government directives and are provided with useful information through text alerts and a dedicated staff information webpage. To assist in the transition towards a full return to the workplace all staff have been required to work a minimum of two days per week in the workplace from 22nd October.

Training and development of our staff, including statutory Health & Safety training, continues throughout the pandemic ensuring that critical services are not adversely affected. As part of the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme, all Council staff and Elected members are currently undertaking "Climate Action - Raising Awareness" training, delivered through the Climate Ireland Learning Platform. The HR Department is continuing the roll out of Diversity, Interculturalism Training which will assist the Council in meeting its obligations under the Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty.

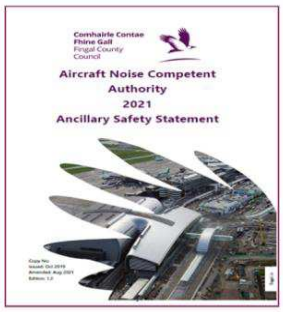
The HR Department is currently engaging in large scale recruitment campaigns for a range of roles as detailed below.

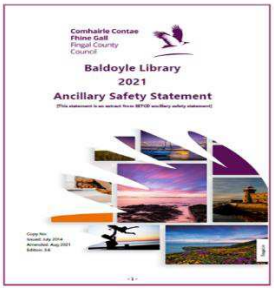
Recruitment Programme 2021 end of October 2021	No
Recruitment Campaigns Completed / Pending	81
Applicants to date	2820
Interviews Held to date	909
Number of Appointments	246
Number of New Starters	169
Number of Leavers / Retirements	148
Number of Current Job Offers to Candidates	99

Health & Safety Unit (HSU)

The HSU continues with the publication of ancillary safety statements, revised risk assessments and operational procedures on its Share point platform. Site safety inspections, safety audits and accident investigations continue along with answering staff queries pertaining to returning to work, Covid-19 and other general health and safety queries. The HSU is currently partaking in an external audit by Mazars administered through the Council's Internal Audit office. FCC's entry submission prepared by the HSU for the National Irish Safety Organization/Northern Ireland Safety Group's 'Occupational Safety Awards 2021' has been short listed for a category one award with the exact award being disclosed on the evening of the 4th November. European safety week [25th to 29th October] was promoted by the HSU through a staff messages initiative along with a staff quiz competition to promote safety and health in the workplace.









Customer Services

During the month of October a total of 1,331 people called to the offices to conduct business in person.

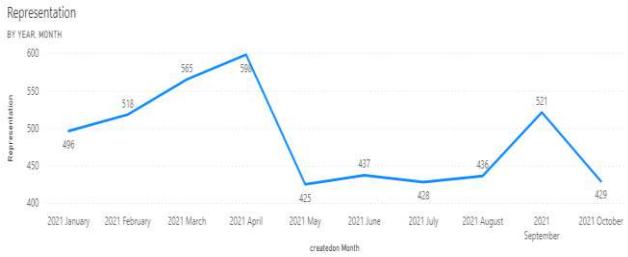
The Council's Customer Care agents also manage business with the public on the phones and by email as the first point of contact -

Phone Calls	14,750
Emails	796

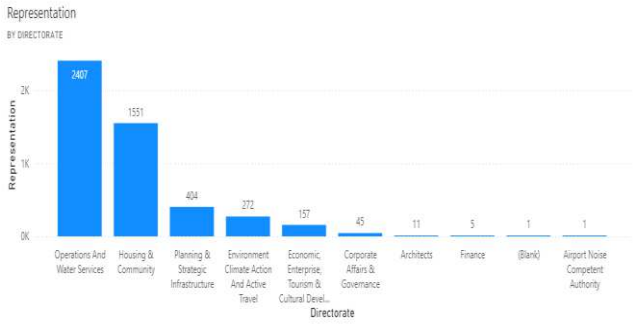
CRM

Staff continue to work on the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) and issue responses to Councillors representations and complaints submitted by the public.

The month of October had a total of 429 Councillor's representations.



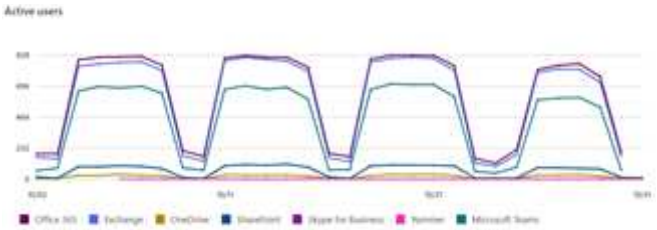
The table below shows the number of Councillor's representations assigned to each Department for the year to date.



Information Technology

Digital Working

In October staff took part in 8,455 Teams meetings, 28,213 calls took place, and 753,252 emails were received or sent by the Council.



IT Infrastructure & Support

730 support calls were logged by Council staff with the IT Service Desk in the past month and 21 calls were logged by Councillors with Sord. 100% server availability and 100% network availability was achieved in the month of October.

Smart Balbriggan Community Hackathon



On Saturday 16th October, Smart Balbriggan held a hybrid Hackathon event which looked at problem solving local challenges in the community. The event was facilitated by What the Hack, Smart Dublin and the Our Balbriggan Team.



Congratulations to the winners of the Smart Balbriggan Community Hackathon! Their idea "Think Tank" focused on the community challenge. Their solution aimed to create a Think Tank to build civic pride, which included a community podcast, town hall workshops and reporting improvements back into the Council. Smart Balbriggan and Our Balbriggan teams will now look at the potential to develop the Think Tank proposal and implement the suggestions made by the winning team.

Innovation Week 2021

Public Sector Innovation Week 2021 takes place from 8th -12th November to showcase innovative projects and initiatives happening across the Irish public sector. The initiative is organised by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with all public sector organisations encouraged to get involved. The full programme can be seen at https://www.ops.gov.ie/actions/innovating-for-our-future/innovation/innovation-week/

As part of Public Sector Innovation Week 2021, Fingal County Council and Smart Dublin are hosting a series of public webinars, showcasing innovative projects led by the four Dublin Local Authorities –

Smart Dublin Smart District Approach Webinar

Thursday 11th November, 12:00 – 13:00

Registration – https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/smart-dublins-district-approach-fast-tracking-innovation-webinar-tickets-192217677247



Smart Dublin Scaling Innovation Webinar

Friday 12th November, 12:00 – 13:00

Registration – https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/scaling-innovation-examples-from-smart-dublin-tickets-196430347457



Communications

Podcast

Episode 14 of the Inside Fingal Podcast features an interview with Procurement Officer Brian Murray about the Central Procurement Unit (CPU) which, when it was established in 2019, was the first to be set up by a local authority. The interview covers the work of the CPU, explains how the procurement system works and outlines the importance of procurement to the Council's Corporate Governance structures.

To date the Inside Fingal podcast series has had 5,464 downloads or internet listens and all podcasts in the series are available at www.fingal.ie/podcast.

The Inside Fingal Podcast has been nominated in the Best Local Authority Innovation category for an Excellence in Local Government Award which will be announced on Thursday, 18 November.

Website

There were 113,400 visitors to our website, fingal.ie, during October which is the second highest monthly total achieved in 2021 and was 1,900 more than September. There were a total of 293,000 page views which is the fourth highest figure recorded this year. After 10 months of 2021 we have exceeded, for the time ever, the one million mark for visitors to fingal.ie in a calendar year.

Choice Based Letting was the page which attracted the most traffic during the month with 15,500 visitors and 26,900 page views. Other high performing pages were planning applications, recycling centres, jobs, and libraries.

Social Media

Our Twitter account, @fingalcoco, had 573,400 impressions during October and an average engagement rate of 1.4% for 275 tweets. There were 143 new followers to bring the total number of followers to 20,366.

The best performing tweet, with 58,200 impressions, 10,077 media views and 1,427 engagements, was promoting a video about the launch of the Football and Fitness Transition Year course run by Fingal County Council and the Football Association of Ireland.



Our Facebook page had 900,354 impressions during October and the number of followers rose by 389 to 24,309. There are currently 4,364 following our Instagram account while LinkedIn has 4,805 followers. Our You Tube account now has 570 subscribers.

Projects and Campaigns



During the month of October the Communication Unit worked with departments and sections across the Council to promote their projects and campaigns. This included working with the Sports Office on the launch of the Football and Fitness Transition Year Course, the Active Travel Unit in relation to Road Safety Week and the Operations Department on increasing awareness of Halloween Safety. Other initiatives promoted included Electric Vehicle Lamp Post Charging points, Keen to be Green, Resort Revelations and the commemoration for COVID-19 victims.

Videos

A short video which the Communications Unit produced about the demolition of the O'Shea's Buildings in Balbriggan and which was only available through the You Tube channel has already attracted 4,254 viewers since it was published on October 21.

The Communications Unit published a series of self-help videos for the new HAP Online Portal and also produced videos on the Transition Year Football and Fitness Course, the visit of Minister Damien English to the Fingal Local Enterprise Office and the appointment of Leah Walshe as the new Community Development Officer for the Balbriggan area.

All can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/c/FingalCountyCouncilVideo/videos

Press Releases and Media Queries

We issued 17 press releases during October and dealt with 20 media queries.

ECONOMIC, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Contents

Tourism Development
Events
Tourism
Heritage Properties

Cultural Development
Arts
Libraries

Economic Development
Balbriggan Socio-Economic Strategy
LEADER Programme
Local Community Development Committee
Enterprise Centres

Local Enterprise Development

EVENTS

Christmas Markets



A number of Christmas Markets are taking place in Fingal the Events Unit are managing markets in Blanchardstown, Balbriggan and Swords with additional markets and Christmas Fairs happening in the Seamus Ennis Centre and Ardgillan.

Illuminate Fingal



Took place at 12 locations throughout the County, the Events Unit are currently surveying appropriate locations for Christmas illuminations.

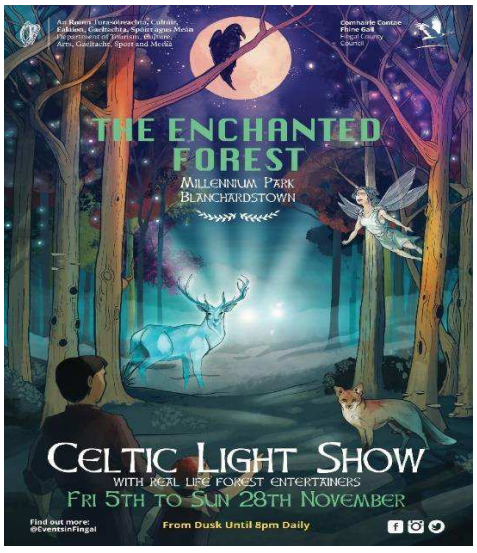






A number of events we supported by EETCD over the Halloween with the highlight being the free to attend Pumpkin Patch held over the weekend.

Enchanted Forest



Is a series of 15 light and sound installations will be installed at the Millennium Park form Friday 5th until Sunday 28th November. The event will operate from dusk until 8pm daily with the park opening hours being extended by Operations. This is an a free to attend managed event over 24 days.

LOCAL LIVE PERFORMANCE PROGRAMMING SCHEME – PHASE 2

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media announced on the 26th October a fund of €245,000 under a second strand of the LLPPS (Local Live Performance Programming Scheme) in conjunction with the Creative Ireland Creative Communities Programme to allow local authorities to provide for local live performance over the Winter/Christmas season.

The Arts and Events units of EETCD are currently working on a programme of events for the County. It is intended to announce these over the coming weeks.

TOURISM

Fingal Food Tourism Network

The network are currently working on developing a Fingal Seafood Trail. It is hoped this project can collaborate with other seafood trails including Sea Louth, therefore creating a much bigger seafood proposition for North County Dublin and onwards.

Tourism Development Groups

Skerries Tourism is busy organising a 'Winter in Skerries' event for December 2021, this will dovetail with the recently launched Fáilte Ireland Winter in Dublin campaign.

Howth Tourism has developed a new operational model which is aimed at being more inclusive and collaborative for all businesses in the area. Fáilte Ireland and Fingal Tourism will host and facilitate a Kickstart Howth 2022 event in Howth Yacht Club on 2nd November.

Rush Tourism are currently finalising the Rush promotional brochure which will form part of the suite of 8 Fingal local tourism destination brochures.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES



UPDATE ON HERITAGE PROPERTIES CONSERVATION WORKS:

Ardgillan Castle and Newbridge House – The roof works tender for both properties is progressing to Stage 2 Detailed Design. Works tender to be procured by the end of Q1 2022.

Malahide Castle – The Great Hall conservation works are due to commence shortly and are scheduled for completion in Q1 2022.

Skerries Mills – A report on the Red Barn conservation project is to be presented to the next Balbriggan Swords Area Committee meeting seeking approval to commence the public consultation phase.

MARKETING/PROMOTION OF HERITAGE PROPERTIES



Malahide Castle -

Funding from Tourism Ireland has been approved for International Marketing Activities (IMAP) and in market digital campaigns have commenced in the main European markets, the UK and US.

The Christmas Experience will make a welcome return in late November.

Newbridge House - Staff Training is now underway on the New Collections Management System hosted by Museum Plus.

IMAP funding from Tourism Ireland has also been granted for Newbridge House international digital campaigns for Oct and November 2021 and radio adverts are promoting mid-term break visits.

Ardgillan Castle - Filming of the movie *Uncle Silas* is ongoing and will end on 12 November. Preparations are currently underway for an open night for the Ardgillan Artists' Collective on Saturday 4 December.

A charity fashion show for SOSAD is to held on Sunday 5 December, where a marquee will be erected on the lower terrace of the private rose garden.

A Christmas Craft Fair is also being planned for the artists in residence, which will take place in December.

Skerries Mills - Skerries Mills had formed a community garden group to look after the new community garden constructed as Skerries Mills.

A Santa Experience will be running again this year with reduced numbers and socially distanced.

Christmas Retail returns to the Mills this year and there will be a Christmas Craft Market every Sunday during December.

CREATIVE FINGAL PROGRAMME 2021

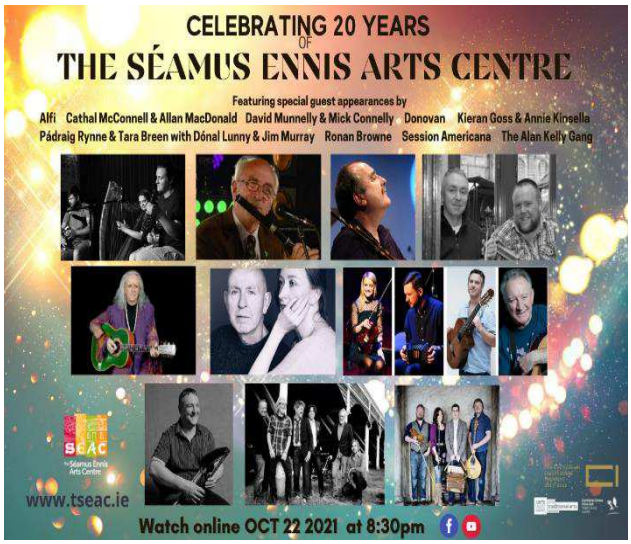




October was a busy month for Creative Ireland funded programmes as approved projects are reaching their conclusion.

Bremore Educate Together launched their Wellbeing mural wall which is located on the Pollinator walk between St. Georges National School and Colaiste Ghlor Na Mara in Balbriggan. A large number of students from Bremore Educate together took part in the project which focused on the positive mental health & well-being.

The 2021 **Black Raven Pipe band** learning programme is nearing completion as they are busy preparing students to sit their Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association exams. The foundation to level 6 qualifications will be certified by the Scottish Qualification Authority and give students the qualification to teach future students in the art of Pipe band music.



The **Séamus Ennis Arts Centre** celebrated its 20-year anniversary by launching a film production which features a host of musicians and special guests who performed and spoke about the very special bond each of them had with the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre over the years. The film which can be viewed on You Tube 20 Years A-Growing (Fiche Blian ag Fás) celebrates the unique and special qualities that the centre brings to artists and visitors alike.

The film production was funded by *Fingal County Council, The Arts Council, Creative Ireland and Fingal Leader Partnership*

ARTS OFFICE

Public Art – Commemorations 2021 – A Burning Tide



Fingal County Council's Arts Office in partnership with The Irish Writers Centre successfully delivered a unique film and writing commission to remember the Burning of the 6 Coastguard Cottages in Fingal by the IRA. The historical details that were available of this historical event were re-imagined through poetry and prose by some of Ireland's most prolific writers, Dermot Bolger, Enda Coyle Green, Kit de Waal, Stephen Walsh, Ciara ni E, & Eilis ni Dhuibhne.

These new works were performed and filmed on site at various locations in Loughshinny by host of well-known theatre & TV actors including RTE's Joe Duffy, Pat Kinevane, Marion O'Dwyer, Niamh McCann, Ian Lloyd Anderson & Kate Gilmore. The finished piece was screened at Loughshinny Boathouse outdoors over two evenings, the Mayor & The Irish Writer Centre attended the preview, and the screening was also a key piece for Culture Night, it was available online on Culture Night until midnight also. Plans to screen the piece again are

ongoing. The work was funded by the Commemorations Unit of The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports & Media and the Arts Council's Culture Night Fund.

MUSICIAN-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME 2021/2022



Musician Eamonn Galldubh and students from St. Molaga's NS Balbriggan (Feb 2020)

Fingal's Musician-in-residence programme enables over 2,000 primary school children to advance their music education. 25 primary schools' benefit from this programme which brings professional musicians to work with teachers and children in schools during the school day. The programme began in 2019 but was disrupted by public health concerns during 2020/2021.

The Arts Office is now encouraging all participating schools to reactivate their projects with financial and advisory support. 13 schools have completed the necessary assessment and are set to begin their projects this month. The arts office is continuing to work with the remaining schools to see them successfully reinstate their projects in line with new approaches to working in the classroom.

MICRO FOREST, 2021 – 2022





Students working with Gareth Kennedy at Blakestown Community School (Sept 2021)

This autumn Fingal Arts Office, Artist Gareth Kennedy and a team of creative professionals return to Micro Forest – Seanchai site at Blakestown Community School to reactivate the forest as a site for learning about art and ecology with a new group of TY students. The forest became overgrown during the summer months & one species didn't prosper due to the summer heat wave. A full assessment of the trees and forest health has taken place and maintenance will begin in Oct.

The autumn workshop season kick started on Sept 27 with *'Towards a new silviculture*' - Youth & Education Officer Julie Clarke & Gareth met with a new group of 20 students to introduce Gareth's art practice and the project's story so far. Ice-breaker games assisted with team building and group bonding.

On October 4 'author Niall McCoitir and artist Hannah Bohacova facilitated a session titled *'Trees, Weeds & Folklore',* leading on to practical hands-on engagement with the forest such as identification of species while Niall shares stories of the associated myths & legends as presented in his writing.

Following this the students will be taught how to make their own charcoal from wood burning techniques by craftsperson Eoin Donnelly in a workshop titled *Carbon and the Forest Floor'*. This newly made charcoal will be their material for drawing the local forest species found. The month will end with a workshop titled **'Winter Tonic'.** Using locally sourced ingredients – elderflower and hawthorn, the students will be taught how to make a winter tonic by artist Hannah Bohacova.



LIBRARIES

New eduroam Wi-Fi hotspot at Fingal Libraries



Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Donabate, Howth, Malahide, Rush and Swords Libraries are now offering eduroam (education roaming) Wi-Fi. Pioneered by HEAnet, Ireland's National Education and Research Network, eduroam aims to improve the learning experience of students and to reduce the digital divide. Students whose college/university participates in eduroam can simply open their laptop or mobile device in one of the above named libraries and have immediate internet connectivity.

Fingal Libraries Storytrail



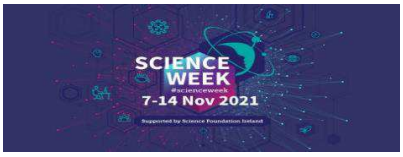
Developed as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, Fingal Libraries Storytrail is still available to visit at Ardgillan Castle. Come along, take a stroll through the woods and follow the story of the Ravenous Beast. The story was created by Niamh Sharkey, an award winning author and illustrator of children's picture books. Niamh lives and works in Fingal and had a studio in Ardgillan Castle when she held the role of Laurate na nÓg from 2012-2014.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

Healthy Ireland
at your Library

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme aims to establish libraries as a valuable source within the community for health and wellbeing information. Fingal Libraries will host a series of online events on a variety of health and wellbeing topics during Autumn/Winter 21, including creative writing for teen wellbeing, first aid with St. John's Ambulance, winter gardening, yoga, sleep therapy, nutrition in pregnancy, weaning your baby and feeding toddlers.

Science Week: 7th – 14th Nov



Science Week 2021 will highlight the potential of existing scientific discoveries and will ask what challenges are most important to the Irish public and how might science help. During this year's Science Week, Fingal Libraries will host a Giraffe Habitat Challenge from Dublin Zoo, workshops from the Rediscovery Centre on biodiversity, climate change and energy, an Anyone4Science ice cream workshop, Junior Einstein Science Club events, and coding classes from the Academy of Code. The events are all free of charge and can be booked at eventbrite.com

Europe Direct



It's time once again for the annual Europe Direct Soapbox competition! This is a great opportunity to win a fantastic prize for public speaking and the chance to compete in the National Final. The regional soapbox competition is organised every year by the Europe Direct Information Centre based at Blanchardstown Library. This year again it is an online competition and participants are invited to send in their 3-minute presentations by video. These will then be viewed by a panel of judges who will choose a winner. The topic this year is: '*Lies, damned lies and statistics - Establishing the truth is impossible in today's world of misinformation, disinformation and propaganda.'* The deadline for entries is Thursday 11thth Nov by 5pm.

Further information and entry forms are available at: https://www.librariesireland.ie/events/europe-direct-blanchardstown-library-annual-soapbox-competition-2021-0

The Europe Direct centre at Blanchardstown Library is also organising three consultations in November as part of the Conference on the future of Europe project. These consultations offer participants an opportunity to propose their ideas on the future direction of EU policies. The three groups participating are:

1. A range of people with disabilities - Discussing employment and social justice.
2. Comhairle na nÓg - Discussing education, culture, youth and sport.
3. The Fingal Integration Forum - Discussing migration and integration.

Autumn/Winter Events Brochure



For the full range of Fingal Libraries online events and activities for Autumn/Winter 2021 go to: https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-10/fingal-libraries-autumn-2021-brochure.pdf

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINGAL IN IT TOGETHER



The Council continues to support business under the Fingal In It Together Charter and development work is in progress on a Fingal In It Together App to offer businesses an additional digital platform to engage with customers.

Outdoor Dining Scheme



The Outdoor Dining Scheme funded by Fáilte Ireland with the purpose of assisting the hospitality and tourism sector to increase their outdoor dining capacity closed on the 30th September 2021 and the final applications are now being processed. The Economic, Enterprise, Tourism & Cultural Department has issued to date in excess of €290,980 in funding to 91 applicants.

Fingal Skills Strategy



The Fingal Skills Strategy Implementation Group has met three times since its establishment in April and will to meet again in November. Sub-groups for Transport & Logistics and the Construction Sectors have been established to examine the requirements of these sectors. A Fingal Skills webpage is in development to signpost skills and training opportunities.

Sustainable Fingal

The Council's **Sustainable Fingal** competition concluded in September and the winner of a Sustainability Assessment and Action Plan from Balbriggan based Patel Tonra Ltd. Environmental Solutions and a video case study on the Sustainable Fingal webpages will be announced at the start of November.

Urbact Playful Towns

The Council held the first meeting of its Urbact Local Group (ULG) in Rush as part of the Playful Towns Initiative. Elected Members, community representatives and Council staff participated in the initial meeting to discuss plans for playful interventions in Rush over the term of the initiative to December 2022.

Our Balbriggan 2019 – 2025 Rejuvenation Plan – A Socio-Economic Strategy



The Our Balbriggan Programme Office continues to support the Leadership Group and its five pillars, who meet regularly, to progress work across a range of economic and social measures including: Growing the Local Economy, Public Realm & Infrastructure, Education, Skills & Employment, Community Integration, Health & Well Being and Community Safety.

The pillar chairs and members of the five pillar groups met in the Bracken Court Hotel on October 20th to share progress on actions and identify emerging priorities for focus over the next 12 months.

The Balbriggan Leadership Group met on 27th October to review progress and priorities. The meeting received a preview of the new improvements to the www.balbriggan.ie website and the yearly update issuing to all households and businesses in Balbriggan titled 'What Next?



Hegarty Demolition Ltd. have been appointed as contractors for the demolition of the O'Shea's building at the Harbour and work has begun on the 1st phase of demolition. The works should take approximately 11 weeks for completion.



Paul Keogh Architects, the appointed Integrated Design Team (IDT) for the re-imagined Quay Street and Harbour Area, continue to progress work towards completing Stage 1 design, including engagement with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders.

DBFL Consulting Engineers, Active Travel and Transport Consultants, are progressing preliminary work on the town's transportation and active travel plans and are liaising closely with FCC and relevant internal stakeholders, The Paul Hogarth Company (Masterplanning Consultants) and Paul Keogh Architects.



The acquisition of 14 Bridge Street, Balbriggan was completed in October 2021. This property forms part of a block of strategic acquisitions made in 2021 for 6, 8, 8A,10 & 12 Bridge Street, formerly known as De Bruns. Preliminary site surveys commenced in 2021 and a design brief is in preparation for the procurement of an Integrated Design Team.



Following the success of the 2020 Placemaking Fund, the Council is again seeking applications for this funding, with a deadline of the 11th November 2021. The theme of the 2021 fund is Creativity, and funds will be used to support initiatives exploring the town's creative side, galvanising community, exploring its rich heritage and bright future.

Local Community Development Committee

The Fingal LCDC continues to oversee and administer the key areas of LEADER and SICAP and the various Local Development and Community Development funding programmes under its remit. The LCDC is also supporting the work of the Community Call through the Healthy Ireland Initiative, the Community Resilience Fund and the Keepwell Campaign, and the many projects up and running under those funding streams.

Community Enhancement Programme 2021

The Fingal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) continues to pay out and administer grants to the 81 groups that were approved for 2021 Scheme funding. The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The scheme aims to:

• support local groups to re-open their facilities post COVID-19

• provide small grants for facilities repairs and renovations, new equipment and safety upgrades

• a focus on providing funding in disadvantaged areas

The CEP provides a flexible and targeted approach to funding those communities most in need and is aimed at addressing disadvantage as identified in the Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan and also at this time supporting local community and voluntary groups with reopening costs as a result of COVID 19.

SICAP

The SICAP Annual Plan for 2021 continues to be implemented. The €1.24m 2021 SICAP Plan has ambitious KPIs which take into account the many challenges arising from delivering services in a Covid 19 environment. Indications to date are that the 2021 SICAP Programme is progressing well and within expectations. The mid-year review of the 2021 annual implementation plan is complete and a positive delivery of the programme for 2021 is expected.

The annual engagement meeting with Pobal will be held during November.

The current SICAP Programme has also been extended for a further year to include 2023.

Leader Programme

The Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group and the Fingal LEADER Programme continues to deliver funding and support to eligible projects in the administrative areas of Fingal, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin.

The updated 2021/22 Transitional Funding Arrangements for the LEADER Programme has the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG approved for €1,882,175 to cover both projects funding and administration funding for the period April 2021 – December 2022. Of this amount, €1,411,631 is available for LEADER Project Applications under the categories of Rural Enterprise, Social Inclusion and Rural

Environment. Historically, Fingal Projects comprise of 65-70% of the total LEADER Projects Funding, roughly corresponding to Fingal's share of the Dublin Rural LEADER Geographical Area.

The LEADER Programme reverted on the 1st April to EU Transition Rules for the period 2021-22 with a new Dublin Rural LEADER Local Development Strategy to be put in place for 2023 onwards. Under the Transitional Arrangements the Dublin Rural LEADER LAG and the LEADER Programme will continue to be funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the same eligibility and LEADER implementation rules as before. LEADER will continue to approve and fund new projects as usual.

The next meeting of the Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) will take place in November.

Going forward there is currently over €3 million in the new LEADER projects pipeline of which over €1 million is for Rural Enterprise.

Fingal County Council continues to deliver the financial and administrative oversight responsibilities for the approval and drawdown of LEADER funded projects following the national transfer of the LEADER Article 48 Administrative Checks from Pobal to the Local Authority Sector.

Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe
Our Rural Future

Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021

Fingal County Council has been awarded €46,638 in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the new Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021. This Scheme is part of Our Rural Future, a five-year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland and make our rural towns and villages more vibrant and attractive places to live, work and visit.

The funding aims to support the upgrade of shopfronts and building facades and the enhancement of streets and open space through painting, artwork, murals, signage replacement/removal, street furniture, lighting and planting in five towns and villages in Fingal.

Fingal County Council sought applications from businesses and community groups in the towns of Rush, Lusk, Donabate, Skerries and Oldtown to fund enhancement works in designated areas. The applications received have been evaluated and submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development, which has now approved the funding to enable the projects to proceed.

Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021

Applications to the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 closed during October. A shortlist of eligible applications will be sent to the Department of Rural and Community Development once the LCDC approve them at its next meeting in November.

Enterprise Centres

Fingal's Enterprise Centres welcome the launch of ConnectedHubs.ie. ConnectedHubs.ie is a one-stop-shop for hubs throughout Ireland. Launched in May 2021, it is designed to simplify and standardise the process of sourcing and booking spaces, desks, offices and events in hubs for a day, a week, a month, a year or longer.

ConnectedHubs.ie is operated by The National Hub Network, a Government of Ireland initiative that provides a vehicle for individual hubs to come together under a shared identity to maximise the economic opportunity of remote working.

The National Hub Network has the support of Government, remote working advocacy groups and industry representatives. In this way, ConnectedHubs.ie also encompasses a range of key features that deliver significant benefits to member hubs, hub clients, employers, local communities and the wider economy.



Under the Connected Hubs Funding Scheme, BASE Enterprise Centre secured €75,000 for centre upgrades.



All three Enterprise Centres have space available to businesses who wish to avail of remote working options and facilities. Bespoke options or generic office fit-out options can be considered.

The Drinan Enterprise Centre was delighted to welcome Minister Damien English T.D., Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, to the Centre during his recent visit to Fingal, where he met with a Drinan tenant business and the Centre's management team.



The renovation works in the Beat Centre are now complete. Funding for these renovations has been provided by the Dublin Rural LEADER Programme. The newly fitted out space allows Beat to expand its offering in the areas of remote working hub space and flexible start-up workspace.

Work has also re-commenced in BASE to further upgrade and expand remote working facilities with the addition of new dedicated space and desks.



Occupancy rates at the Council's three enterprise centres at the end of October were Drinan 84%, BASE 88% and Beat 88%. The three Enterprise Centres currently support 62 businesses and 320 direct jobs.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE FINGAL
Local Enterprise Office Fingal

LEO Fingal provides a broad suite of support services to stimulate enterprise and enable small businesses to succeed. Some of the LEO highlights for October 2021 are as follows:

Fingal Local Enterprise Development Plan Launched





LEO Fingal launched its new plan for stimulating and supporting enterprise in the region for the period 2021 – 2024. The official launch took place on 5th October during a visit by Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English T.D. The Local Enterprise Development Plan provides a comprehensive framework for building on the many successes to date for the Fingal area. Fingal LEO aims to ensure that all aspiring and established entrepreneurs in their community receive a support structure that is practical, contemporary, multi-faceted and comprehensive, to enable the local small businesses to thrive.

Evaluation and Approvals Committee

The March Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) meeting took place on Wednesday the 06th of October. Four applications were approved for €71,350 worth of funding. This brings the total number of companies approved in 2021 to 31, with a combined value of €694,730. The next Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) meeting will take place on Wednesday the 3rd of November. Thirty companies were approved funding in 2021, with a combined value of €694,730.

Green for Micro Initiative – Mentoring/Consulting Programme for SMEs



LEO Fingal have approved 9 applicants for the Green for Micro programme, 5 of whom have successfully completed the Programme thus far. The Green for Micro is an initiative from the Local Enterprise Office to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future. This programme is available to businesses with up to ten employees.

Trading Online Voucher (TOV) scheme



An initiative under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the TOV scheme supports small businesses to enhance their online offering by providing a grant of up to €2,500 for ecommerce and digital marketing activities. Since January 2021,

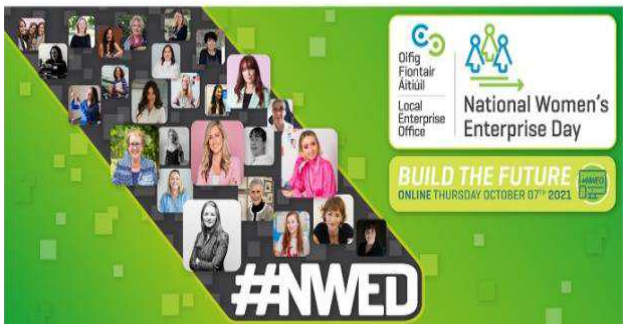
315 applications were approved in the amount of €696,698.50. The next webinar will take place on Friday, 5th November 2021.

Brexit/Customs Workshops



A "Prepare your Business for Customs" workshop took place on Tuesday the 19th of October. The workshop aimed to assist businesses in understanding what they need to do to trade with the UK and other 'Third Countries', how tariffs work and how to correctly classify goods. In 2021, so far 13 workshops have been delivered with 309 Fingal businesses participating overall.

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED)



Female entrepreneurs and budding businesswomen of Fingal celebrated this year's National Women's Enterprise Day by attending an event hosted online. The initiative was hosted by founder and broadcaster Áine Kerr. The free event, entitled "Build The Future", took place online on the 7th October and featured some of Ireland's best known female entrepreneurs including the likes of Aimee Connolly of Sculpted by Aimee and Sharon Keegan of Peachy Lean. Fingal's Derya Sousa of Kianda Technologies hosted an intriguing spot light session as part of the event while Ciara Garvan also featured as the leading light for Fingal.

Business Advice Clinics and Mentoring

Business Advice Clinics and mentoring continue to be offered online. Since January 2021, 88 Business Advice Clinic days were held, offering advice and support to 816 Fingal businesses. In addition, 328 entrepreneurs received one to one mentoring.

Management Development & Training

LEO Fingal provides a series of management development initiatives and workshops to assist the growth of small businesses. In 2021 to date, some 3,056 bookings for these programmes have been received. Programmes currently on offer include: Instagram for Aces; Consumer and Market Research; Canva Workshop; TicToc for Business; Completing Your Tax Returns;

Start Your Own Business (SYOB)

The SYOB programme continues to be highly popular. A new SYOB course commenced on 26th October, bringing to thirteen the total number delivered year to date, with 258 participants Up to the end of October 2021. The next programme is scheduled to commence on 16th of November 2021.

Microfinance Ireland COVID-19 Loans

LEO Fingal provides a loan scheme through its partnership with Microfinance Ireland, with "soft" loans of up to €25,000. LEO Fingal is actively promoting the availability of loans from businesses that have difficulty raising finance from their bank. Seventeen applications have been processed, assessed and submitted to MFI to date this year.

Export Compass Series of Webinars



In collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, a series of webinars entitled Export Compass concluded on the 5th of October 2021. This series was aimed at businesses seeking to enter the world of exporting. The series included five highly informative 45-minute webinars taking place each Tuesday at 10am.

Showcase 2022



Showcase Ireland 2022 will take place from 23rd – 26th January, 2022 at the RDS, Dublin. In January 2020, the last Showcase before the pandemic, retail buyers from over 26 countries attended the event in pursuit of products which demonstrated: innovation, quality, sustainability and a distinctive point of difference. This four-day trade show is recognised as one Ireland's largest international trade shows. Three eligible Fingal businesses have been selected to promote their business at this major international trade fair.
The event was launched in September by the Design & Craft Council of Ireland with Fingal Head of Enterprise.

Disability Programme - Self Employment for People with Disabilities

A new 12 week online pilot programme called "Self-Employment for People with Disabilities" began on September 22nd. LEO Fingal is one of five LEOs that have joined forces with TU Dublin to deliver the initiative. Three Fingal participants have signed up to the pilot. An excellent package of supports has been developed for the participants to help them to develop and evaluate the viability of their business idea including Mentoring from Fingal LEO Mentor Panel.

Dublin Food Starter Programme

Nine Fingal food entrepreneurs completed the Food Starter programme to date in 2021. The latest programme led by Fingal commenced on 12th of October 2021. Food Starter is an intensive and compact training programme for individuals that wish to start a new food production business.

OPERATIONS & WATER SERVICES

Contents

1. Works Programmes
2. Car Parking Services
3. Burial Grounds Services
4. Traffic Operations County-wide
5. Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit
6. Street Lighting LED Programme
7. Recycling Centre Update
8. Road Opening Licences
9. Water Services

1. Works Programmes

2021 Programme of Works

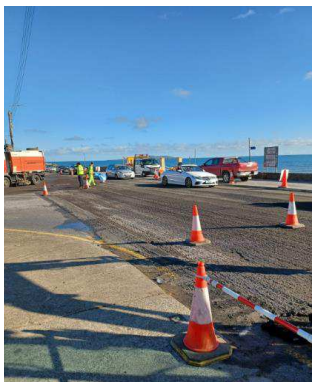
The delivery of the 2021 Programme of Works continues into Q4. The following are examples of works completed in various areas across the County since the Programme was approved by Members.



Footpath works, St. Margarets Avenue, Malahide



Road Resurfacing Works – Back Road, Malahide





Road Restoration – Wendell Avenue, Portmarnock





Footpath Works – Grace O'Malley Drive

Depot Works Programmes:

In addition to the delivery of the Annual Programme of Works depot crews deliver on other area work programmes.

Balbriggan / Swords Area



Calisthenic combi-unit installed in Holywell Park

The combi calisthenic unit provides a form of exercise designed to build strength, flexibility and stamina and which also helps to increase cardiovascular fitness. The only weights involved in Calisthenics exercises is your own body weight. The combi calisthenic unit is suitable for individuals with differing abilities and is wheelchair accessible. This unit in Holywell was completed in early October.




Preparatory works for tree planting and landscaping at the Ward River Valley Park




Landscaping Works, Balgriffin



New buggy for maintenance of The Green, Malahide and beaches in the Howth Malahide Operational Area

Public Conveniences

Work is ongoing on the installation of the new public toilets in the area. The eco toilets have all been installed. The toilets at the Summit and Claremont , Harbour in Howth are awaiting their ESB connections.



Modular Toilets Howth

Castleknock / Mulhuddart Area

Shackleton Gardens

Shackleton Gardens which was officially opened on the 17th September 2021 by the Mayor of Fingal Cllr Seána Ó Rodaigh has been welcoming a high volume of visitors since its opening and the number of visitors to the gardens is increasing every week.

Opening hours Monday to Thursday 10am until 3pm and Friday 9am – 1pm.

Every Sunday there after commencing on the 31/10/21 the Gardens will be open from 9am until 4pm until further notice.




Halloween Amnesty 2021

Fingal County Council's Recycling Centres accommodated the annual Halloween Amnesty from Wednesday 20th to Saturday 30th October. Combustible materials such as beds, sofas, wooden doors etc. were accepted over the 9 day period to reduce the amount of material which may otherwise be disposed of on Halloween bonfires with consequent health and safety risks to members of the public and damage to public open spaces.




Planting of winter bedding in Laurel Lodge







Shock waving on the playing pitches completed in Porterstown Park





New footpath laid for wheelchair users and the elderly in Lambourne Estate




Operations On call crew carrying out emergency tree works in Woodvale Estate on a tree that was damaged. Branches were blocking the road, on call crew acted efficiently and safely to ensure the road was safe to use by the public.



Tree Works – Clonsilla Road



Stump Removal – Huntstown Green

The Operations Crews clearing the segregated cycle lanes on the Hartstown Road





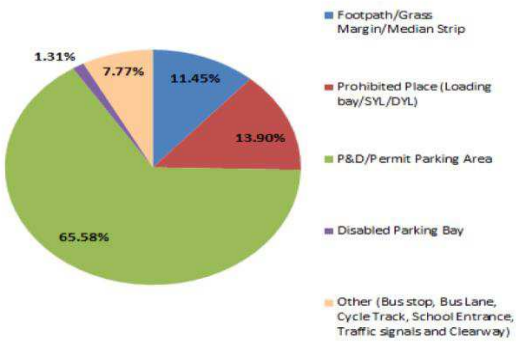


2. Car Parking Services

Parking Enforcement

There was a total of 1,223 parking tickets issued during September 2021.

Breakdown of Parking Offences:



Breakdown of Parking Offences	Total	Percentage
Footpath/Grass Margin/Median Strip	140	11.45%
Prohibited Place (Loading bay/SYL/DYL)	170	13.90%
P&D/Permit Parking Area	802	65.58%
Disabled Parking Bay	16	1.31%
Other (Bus stop, Bus Lane, Cycle Track, School Entrance, Traffic signals and Clearway)	95	7.77%
Total	**1223**	**100%**



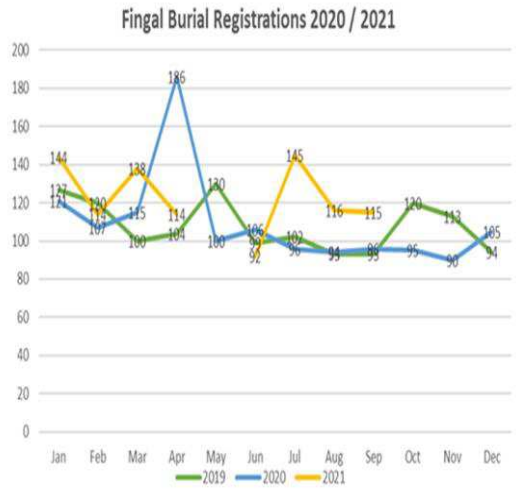
Meter Replacement Programme



As part of the Annual Meter Replacement Programme 2021, The Operations Department has completed the purchase and installation of 10 new coin, card and contactless Pay & Display machines. These new machines replace older coin-only machines which have reached end of life.

3.Burial Ground Services

The Operations Department are continuing to administer and monitor delivery to ensure business continuity for Fingal's Burial Ground Service.



4.Traffic Operations County-wide

Traffic Calming





Swords, Brackenstown Road – Traffic calming ramps installed- permanent shark's teeth to be added

Lining Contract Work 2021 (County-wide)





Picture above shows completion of car parking lining at Balgriffin Cemetery



A Yield sign with associated line marking added St Mochtas Estate



Double yellow lines extended on Stationcourt Way, improving sightlines

New Signs





1.5 metre supplementary signs have been added to the Cycle warning signs on Lower Road. Additional speed limit repeater signs have been installed on the R121, between Luttrelstown Castle and Fort Lucan

5.Fleet Management & Plant Hire Unit and Plant Hire

There were 98 hires put in place from 1st OCTOBER 2021– 28th OCTOBER 2021, engaging 25 suppliers.

Hires include:

- Lights and Generator for Swords Castle Creep Crawl event
- Excavator with Hedge-cutting head for Ditch-Cleaning

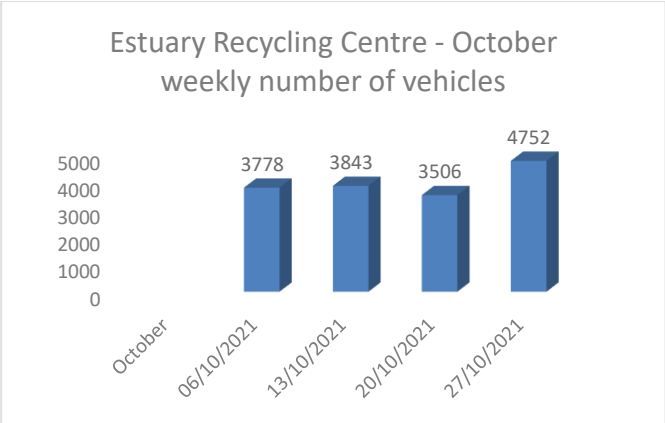


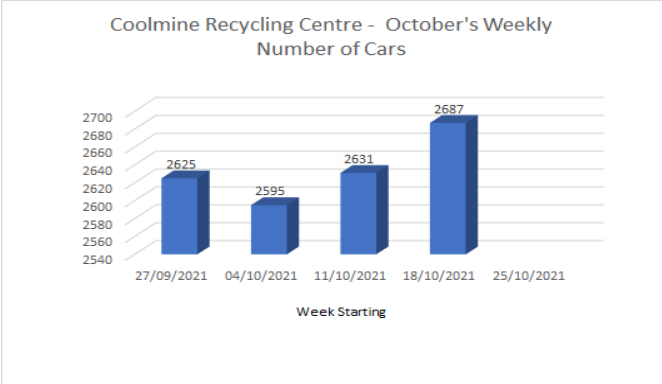
6. Street Lighting LED Programme

In Sept the LED Upgrade Program saw 417 LED Upgrade works carried out in the following locations: -

- Dun Emer, Lusk
- Portmarnock
- Dublin Road, Lusk
- Malahide Road (part two)
- Malahide Road
- 132 Fingallians roundabout

7. Recycling Centre's Update



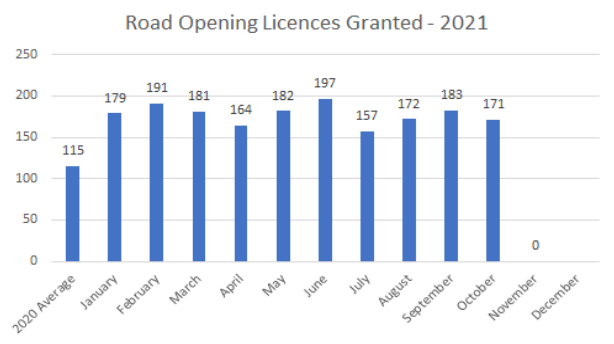


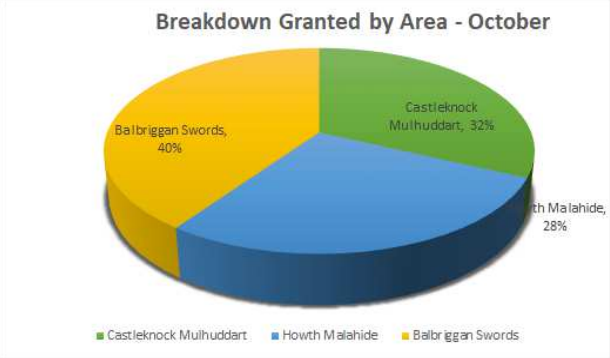
8. Road Opening Licences

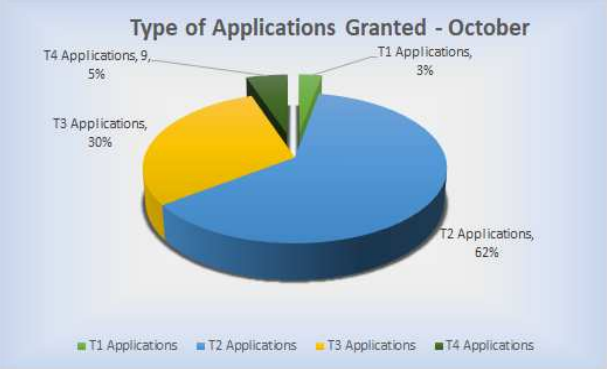
The Licensing unit continues to process and manage the licensing system for the County, applications are allocated by area for examination and conditioning which includes reviews of the existing carriageway, footpaths, cycleways, and grass verges.

Applicants submit temporary traffic management plans for review to ensure all works are carried out safely within the public domain. Road Opening licences are a cross functional process for the department and is essential for the asset management of Fingal County Council Road network.

171 licences were granted in October 2021







T1 Application: The T1 is not a licence. It is notification of intent to perform works of high impact due to extent or complexity.
T2 Applications: An application to carry out works of moderate impact due to the location, extent, amount, or duration of the work.

T3 Applications: An application to carry out works of low impact due to the location, extent, amount, or duration of the work. A T3 licence requires a short application period and does not require a works programme notification.
T4 Applications: A notification of emergency works (as defined under legislation). Notification must occur at the time or as soon as possible after commencement and works must be carried out during a limited time period. **Ongoing Projects**

There are a currently a number of significant road opening licence projects on going including under the supervision of the Operations Engineering Team.

KN Project:
Meetings in relation to road reinstatements are continuing with a number of reinstatements to be completed in Skidoo, Hannahs Avenue and the R127 at Lusk. New works are also continuing along the R127, R129 and R132.

Irish Water R132 Balbriggan:

Irish Water are continuing to lay the twin rising main from Knocknagin to Balbriggan. Works are being delivered by way of open cut excavation and directional drilling.

Irish Water R132 Donabate:

Irish Water has recently been granted a road opening licence to deliver new pumping station works in Donabate. Works are due to commence in early October.

Gas Networks Ireland R127 and R129:

Gas Networks Ireland are making considerable progress in the delivery of a new duct and fibre cable connecting Loughshinny to Ballboughal. Works recently commenced along the busy R127 and are scheduled to be completed in this section in a number of weeks.



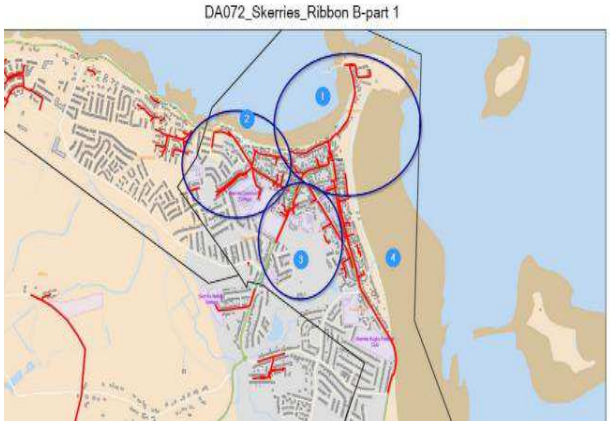
R129



R127

NBI Project

NBI recently commenced works on the Skerries Cluster as part of the NBI project. NBI has applied for over 20 excavations within this cluster enabling NBI to upgrade existing ducting infrastructure to facilitate the NBI upgrade. EIR working on the EMR aspect of the project are also working with a number of licences also in Skerries. NBI has recently been granted a further 4 licences in order to try and expediate the delivery of the project.



9.Water Services

Water production and distribution, wastewater collection, treatment & disposal continue to be provided as agreed in the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

The Council continue to have responsibility for the Storm Water Network

Storm Water (surface water) Network – Operations
Operation and maintenance of the stormwater network is ongoing, in line with Covid-19 restrictions.

Works summary:

- Phase 1 (Advance works) to install a section of new stormwater (surface water) network in Ballyboughal is completed, in conjunction with FCC's Housing Department. Phase 2 will comprise of the installation of 35m of 450mm diameter pipe. These works are currently on hold pending the agreement of wayleaves.

- The Storm water manhole cover and frame replacement programme for replacing assets at the end of life is ongoing – Covers and frames were replaced at various locations in Rush, Skerries, Balrothery and Swords areas.

- A contractor has been engaged and works have commenced to Jet, drag and to carry out a CCTV survey along the Old Bawn and The Bawn in Malahide for both Foul and Storm water networks. A feasibility project has been undertaken to ascertain if improvements can be made to the network to reduce the likelihood of flooding events in the future.

- A new screen has been fitted to an outfall in Seabury in Malahide. CCTV surveying is ongoing to identify any misconnections in the area.

- Other maintenance and minor works programmes are ongoing, including the CCTV, dragging and cleaning of the Storm Water network in Inbhir Ide, Texas Lane and Yellow Walls Road in Malahide. Issues with the network in this area were identified after recent flooding events. Works have been scheduled to start at No: 18 Dublin Rd, Bayside to fit a Tideflex flap on an overflow culvert to resolve a rodent issue and stop material being washed up the from the coast. These works will also include a full CCTV and some patch work will be carried out.

Storm Water (surface water) Network – Projects

A number of storm water projects are currently being progressed:

- Burrow Beach Surface Water Outfall Pipeline Repair
  Scope: This project is to replace the damaged anchor system for the pipeline
  Status: Design stage
- Beaverstown Storm Water Pumping Station Upgrade
  Scope: Review options for the existing pumping station
  Status: Project planning / scoping
- Howth Surface Water Culvert Replacement
  Scope: Prepare a design to replace the existing surface water culvert
  Status: Procurement

Irish Water – Towards a National Publicly-Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility

The Government's Policy Paper on Water Sector Transformation, entitled *Irish Water – Towards a National, Publicly-Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility* was published on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

The paper and accompanying press release are available at www.gov.ie/housing. All new publications appear on the homepage under the Publications heading.

The paper sets out the Government's approach to water sector transformation including addressing Irish Water as the Single Public Utility.

The Council will continue to work to implement Government policy in regard to water.

Communication with Irish Water for Elected Representatives

The Local Representative Support Desk

1. Make contact at **localrepsupport@water.ie** or by phone at **0818 178 178 / 0818 578 578**. Staff are available Monday – Friday from 9am to 5.30pm to deal with queries from elected representatives about any topic related to Irish Water.

2. Outside these hours, the 24/7 customer care line is available for urgent queries at **1800 278 278 / 1850 278 278.**

3. Irish Water Planned Works - Irish Water Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works which may cause disruption to customers. Regularly updates on the website at https://www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-and-service-update/#

PLANNING AND STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE (PSI)

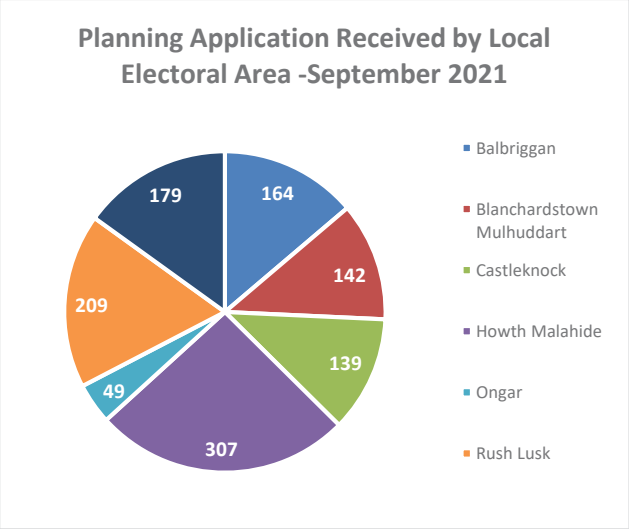
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Planning Applications

There have been 1,189 planning applications received to the end of September 2021, 71 of these applications were invalid leaving a total of 1,118 valid applications. The volume of applications received by Local Electoral Area (LEA) is detailed in the table below.

Up to end of September 2021, 8 Strategic Housing Development (SHD) applications were made to An Bord Pleanála, plus 1 for amendments totalling 4,930 units. 9 decisions were made by the board up to end of September 2021. Of these, 6 were granted, 1 in February, 1 in March, 3 in September (2,104 units). 1 was one granted in July for amendments. 3 applications were Refused, 1 in March, 1 in June and 1 in July. There is a total of 3 SHD's (2,687 units) currently in the formal application process.



Planning Decisions

A total of 1,174 planning decisions have been made to the end of September 2021. There have been 1,013 decisions to grant permission (86%) and 161 refusals of permission (14%). There have been 70 grants of permissions in respect of single house construction, 648 grants of permission for domestic extensions, 246 commercial/retail grants of permission and 26 grants of permission in respect of housing developments of which 13 relate to development of 2 - 20, 2 relate to development of 20 – 50, 6 relate to 50 -100 and 5 of which relate to development of 100+ housing units.

Building Control Admin

Up to the end of September 2021, there were 122 Disability Access Certificate applications submitted, of these 116 have been granted, 1 was invalidated and 3 are currently on time extension. There were 8 Revised Disability Access Certificate applications submitted, all 8 have been granted. There were also 17 Dispensation/ Relaxation applications submitted, all 17 have been granted.

There were 191 Fire Safety Certificate applications submitted, of these 123 have been granted, 1 was refused, 6 were invalidated and 29 are currently on time extension. There were 23 Revised Fire Safety Certificate applications submitted, 16 were granted and 1 was invalidated. There were 17 Regularisation Certificate applications submitted, 2 were granted, 2 were invalidated and 13 are currently on time extension.

A total of 1,004 building control decisions were processed up until the end of Quarter 3 2021, this includes decisions that were made on applications submitted pre 2021 in addition to applications submitted in the first 9 months of this year. This is made up of 360 decisions to grant, 3 refusals, 12 invalids, 3 amendments and 626 extensions of time.

Building Control Fire Safety, Disability Access, Regularisation and Dispensation/ Relaxation Certificate applications can be submitted online via the new BCMS applications module and also in hard copy directly into the office.

Strategic Policy Unit

Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029

The first phase of the Development Plan process finished on 10th September with the final meeting on the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received. Work now begins on the drafting of the new Plan with the Chief Executive's draft Plan to be issued to Elected Members on 3rd December.



Sustainable Swords

The next stage of public consultation for the Sustainable Swords project was launched on 28th September. This follows the 'Your Swords, Your Say' survey which were carried out in May and the briefing session with Elected Members in July.

The ambition of Sustainable Swords is to create a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of the town, in order to achieve better quality places as the physical setting for life in Swords. Sustainable Swords plans to consolidate and strengthen the historic town centre of Swords. The project will also set specific objectives for the town centre with the goal of increasing the resilience of the local economy and fostering an enhanced, accessible, inclusive, child friendly and healthy urban environment. A vibrant town for all.

The public are invited to explore these themes and share their comments and observations. Feedback from local residents and businesses in this strategic development phase is essential to the success of Sustainable Swords. The document can be accessed here: https://www.fingal.ie/sustainableswords

The closing date for receipt of submissions has been extended to 4th November 2021 with postal and online submissions to be received before 11:59pm. Submissions can be made at https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/sustainable-swords-public-consultation

An online webinar took place on 12th October 2021 and heard from the project team and members of the public took the opportunity to ask questions about the project.



Vacant Site Register

There are currently 11 sites on the Vacant Sites Register (VSR). These include 3 residential sites and 8 regeneration sites.

Invoices for the VSR levy have been issued with regard to VS/0016, VS/0117 and VS/0018 for 2019. The total amount being invoiced for the above sites is €1,344,000. These sites will also be liable for the vacant site levy for 2020 for same amount. A demand for payment for the VSR levy has been issued for VS/0124 (Weavers Row, Clonsilla, Dublin 15) for €129,500 and for VS/0119 (Lands at Howth Road, Co. Dublin) for €2,310,000. The demand for payment for VS/0124 was appealed to An Bord Pleanála (ABP). ABP confirmed the demand for payment on the 15/09/2021. FCC is awaiting a decision from ABP on VS/0119.

A market valuation has been received (13/04/2021) for VS/0129. The site was valued at €450,000.

2 sites were placed on the VSR on the 29/09/2021. These include VS/0128 and VS/0130. Valuations are currently being sought for these sites.

Heritage Office

The efforts of individuals and community groups across Ireland to ensure the preservation, protection and promotion of Ireland's archaeological, built, natural and cultural heritage were recognised at the National Heritage Awards.

Naul Community Council are this year's county winners with *Know your Naul* - nine in-person events with 260 attendees over six days with talks on the square, walking tours, site visits and demonstrations. Lasting impacts from Heritage Week include the establishment of a monthly Farmers Market on the square and increased use of the Community Hall for social teas and coffees/events - sparking wider conversations about local heritage. Congratulations to Naul Community Council, Ian Lennon and all the volunteers on their Dublin-Fingal County Award 2021.



The third training event of the Fingal HeritageXClimate project took place at Newbridge Demesne. Abarta Heritage was joined by Fingal's Architectural Conservation Officer, Helena Bergin to look at the effects of climate change on aspects of our built heritage. The citizen science project is encouraging the community to take positive action and get involved in monitoring the effects of climate change on their local heritage assets- see https://www.fingal.ie/fingal-heritage-x-climate-2021



Projects in Fingal being funded by the Community Monuments Fund 2021 are currently in progress. Works to repair the wall of Kilsallaghan graveyard (DU011-011002) have recently been completed. The wall had collapsed after heavy rains following harsh winters - an example of the cumulative effects of climate on our built heritage. Administered by Fingal Heritage Office, the

integrated project team was led by Alistair Goodwin Architects and included conservation engineer Lisa Edden and archaeologist Eoin Halpin.





Parks & Green Infrastructure Division

All-weather Pitch facility and car park at Ward River Valley Park, Swords



On 18th October work commenced on the construction of a new €1.5million All-Weather Sports Pitch Facility at Ward River Valley Regional Park in Swords. (*Pictured is the contractor establishing their site compound for the works*). The new third generation synthetic all-weather pitch will be a full sized GAA & Soccer pitch which will be similar to the facility at Bremore Regional Park in Balbriggan. The new floodlight facility will be accompanied by car, coach and bicycle parking to service the needs of the pitch users as well as improving access to the park.

The project is being led by the Council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Division and the contract for the works has been awarded to Haffey Sports Grounds Ltd. following the conclusion of the competitive tender process. Funding for the project has been provided by Fingal County Council and also by the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) to address a requirement for community gain that the airport authority is providing as part of the development of the North Runway at Dublin Airport.

It is anticipated that the facility will be completed by the 2nd Quarter of 2022 and will become a valuable sporting amenity for the people of Swords and wider area.

Bremore Regional Park/Bremore Castle Boundary Works



Upgrade works to the boundary of Bremore Castle are ongoing at Bells Lane, Balbriggan following the appointment of a contractor by the Parks and Green Infrastructure Division Projects Team.

The works will consist of the construction of a stub wall and solid bar railings and gates along the south of Bells Lane and at the perimeter of Bells Cottage and the installation of gates at the entrance to the Bremore Castle car park.

Electrical and telecoms ducting will be installed as part of the project to facilitate the undergrounding of the existing telecoms line, the provision of fibre-optic connectivity to the Castle and public lighting for Bells Lane and the car park. The works will constitute a significant improvement in the aesthetics and functionality of Bells Lane, the car park and Bremore Castle. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in early Q1 2022.

Play Policy



'Space for Play' is the first-ever play policy for Fingal and was approved by the elected members at the October Council meeting. The policy, developed by the Council's Parks & Green Infrastructure Division, aims to provide a framework for the provision of safe, accessible, inclusive, natural, and engaging play spaces for all children and adolescents up to the age of 17. The play policy will provide the basis on which the current and future play provision throughout the county will be developed to the highest quality and in line with international best practices.

This policy forms the foundation on which Fingal County Council will expand and maintain the space for play available to the children of Fingal by developing an equitable, county-wide play infrastructure. The policy aims to represent the needs of children as paramount in planning and development decisions. It will be a resource for all stakeholders involved in the delivery of play spaces for children and will facilitate the provision of play facilities, of the highest quality, throughout the county.

Built Environment Division

Development Management/Forward Planning (Water Services) Section

Development Management

- 98 no. new planning files have been received.
- 13 no. Additional Information files have been received and 0 clarification on Additional Information.
- 1 no. Compliance Submissions have been received, 0 no. have been processed.
- 4 no. SHD applications have been received, 5 no. has been assessed.
- 5 no. Part 8/Part XI applications has been received, 1 no. has been processed.
- Pre-planning consultations – During August, staff from Planning (Water Services) have engaged in 19 no. pre-planning discussions with developers to discuss issues related to the provision of water services and to ensure the implementation of flood risk management and sustainable drainage systems on site.

Flood Risk Assessments/ Drainage Strategies

- FCC staff are currently managing the preparation of Surface Water Management Plans to inform Belcamp LAP, Dunsink Masterplan, Rowans Little/ Folkstown/ Flemington and the Balbriggan Masterplan.

- FCC staff continue liaising with the appointed consultants developing the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the upcoming County Development Plan. This sFRA is due for completion by the end of October. The Water Services Planning Dept are preparing objectives to meet the directions of the Councillors and National/European legislation.
- Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) – Daragh Sheedy to do SuDS interview for Innovation week.



SuDS Device being construction in new Rush Development

Irish Water

- Staff continue to liaise with Irish water regarding existing constraints within the water/wastewater networks and identifying solutions to resolve.
- Connection and Developer Services – staff continue to provide a planning review of water/wastewater connection applications on behalf of Irish Water with 15 no. applications processed requiring Water Services planning during August with an average turnaround of 7 working days.

Built Environment Division

Building Control/Taking in Charge Section

Building Control

- BCMS – 138 CNs for 314 units received in August and September 2021 and 76 Completion Certificates processed. Building Control Site inspection rate for August, and September is at 2.2% of new buildings. Almost all DAC, FSC and Dispensations are now coming through electronically via the BCMS applications module.
- Enforcement – Compliance issues range from Part C (Site Preparation and Resistance to Moisture) and Part B (Fire Safety) as well as Building Control Reg issues such as requirement for Fire safety Certificates.

Taking in Charge

- There was 1 estate (Beechwood Gate, Hansfield) Taken in Charge in September, with two estates, Rahillion In Swords and Hampton Green in Balbriggan proposed to be Taken in Charge in December.
- We have 47 Developments with formal TIC requests and a further 294 developments on our system, of which 62 are likely to remain private.
- Phase 1 TIC works on the following estates - Chieftain's way, Martello, New Haven Bay are currently underway.
- Phase 2 TIC works – Drynam, are under construction at the moment. There is also works ongoing in Thornleigh Swords by a completion contractor on behalf of the bondsman.
- Work is ongoing in preparing the contract documents for engagement of Consulting Engineers to manage the Ongar remediation works necessary to bring the estates in Ongar up to Taking in Charge standard.
- We have rolled out our Taking in Charge SharePoint Site and there are currently 18 developers set up to upload Taking in Charge documentation for various developments at Taking in Charge stage. Some of these developers are currently uploading Taking in Charge Information
- A yearly review of the Taking in Charge Policy and Specifications is underway and

meetings between Building Control and other sections responsible for producing the Policy and Specifications are being organised.

Dangerous Structures

- We currently have 50 active dangerous structures. There were 2 new notifications in September and 2 new notifications (so far) in October.

References

- The number of reference requests received in September and October (so far) are 217 and 270 respectively.

Work ongoing at Edmund Rice School at Phoenix Park Racecourse - 19th of October



Drainage air test being carried out at housing development Sual Nua, Kinsealy Lane, Broomfield, Malahide, County Dublin.

Transportation Planning

Hole in the Wall Road Upgrade

Works in October included progression of the new cycleways and footpaths which are now 95% complete. Surfacing and lining of the road pavement is currently taking place subject to weather. Temporary traffic management will remain in place for two weeks to facilitate these works. The electricity connections for the traffic lights at the Mayne Road/ Drumnigh Road junction and the Marrsfield Avenue junction are due to take place within the next two weeks also. This project is due to be substantially complete during November and this FCC and LIHAF-funded project will serve to underpin the ongoing residential development in the area and significantly enhance road safety on the local transportation network.





Ariel view of the new road looking southwards towards DCC



Ariel view of the new road looking northwards from Marrsfield Avenue in DCC



Ariel view of the new bridge and linear walkway under bridge

Turvey Avenue Footpath Enhancement, Donabate

The CPO application by the Council, to acquire lands necessary for construction of the new footpath, was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in September. On 19th October confirmation was received from An Bord Pleanála that no objections had been received to this CPO. We are now proceeding to confirm the CPO which is the next stage in the CPO process. Detailed design is nearing completion. It is intended to procure a works contractor for this project in tandem with the Portrane Road Enhancement Works in 2022.

Broadmeadow Way

The advance fencing and site clearance contract works are ongoing with the ground investigation contractor programmed to mobilise in mid-November. The project team is in the process of procuring an arborist to survey the existing trees and hedgerows along the greenway route and to provide protection plans where required for the new works.

Fingal Coastal Way

Following the successful route options public consultation in April and May, the Project Team has been assessing submissions and will publish a Public Consultation Report in November. An update on the public consultation report outcome will be given at November's ACM. We have also been meeting with residents and landowners who engaged through the consultation process and following this an emerging preferred route will be developed for further consultation and preliminary design in advance of a

planning application.



Sutton-Malahide Greenway

The Project Team is currently assessing design options with the intention of moving to a non-statutory public consultation in Q1 2022. A briefing for the local ACM will be undertaken in the coming weeks to provide information on the updated design, which is being reviewed in light of lessons learnt on other schemes and evolving design and greenway design standards. In advance of wider public consultation next year, the Project Team has commenced consultation with directly affected landowners along the route.



Royal Canal Urban Greenway

Following the 6-week non-statutory public consultation earlier this year the Project Team has been assessing submissions and will publish a Public Consultation Report in November 2021. An

update on the public consultation report outcome will be given at November's ACM. Further to this the Project Team has commenced environmental screening of the project proposals to determine the appropriate planning process and has commissioned further ecology surveys along the proposed route. Once these processes are complete the design will be advanced for a planning application. A Teams briefing for the ACM members will also be organised to provide further information on the scheme progress.



Harry Reynolds Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

Detailed design and contract documents are being finalised in advance of a public tender for the construction phase of the project. An advance site clearance and planting contract is also currently at procurement stage in order to undertake site clearance outside of the nesting season and avoid delays to the main works contract. This advance contract will commence in the new year with the main works contract commencing later in 2022. A landscape architect has recently provided outline sketch design proposals for public realm upgrades as part of the route and these have been shared with local community members.



Snugborough Interchange Upgrade Project

Construction of new wall structures and earth clearing works to advance the main 9C sewer diversion works are due to be completed in November which represents a significant milestone in the project, opening up extensive areas for the construction of the main bridge structure. Works are ongoing on the western side of the N3 with piling for the main structures now commenced. Foundations of walls are now being prepared with the attached image showing the completion of the earthworks to the southwest. The website www.snugboroughinterchange.ie containing information on the project is now live and will continue to be updated with information relating to the project over its life term.



Ongar Barnhill Road

A major milestone in the preparation of this project is that a Bridge Agreement has now been agreed between Fingal County Council and Irish Rail to allow for a bridge to be constructed over the Littlepace Railway line at Hansfield. This will be formally signed off in the coming weeks by both parties. Separately, land transfers are progressing and once completed will allow for main works contract to be procured, with a target date of contractor appointment in 2022.

Sustainable Swords

An online webinar took place Tuesday 12th of October to engage with the Swords community on the Sustainable Swords strategy. The Webinar was

well attended and informative discussion arose as a result of the questions put forward by attendees. The webinar was attended by both FCC members of staff and the design team. The last date for submissions was on the 26th October 2021.

Churchfields

The tender assessment for the main contractor has now concluded and the most economically advantageous contractor has been identified. A letter of acceptance to the successful contractor will issue in November which could facilitate a contract signing taking place in December/January, with a view to site works starting later in Q1 2022. This project is a key piece of the supporting infrastructure for the Church Fields masterplan development which includes residential, flood management and parkland infrastructure, and this project also includes significant sustainable transport infrastructure to connect the surrounding residential areas to the school's campus on Damastown Avenue.

HOUSING

Housing
Supply
Asset Management
Support
Tenancy Services

Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland is the government's housing plan to 2030. It is a multi-annual, multi-billion euro plan which will improve Ireland's housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs.

The government's vision for the housing system over the longer term is to achieve a steady supply of housing in the right locations with economic, social and environmental sustainability built into the system.

It is estimated that Ireland will need an average of 33,000 new homes to be provided each year from 2021 to 2030.

The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:

- supporting home ownership and increasing affordability
- eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion
- increasing new housing supply
- addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock

The pathways contain actions to be taken by government departments, local authorities, State agencies and others. The pathways are supported by actions to enable a sustainable housing system.

The social housing delivery targets for Fingal covering the years 2022 – 2026 have now been received from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. They are in line with the objectives set out in the Housing for All plan with Long Term Leasing being phased out over the lifetime of the plan and emphasis placed on new build delivery. The targets are listed in the table below;

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Build	360	690	705	758	773	3286
Leasing	44	160	120	30	-	354
Total	404	850	825	788	773	3640

Construction has started on Affordable Homes in Lusk

Construction of the 39 affordable and 12 social homes continues at Dun Emer in Lusk alongside the upgrade works to the road infrastructure which is funded by the Affodable Housing Fund (formerly the SSF)

The eligible purchasers nominated by Fingal County Council are now proceeding with the purchase of their homes from the developer.

Current photos from the construction work on the site at Dun Emer, Lusk.







MIXED TENURE SITES

The Council is currently at pre-planning design stage on schemes that will deliver mixed tenure housing via affordable purchase, cost rental and social housing.

Church Fields, Dublin 15



- Deliver approximately 1,000 mixed tenure dwellings;
- Initial 300 dwellings at design/pre-planning stage
- Part 8 for these 300 to be presented at the December ACM
- Construction of the new link road to commence on site shortly
- Design of the linear park is underway

Hayestown Site, Rush



- Deliver a total of 62 dwellings
- Mixed tenure
- Planning approved
- Procurement process commenced

Housing Delivery

The delivery of social housing is continuing across the county despite the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place earlier in the year. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have set the 2021 social housing delivery targets for Fingal via build and leasing as follows;

2021 Delivery Targets

Delivery Mechanism	Target
Build	431
Leasing	130

Construction Programme

Summary of unit numbers in pipeline	units
Under Construction	276
Tender Stage	97
Planning and Design	1,138
Part V	204
Acquisitions	31
TOTAL	**1,746**

Schemes on Site

Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Church Road, Dublin 15 - Cluid Housing	65	On Site	Q4 2018	Q4 2021
College St. Baldoyle - Cluid Housing	4	On Site	Q2 2020	Q4 2021
Dun Emer, Lusk	51	On Site	Q2 2021	Q4 2022
Wellview Cul de Sacs, Wellview, D15	20	On site	Q4 2020	Q3 2022
Cappagh, Dublin 11	69	On Site	Q2 2021	Q3 2022
Church Fields Phase 2B, Mulhuddart, D15	67	On Site	Q4 2021	Q4 2022

Photos from the 20 new social homes under construction at Wellview, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.





Schemes with Part 8 Planning Approval and at Tender stage

Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Tucketts Lane, Howth	8	Tender process concluded. Stage 4 application for funding to be submitted to DHLGH	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Outlands, Swords	11	Detail design in progress. Issue tender to appoint contractor in Q4 2021.	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Church Road, Lusk	5	Detail design in progress. Issue tender to appoint contractor in Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Former Leonards Garage, Lusk	10	Detail design in progress. Issue tender to appoint contractor in Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Hayestown, Rush	62	Procurement process commenced	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Infill Site adjacent to 169 Clonsilla Road, D15	1	Detail design in progress.	Q2 2022	Q4 2022

Schemes at Pre-Planning Stage

Site Name	No. Units	Status Detail	On Site Date	Handover (estimated)
Garristown – North and East Housing Association	6	Stage 2 approval received from DHLGH. Part 8 being prepared.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Kilhedge Lane, Lusk - Tuath Housing	31	Stage 2 approval received form DHLGH. Currently out on public consultation	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Church Fields, D15	1,000	Part 8 being prepared. Commence Part 8 process in Dec 2021 for Phase 3 – 300 units.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Mayeston, Dublin 11	100	Feasibility being prepared	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Infill site at Sheepmoor, Dublin 15	1	Public Consultation period over. Part 8 process to finalise	Q2 2022	Q1 2023



Photos from the 24 new social homes delivered in partnership with Cluid at Riverwood Square, Porterstown, Dublin 15.





Photos from the 17 new social homes delivered in partnership with Tuath at Bellingsmore, Kilmartin, Dublin 15.







Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Current Loan Book Value	€ 144,363,698
Loans Drawn Down under RIHL 287	
Value of RIHL lending	€61.8m

Mortgage holders experiencing difficulties making repayments should contact the Council immediately on loans@fingal.ie and the Council will endeavour to find an individual solution with each borrower.

Rent Payments – Council Tenants

The Rent Assessment Team continue to assess accounts under the annual rent review. Should tenants have any queries regarding their rent charge they should contact the Council immediately at email; rents.assessments@fingal.ie Further details are available on the Council's website www.fingal.ie.

Housing Asset Management Report

Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme (Housing Circular 8/21)



The 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is the first of a ten year programme which is expected to grow to meet the Programme for Government retrofit commitment. This revision will require local authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' programme, thus building on what has been completed in previous years. The revised programme provides for significant upscaling in the level of funding available and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded and an energy efficient heating system is provided.

The approved allocation for Fingal County Council is €1,759,475 with a target of 65 properties to be retrofitted to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

Works are continuing in Greenridge Court, Windmill and Inbhir Íde and are expected to be complete in November. Works include external wall & attic insulation, Windows & Doors, heat pumps and solar PV panels as deemed necessary to bring properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard.

Voids Programme 2021 (Circular 17/21)

The 2021 Voids Programme supports the refurbishment of circa 3,000 vacant properties nationally. Two refurbishment options are being funded this year which afford greater flexibility to local authorities, thereby facilitating maximum impact on the level of vacancy. The Standard Refurbishment programme provides for a maximum funding of €11,000 per property and Non-Standard provides for an average of €50,000 per property. The emphasis under the 2021 Voids Programme is on minimum refurbishment works to comply with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 to ensure quick turnaround and letting.

Funding approval to the value of €1.9m has been granted on the submission for 110 properties with the understanding that work will be completed and the property either tenanted or a tenancy offered and accepted in 2021.

Returning Dwellings to Productive Use

The number of casual voids within social housing stock which are currently in the re-let process set out below:-

Voids for Re-letting at	29th October 2021
In letting process	36
Undergoing re-let repairs	14
With County Architect for procurement of pre-let repairs	14
TOTAL	**64**

Planned Maintenance Programmes

Boiler Servicing

The Council provides an annual boiler servicing facility, including all maintenance and upgrade works, for a nominal fee of €3 per week to participating tenants. The Council releases batches of work to dedicated Contractors throughout the course of the year. To date, the Council has provided Contractors with 16 of 20 batches totaling 3798 properties and servicing is progressing well.

Cyclical Maintenance - Scheme Painting

The programme provides for external painting and joinery repairs to council housing stock which currently operates on a 6/7 year cycle.

The remaining dwellings are being completed as part of this current programme at present (listed below: Batch F & G). A new programme will be issued shortly.

Batch F	
Dromheath	Dublin 15
Castlecurragh Heath/Vale	Dublin 15
St Patricks Park	Donabate
Shamrock Park	Oldtown
Windmill Estate	Skerries
Toberburr Avenue	St Margarets
The Bawn Grove/ The Hill	Malahide
Kirkfield Cottages	Clonsilla
Lambeecher Estate	Balbriggan
Batch G	
Ladyswell Road	Dublin 15
Parslickstown Estate	Dublin 15
Castlegrange Estate	Swords
Wellview Estate	Dublin 15
Cardy Rock Estate	Balbriggan
Barnewall Avenue/Crescent	Donabate
Church Road	Dublin 15
Rockabill	Skerries
Bealing Avenue/Grove	Dubin 15



Some recently painted properties

Housing Tenancy Services Report

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The new HAP Application online portal went live on 4th October. The HAP team also continue to work through the remaining paper applications.

Since its inception in Fingal County Council in 2017, the HAP team has set up over 3,000 tenancies. The 652 new tenancies set up to date in 2021 is 2nd highest nationally.

Housing Support

The Housing Support Team are continuing to prepare a Social Housing Assessment Summary in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

The Council has contacted certain applicants who have applied for social housing support **after 30th July 2020** to confirm they still require social housing support.

Each applicant must confirm their requirement to the Council by completing and returning the Assessment Form.

Social Housing Assessment Packs issued by post in early October, which included a copy of the Assessment Form to be completed along with a pre-paid return envelope.

A Reminder Letter has also issued by post, and the Housing Support Team will ensure to follow up with phone contact with those who may not have returned their assessment form to date.

Further details, including a copy of the Assessment Form requiring completion, is available on a dedicated page on Fingal's Website, and the Housing Support Team will continue to ensure that every effort is made to connect with our applicants over the duration of the assessment to ensure their records are updated.

https://www.fingal.ie/news/notification-social-housing-assessment-2021



Contact Details for Tenancy Services Division

Set out below are the **Housing Support Team** Contact details, and the **Tenancy Services Division details**-

The Housing Support Team Contact Details	
Phone	01 890 5902 /01 890 5000
Email	Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Website	www.fingal.ie

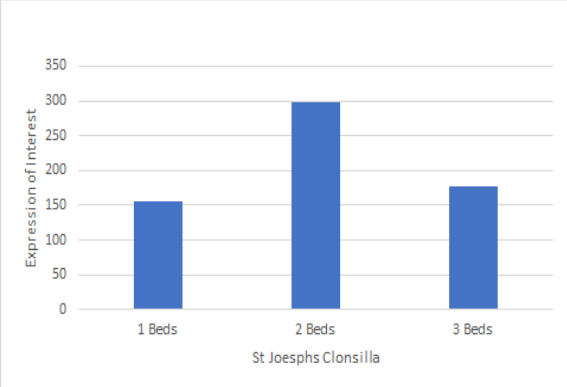
Tenancy Services Contact Details	
Homeless Services	01 890 5090 homeless@fingal.ie
Estate Management (Maintenance, ASB)	01 890 5588 Estatemanagement@fingal.ie
Lettings	01 890 5380 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Housing Support	01 890 5902 Housing.allocations@fingal.ie
Customer Care Team	01 890 5000 CustomerCareUnit@fingal.ie

Choice Based Lettings

Choice Based Letting (CBL) is an approach used for allocating dwellings which allows housing applicants to express an interest in being considered for the allocation of designated Social Housing Units. Access to the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system is via the Council website at https://www.fingal.ie/choicebasedlettingscheme

Fingal County Council continue to offer dwellings through CBL. Information on new CBL dwellings are made available on our website on a selection of developments and individual units which have been designated for allocation using this approach.

There has been considerable interest in the CBL developments and units. This is illustrated in the table below which shows the expressions of interest submitted for apartments in St. Joesph's, Clonsilla during October.



Applicants have been encouraged to follow Fingal County Council on social media to stay informed of new dwellings available through CBL.

OpenSky

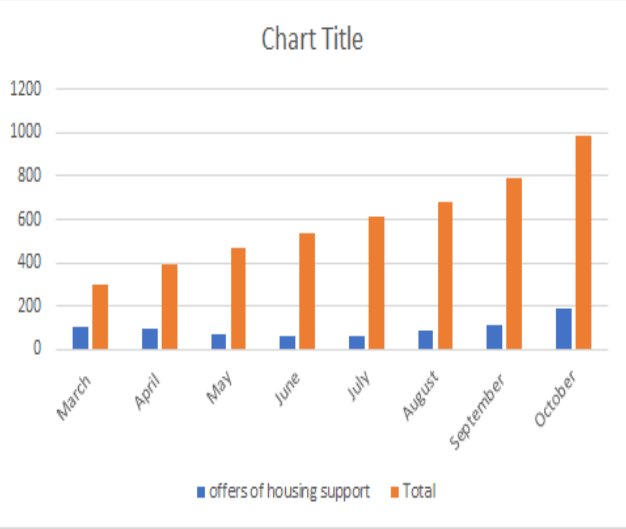
Fingal County Council are engaged with OpenSky in implementing the online-based CBL system. Housing staff are currently working with OpenSky in User Acceptance Training (UAT) which is the final stage of the software system development. This system has been successfully delivered to other Councils in Ireland. The system enables a range of self-service functionalities for four specific types of user i.e. the housing applicant, the housing administrator, Local Councillors and the housing staff.

The CBL system will be easily accessible to approved social housing applicants via a web-enabled portal that will protect and secure personal data of applicants. Each approved housing applicant will have a secure log in and password for the system. Access will also be facilitated to Councillors to review availability of CBL properties. A short information session will be scheduled for Councillors prior to the go live date.

The facility for applicants to express interest in a property online has worked well to date and the provision of the OpenSky system is expected to optimise the social housing allocation process and positively enhance the overall experience of the housing applicant with the added outcome of reduced refusal rates of housing allocations.

Offers of Housing Support

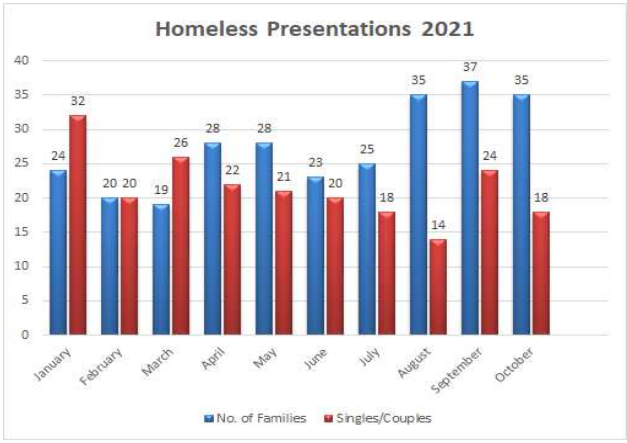
The Housing Allocations Team has continued to provide offers of social housing throughout all levels of **COVID-19 restrictions** and this is demonstrated in the chart below.



Homeless Services

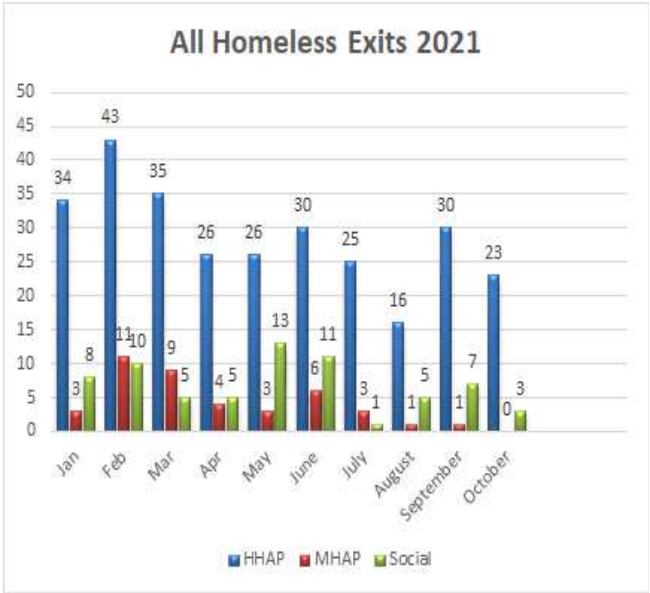
The Council's Homeless Team continue to engage with those experiencing homelessness to offer advice and support. Homeless Assessments were conducted over the phone during the Level 5 Public Health Restrictions which were re - introduced on 1st December 2020.

In October 2021 there were 53 new homeless presentations, comprising 35 families and 18 singles/couples.



During October 2021, 26 households, comprising 19 families and 7 singles/couples, exited homeless circumstances into various forms of social housing support- including into private rented tenancies under Homeless HAP.

Homeless HAP accounts for 23 of these tenancies.



Traveller Specific Supports

Covid-19 Continued Support

Measures have continued within Fingal to ensure that Traveller families receive as much assistance as possible during these unprecedented times, and particularly having regard to relevant and current public health guidelines and restrictions levels.

Daily site visits by Housing Inspectors are continuing with due care to maintain public health guidelines while checking on vulnerable residents and advising on the continued supports available.

Senior Officials are engaged on an ongoing basis with the HSE pertaining to Covid Public Health Guidelines

Traveller Accommodation

A programme of works in relation to the refurbishment and upgrading of existing accommodation on specific sites is currently in development with the County Architect. Ongoing site works is continuing on a number of sites in order to maintain and progress Traveller Specific Accommodation in accordance with the provision of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. The provision of Traveller specific accommodation at Stockhole Lane is nearing completion and preparation work on tenant induction training and the allocation of the seven homes is underway.

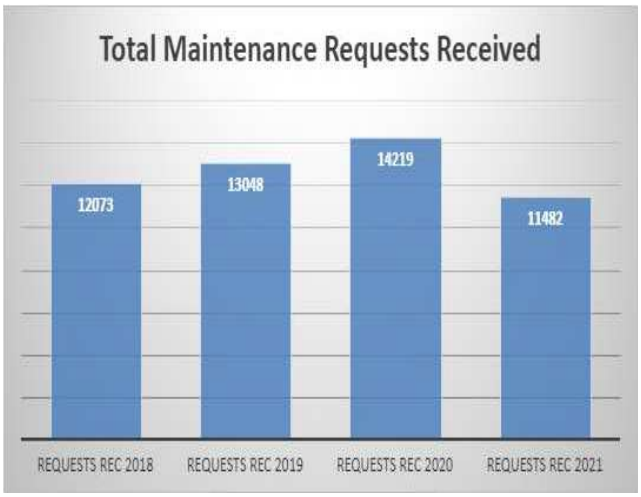
General site maintenance has continued on all Traveller Specific Sites throughout all levels of Covid restrictions.

Housing Welfare Service

The Social Workers attached to the Housing Department are available to support vulnerable tenancies and to work with housing applicants who have medical/welfare needs.

The Estate Management Section continues to work with the most vulnerable and complex of our Tenants in collaboration with our Housing Welfare, Tenancy Sustainment Officers and external statutory agencies to protect and assist the most vulnerable of our tenancies.

Maintenance Requests



During all levels of Covid restrictions essential maintenance works such as electrical, water and heating were maintained, and 11,482 maintenance requests have been received year to-date.

Anti-Social Behaviour/Inspectorate Unit

The ongoing management and sustainment with regard to social tenancies and good estate

management falls within the remit of the ASB/Inspectorate Unit. Alleged breaches pertaining to tenancy agreements are investigated and pursued in accordance with housing legislative guidelines.

There are occasions when the vulnerabilities, complexities and heath related issues associated with a tenancy require tenancy sustainment intervention and supports. Ongoing case management and review with a variety of external agencies, including Approved Housing Bodies, An Garda Síochána, TUSLA and the HSE is a necessity to ensure all agencies work collaboratively with a view to achieving best outcomes.

The Estate Management Unit are working in collaboration with our colleagues in the Community Department in relation to good estate management within our communities.

Stock Management

Breach of Ten.	29
Miscellaneous	27
Regularisation	9
Downsizing	22

Surrenders on Estate Management Grounds 2021

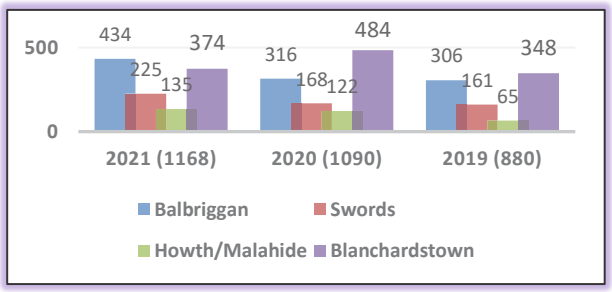
– 0 (Jan), 1 (Feb), 1 (Mar), 0 (April), 1 (May), 1 (June), 1 (July), 2 (Aug), 0 (Sep), 0 (Oct)

ASB Caseload Management

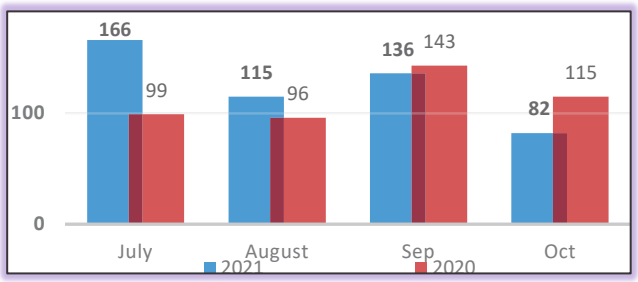
Oct 2021	Active Investigation	Active Monitoring	Closed
Dublin 15	9	8	7
North County	32	11	9
Total	41	19	16

All ASB complaints received are followed up and investigated by a designated team within with ASB Unit and allegations of breaches of Tenancy are pursued accordingly. All complaints are received in confidence.

Area Breakdown 2019-2021



Monthly Breakdown of Complaints Received 2020-21



Anti-Social Interventions

Interviews Held 2021 Interviews Held 2020	35 108
Tenancy Alerts 2021 Tenancy Alerts 2020	24 35
Tenancy Warnings 2021 Tenancy Warnings 2020	2 4

Inspectorate

Traveller Specific Inspections 2021 Traveller Specific Inspections 2020	1447 1735
Estate Inspections 2021 Estate Inspections 2020	1022 636
EM/ASB Inspections 2021 EM/ASB Inspections 2020	2727 3610

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Keen To Be Green Official Launch
Fingal Community Facilities Website
Parslickstown House Renovation
The Fingal Safer Halloween Initiative 2021
Support in the Community – a snapshot
Drynam Volunteer Group
Older people
She Leads, We Lead - Fingal Women Bringing Change
Fingal Comhairle na nÓg
PPN

SPORTS OFFICE

MarathonKids Programme
Fit for All
Movement for Life
Tyrrelstown FC
Sports Funding

FINGAL INTEGRATION OFFICE

Fingal Integration Forum Capacity Development Training
Fingal Integration Message

Community Development Office

Keen To Be Green Official Launch

The launch of Fingal's Keen To Be Green Facilities Project took place at the Clayton Hotel Dublin Airport and received much coverage online in early October from articles in the Dublin Gazette to community blogs and community facilities websites and social media posts.

Many representatives from the participating community facilities were present as part of the Fingal Community Facilities Network. Fingal's To Be Green' Project is a collaboration between Fingal County Council's Community Development Office and Environment Department and the Fingal Community Facilities Network.

The project was officially launched by Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Daniel Whooley who said:

"I am confident that the project will grow from strength to strength. It will provide communities with the opportunity to learn more about climate action and become more aware of how together we can affect change. Together we recognise the impact climate action is having on our planet. The Facilities Network have come together to develop this project to play their part for the greater benefit of the community. Community Centres are best placed to be leading role models in the provision of access to education and further opportunity."



By signing up to Fingal's Keen To Be Green Facilities Charter, the community facilities in Fingal are demonstrating their commitment to sustainable climate action. The project aims to bring about vital change in the community and create greater awareness around action in local communities across Fingal. Also speaking at the launch was Principal Community Development Officer Linda Ennis who added:

"The Community Development Office is committed to supporting the network to build on this project in to the future. Fingal County Council is very fortunate to have a wide range of community facilities across the county. Our facilities vary from large multipurpose shared facilities, centres with gyms, meeting rooms, dance studios, childcare facilities and outdoor spaces. The community development office works closely with 33 community centres and with many volunteers and communities across Fingal. Community facilities provide so many opportunities to people across Fingal to become part of their community. "



The event also featured presentations from Fingal County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer Sinéad Fox and Network member Heidi Bedell before each centre representative was presented with their Keen To Be Green Facilities Charter for display on their premises.



The 'Keen To Be Green' Project is part of Fingal County Council's continuing commitment to its five-year Climate Change Action Plan making Fingal more resilient to Climate Change. Fingal's Keen To Be Green facilities project has five stages that each facility will commit to: Waste Management, Water Conservation, Transport and Biodiversity.

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For more information on Fingal's Keen To Be Green Facilities Project contact your local Fingal Community Centre. The Official Keen To Be Green Project video can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUJLQlPNvwY

Fingal Community Facilities Website

Members of the Fingal Community Facilities Network Received a sneak peek at the new network website as a precursor to the Keen To Be Green Project launch. The website will be finalised in November and will contain details of all member community facilities, such as photos, location, contact details, services and groups as well as news and events pages. Network members and Community Development Office staff will receive training from designers Neo-Archaic in November on website maintenance upon website being completed. Community Development Office staff have been working closely with Neo-Archaic and the Network through the formation of a working group to create the website.

Parslickstown House Renovation

Refurbishments to Parslickstown House Community Centre in Dublin 15 are continuing including the Annex Hall which is due for completion Mid-November.





Funding was received from the Department of Tourism Culture Arts Gaeltacht Sport and media under the sports capital program of €113,000. Matching funding of €50,000 was also awarded from the Community Development Office to reconfigure, insulate and make the hall accessible for the whole community. On completion there will be a fully accessible multipurpose space available for community enjoyment. This will comprise of a large dance studio, accessible toilets, and two small meeting rooms. On completion this project will enable a number of youth, sport, dance, fitness, education and training groups to use the facility. This space will also complement the existing facilities in the area. It is envisaged that the project will reach completion by 15th of November.

The Fingal Safer Halloween Initiative 2021

The Fingal Safer Halloween Initiative 2021 is another example of the community department working alongside our community centre staff and community groups to promote engagement, participation and support community initiatives. Over 24 community groups and centres participated in the Fingal Safer Halloween Initiative 2021. All participating groups were awarded a funding contribution by the Community Development Office to support the hosting of local Halloween activities in their communities. These activities took place on the lead up to and including Halloween eve (Wednesday 27th October to Sunday 31st October 2021) and ranged from kid's discos and Halloween specific activities i.e. pumpkin carving, mask making, scary scarecrow competitions and others. Participating groups and centres also promoted the Fingal Safer Halloween message along with the other interdepartmental Halloween initiatives. For more information click here https://www.fingal.ie/news/programme-festivities-launched-residents-enjoy-halloween.

Support in the Community – a snapshot

The Community Development Office continues to encourage and support community engagement in local community centres through funding for open days, training and education programmes and initiatives like Halloween. One such Open day was hosted by Blakestown Community Centre on 27th of October. Despite the weather there was a great turnout from the community. Community members got the opportunity to meet some of the

resident groups and services in the centre and see some of the activities happening in the community centre, such as ESOL and Art classes. Supports and services who exhibitioned on the day included La Leche League of Ireland Breastfeeding support group, Empower, DDLETB, Zumba gold, Blakestown Community Creche and Fingal Community officer.

Since COVID restrictions lifted a number of our community officers have been out on the ground meeting community groups who have come back to their local center. They have also been meeting groups and residents associations, dropping of daffodil bulbs ready for planting in local communities and community gardens around the Fingal Area. Some of these bulbs will be planted by the children in the local community as part of their Halloween activities. Happy planting and we look forward to seeing the daffodils bloom in Spring.

Drynam Volunteer Group

The Drynam volunteers were one of many north county groups supported by the community office as part of the safe Halloween project this year. The Drynam volunteers were set up mainly as part of the community response to Covid 19 and did sterling work in connecting with vulnerable members of the local community during the pandemic. Since then, the group has been very active in their own estate and has benefitted by funding and logistical support from the Community Office. Image below shows how the residents engaged in a safe pumpkin event for safer Halloween. The group are planning an ambitious community movie event foe next spring and have teamed up with the Kettles heritage group this year for that group's annual event, held in September



Older people

As community centres and facilities began to open-up for business, a number of small local events were organised to encourage older people to re-engage with their social groups. While some events were well attended, others attracted small numbers as many older people remain reluctant to re-engage with their groups and wider community.

A **Stronger for Longer** exercise session was organised in Corduff Community Resource Centre, as a taster session to ascertain their interest in participating in the programme during the winter months.

Donabate Active Age organised a cuppa to give members a chance to meet up with old friends and encourage registration for the many activities which the group have organised for older people. Over 20 members attended and were delighted with the opportunity to meet up in Donabate Portrane Community Centre for the first time in 18 months.



Age Awareness:
Cathrina Murphy, Community Officer gave a presentation to the Fingal Community Facilities Network titled "The Participation of Older



People in their Communities: The Role of Community Centres". The presentation provided facility managers and volunteers with an opportunity to reflect on the agency and social situation of older people, recognise diversity among this cohort and the impact of Covid-19. Examples of activities were provided which can be tailored to suit the diverse older population of Fingal. This has resulted in a number of facilities organising activities for older people.

She Leads, We Lead - Fingal Women Bringing Change



The Community Development Office is providing a new programme for women to improve their skills and learn about how to lead change in Fingal, with sessions led by a team of women who have all championed change in their own communities through their leadership. This programme presents a series of 7 sessions that aspire to motivate and train women to become leaders in their community and also help women feel confident through developing key skills and understanding how other leaders work effectively. Open sessions are being held on Wednesday November 3rd, 7-9pm in Mountview Community Centre, Dublin 15, and Thursday November 4th, 7-9pm online, to introduce participants to the benefits that they can bring to their communities and themselves through leadership training. The diverse team of women that will be leading the programme include Ayodele Yusuf of Balbriggan Integration Forum, Catherine Joyce of Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group, Shelly Gaynor of the Independent Living Movement Ireland, Bridie O'Reilly of Fingal Older People's Council, and Geraldine Rooney of Fingal PPN and Centre for Independent Living Blanchardstown.

Sign up now at: bit.ly/SheLeadsFingal

Learn more at:
http://www.facebook.com/SheLeadsFingal

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg



On the 2nd of October 2021 the Fingal Comhairle na nÓg went on a team building trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre. Here they took part in archery, axe throwing, rock climbing and sky park. This trip was a great experience, they got to reconnect with friends that they haven't seen since COVID-19 hit.

As part of the FCNN topic they are still running their weekly Mental Health Mondays where they post and share advice and tips on how to maintain positive mental health.

The members have held three Virtual Reality (VR) meetings since July and they all have gone very smoothly and were a lot of fun!

The FCNN have been organising and planning for the AGM which will be held on the 11th of November 2021 at 09.30. The young people are deciding on their ice breaker games and allocation of roles for the event. The items in the goodie bags have been picked and ordered by the young people

PPN Plenary



Fingal PPN will host their Plenary on 10th November in a virtual format in response to the continued Covid 19 Pandemic. Members will consider constitutional changes to align with the DRCD PPN Handbook as well as provide the launch of Fingal Inclusion Week. This initiative which will take place from 15th - 21st December with almost 80 events scheduled. This is the third year of the project which sees Fingal County Council partner with Fingal PPN's Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise Linkage Group to deliver this initiative.

PPN Policy Hub



Fingal PPN are committed to supporting linkage groups, reps, Secretariat members and the wider PPN membership. In response to suggestions from the Arts, Heritage, Community and Sports Linkage Group, Fingal PPN Secretariat approved the establishment of a Fingal PPN Policy Hub to be hosted on the Fingal PPN Website. This policy hub will support and guide linkage groups and their reps in building their capacity in how they engage with their relevant committees and assist in impacting the decision-making processes in Fingal.

The Policy Hub comprises of policies in three areas:

- Fingal Wide Policies
- Regional Policies
- National & European Policies

While this Policy Hub supports the linkage groups and their reps, it will undoubtedly be a central resource for all PPN members to access policies that impact all members of our community across Fingal. You will find the policy hub here: https://fingalppn.ie/policy-hub

PPN Linkage Group Meetings Round 5 2021



The PPN is delighted to confirm that round 5 of Linkage Groups commenced on October 19th. In this round, Linkage Groups have been invited to input on the actions of the Strategic Plan Review and Extension of the plan until the end of 2022. All actions will be brought to the Strategic Plan Review Subgroup who will make a recommendation on actions to pursue to the Secretariat at their January meeting.

Any community organisation who is a member of the PPN can participate. For more see www.fingalppn.ie.

Sports Office:

MarathonKids Programme

MarathonKids is an 8-week programme for 5th-6th class students which will see 3,000 students from 24 primary schools in Fingal run a marathon. The programme entails daily short runs, physical & mental health education, nutrition and exercise and all linked into the PE curriculum.



Fit for All

Fingal Fit For All is a 6 week gym based programme in collaboration with Prosper Balbriggan, Balbriggan Community College and Balbriggan Community Centre. The programme supports Prosper service users in how to use a gym with assistance from Balbriggan TY students who are trained in how to work with people with additional needs in a sports and education capacity. The programme will create a sustainable Inclusive Class every week in partnership with Balbriggan Community Centre and will start in Nov 2021

Movement for Life

Movement for Life is an exercise programme for Older Adults which includes all elements of fitness such as flexibility, cardiovascular fitness, strength and co-ordination. The exercise is done to music and works best in an indoor setting. Starting on Tuesday 26th October in St. MacCullin's for an initial six weeks and the class is limited to a pre-registered group of 15 participants due to the on-going Covid-19 Health & Safety Restrictions. The group's participants are made up of Orlynn Park residents (Lusk), Lusk ICA, Rush Men's Shed and Skerries Active Retired and the classes are a continuation of the Outdoor Exercise Walking Well Programme that took place every Tuesday with the support of Lusk United AFC.



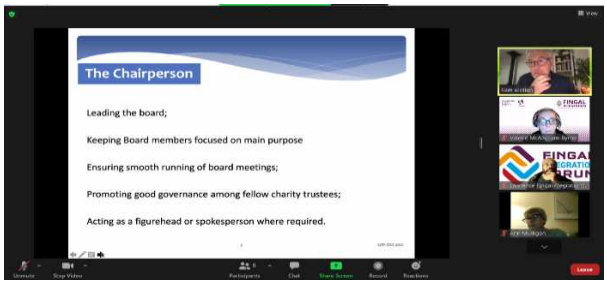
Tyrrelstown FC

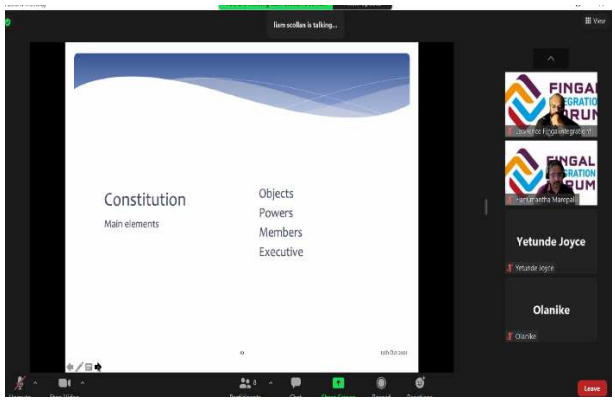
The new Tyrrelstown FC is going from strength to strength with on average of over 100 boys and girls taking part every Sunday morning. In partnership with our colleagues in the FAI we will be supporting the new formed committee and supporting the role-out of coach education courses to 15 coaches in November.

Fingal Integration Officer:

Fingal Integration Forum Capacity Development Training:

The Fingal Integration Officer continues to support the development of Fingal Integration Forum. To enhance their capacity development the Community Development Office funded a suite of five tailor-made training modules for the Fingal Integration Forum Executive Commitee this included specific role training for Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and PRO's it also supported effective meetings and the development of their constitution. The training was delivered my Liam Scollan of Carmichael and were "engaging, very informative and comprehensive workshops."





Fingal Integration Message:

The Fingal Integration Officer has been working with Gerry McDermott and Maggie Lau Communications Department on a plan to how we convey Integration Messages to the communities of Fingal. We began by developing a campaign which began on the 1st of November until the 14th of November which aims to show that Fingal Staff mirror the community we serve. This message which is communicated through a poster and involved the engagement of staff and members of our communities to come together in its development, from feedback received from participants this proved to be a positive experience. The poster will be displayed on bus shelters, on billboards and displayed in the three large shopping centres across the county.



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION & ACTIVE TRAVEL

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Active Travel
Climate Action
Environmental Awareness
Circular Economy
Bring Centres
Water Quality Protection
Bathing Water Quality
Landfill Aftercare
Litter Management
Waste Enforcement
Flood Schemes

Active Travel
Strategic Planning

Active Travel Strategy

The Active Travel team is currently in the process of engaging consultants to prepare an Active Travel Strategy. We are currently engaging with the Strategic Planning unit in this regard and to provide input to the draft County Development Plan in the context of the strong promotion of Active Travel.

The Active Travel unit is engaged with our colleagues in other departments on other important strategic projects such as Our Balbriggan and Sustainable Swords projects.

Protected Cycle Lanes - NTA funded projects

Appendix 2 in this report details the Sustainable Transport Measures Grants: 2021 Allocations





Baldoyle – Howth Protected Cycle Lane Scheme: Night works and epoxy resin installation



Bicycle Parking: Installation of stands in Skerries

Towns & Villages

Malahide New Street

The Active Travel Unit continues to review the operation of pedestrianised New Street in Malahide. We are currently preparing to defend legal challenge on this project.

Balrothery

The Active Travel Unit has convened a working group with a view to developing an Active Travel plan for Balrothery. We are currently drafting tender documents for procurement of consultant.

Permeability & Connectivity

We are continuing to receive various requests for Permeability and Connectivity improvements from various stakeholders across the county. These requests, 30 to date, are being recorded in detail for evaluation and if appropriate identification of a means of delivery on the ground.

Where there are existing other Projects in close proximity to the areas highlighted, at design or construction stage we endeavour to include these Connectivity and Permeability improvements within overall schemes. Some of the current projects that are included are as follows.

- St Cronan's Junior & Senior school Safer Routes to school and Brackenstown Road Cycle lane and resurfacing included within the scope of works under St Cronan's Avenue project.
- Safer Routes to School treatment at St Philip the Apostle included under the scope of works for the Hartstown/Huntstown Protected Cycle Lanes Phase 2 project.
- Safer Routes to school for Holy Family NS is currently being considered for inclusion under the Rivervalley / Rathingle Phase 2 protected cycle lanes works.
- Similarly we are looking to include permeability connectivity and SRTS measures under our Towns & Villages scope where feasible.

Road Safety

Safe Routes to School Programme

Elected Members recently received a presentation on the Safe Routes to School Programme at their Area Committee Meetings. We will proceed with 3 priority sites as part of Phase 1 which accommodates 5 schools from the initial list of 11 to include St. Benedicts & Castaheany, Rush & Lusk Educate Together and Bayside Jnr and Snr Schools.

Once the detailed design drawings are prepared and approved, public engagement will commence and a tender package for construction works will be prepared.





Road Safety Week

Irish Road Safety week took place from 4th to 10th October. Throughout Irish Road Safety Week Fingal County Council drew the public's attention to resources that highlight key safety issues and help reduce risk of accident, injury and loss of life. With free Car Seat Safety checks, school education events and helpful video guides to tyre safety, winter readiness and bike safety tips there was something that every type of road user can avail of and this was promoted via our social media platforms.

Big thanks to the Mayor, Chief Executive, our two School Wardens and the children of St, Patrick's Snr National School for helping us launch Irish Road Safety Week.





As part of Irish Road Safety Week, Beep Beep day took place on Friday, 8th of October. Heather, one of our school wardens from Malahide, took time to provide a Road Safety talk to pre-school children from Hi5.

Schools Wardens

We are currently awaiting the availability of a school warden trainer, procured through our Ballycoolin Regional Training Centre to provide training to our new reserve school wardens. Once training is provided, we will have 8 new reserve school wardens available.



Mobility/Emobility

Bleeper Bike Share Scheme – September Usage – Bleeper Active

We are delighted to inform you that the Bleeper North County Expansion Pilot has been extended until 31st December 2021 at which time, the success of the expansion to these areas will be reviewed in full.

September Statistics:

Existing Bike Share Scheme	North County Expansion
1222 bike journeys started in Fingal, down from 1429 from August	477 bike journeys started in North Fingal
1287 bike journeys ended in Fingal	477 journeys ended within this zone

Highest usage recorded on Saturdays with 17.48% followed by Sundays with 15.65%	Balbriggan is the most popular location with 201 bike journeys in September
Howth train station continues to be the most popular location	Skerries is the second most popular location with 185 journeys in September
Average number of bikes in existing operational zone totalling 72	Vandalism is an ongoing problem, particularly in the Balbriggan area

We will continue to promote usage of Bleeper through our social media platforms.

All Fingal staff and Elected Members can avail of free bleeper bike hire.

E-Cargo Bikes

Following the Quick Quotes process, we are pleased to announce that Bleeper have been awarded the contract to supply 4 E-Cargo bikes to Fingal for selected local businesses to trial for a 12 month period. We hope to launch this initiative in the coming weeks.





Options of open and closed box E-Cargo bikes from Bleeper

Cycling Without Age

We recently visited Huntstown and Castleknock Community Centres to provide their Senior Citizens Groups with a demo on the Cycling without Age Triobike. We even had a celebrity in our midst with Angela De La Mere from Gogglebox Ireland and her pal, taken for a spin by Stephen McGinn, Sports Section. They all really enjoyed it and can't wait for this initiative to go public.





Climate Action

The Fingal Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 (CCAP) was launched in Sept 2019, and actions are ongoing.

The CCAP and the One Year Progress Report can be viewed at https://www.fingal.ie/climate-change-action-plan-2019-2024

The four Dublin Local Authorities, CARO & Codema hosted Dublin Climate Action Week (#DCAW21) from 13th September 2021 with the vision of showcasing Dublin's climate action progress to its citizens and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners'.

Fingal hosted a number of site visits and webinars, and recordings of webinars from all six partners are now available to view at https://dublinclimatechange.codema.ie/climate-action-week/event-resources/page-5/

The Climate Action and Economic Opportunities - Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise conference was held on Tuesday the 12th and Wednesday 13th October 2021.

The conference heard from a range of speakers how local authorities can, through their economic remit, support, encourage and nurture new and existing business and enterprise as they transition to a net-zero economy through innovation, digitalisation and the adoption of more sustainable practices. A recording can be viewed here: https://www.caro.ie/training-events/event-recordings/ca-economics-opportunity-oct-21

Glasgow will host the next Global Climate Summit - COP 26 'Conference of the Parties' end October. At the Paris COP 21 in Dec 2015, agreement was reached on limiting global temperature increases to below 2° C but this has not been delivered on through emissions cuts or projections to date. All eyes will now be on COP 26. Follow at https://ukcop26.org and @cop26.



The Climate Action and Economic Opportunities - Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise Conference

CLIMATE ACTION ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise

Environmental Awareness

Composting for Schools Initiative is being rolled out to 40 Fingal Schools this term. This includes composting bins, resources for classes and teachers, two site visits by composting experts and guidance on how to manage waste.

The Green Schools Flag Awards Events were held online and 21 schools in Fingal were awarded.

ReLove Fashion was launched for Secondary Schools for this academic year.

Litter picking resources are being made available on an ongoing basis to schools and to the public through 6 community centres in Fingal see https://www.fingal.ie/adopt-patch

ReUse month initiatives included an offer of repaired musical instruments and bicycles to Fingal schools which received a huge response.

Picker Pals Litter Initiative is being rolled out to 40 new classes in primary schools, this is in addition to the already active 80 Picker Pals classes.

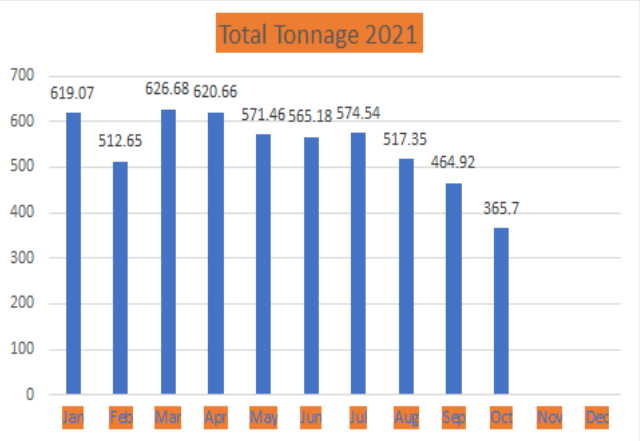
Recycled paint has been provided to community groups across the county and this has been a huge success. 285 5-Litre cans of paint were delivered by the Rediscovery Centre to communities all over Fingal from Balbriggan to Baldoyle, Howth to Meakstown, Naul to Dublin 15 since June 2021. This enabled people to clean up their areas and get busy together, investing time and effort in their local areas.



Community member in Rush painting the Rush Harbour toilet building October 2021

Bring Centres

The amount of glass collected for recycling in October 2021 was 365.70 tonnes and is displayed in the year-to-date bar chart below.



Bring Bank Expansion

The Environment Department continue to work to expand the network of Glass and Textiles recycling facilities throughout Fingal.



Glen Ellen GAA Club site re surfaced completely with a new cement plinth to replace the grass to improve safety and the appearance of this site. We ask members of the public to please use the carpark beside this site while recycling.



Rush South Beach sign re-erected at this site we are assessing our signage on an ongoing basis to make sure it is visible to the public.



An example of our can banks that are at several of our Bring Bank locations a total of 1.99 Tonnes of aluminium was collected from these in October and recycled.

Textile Recycling

A total of 20.46 tonnes of textiles was collected and recycled in September 2021 from our 29 Textile Banks locations throughout Fingal County Council. Textile tonnages for October shall be available by mid-November.

The total tonnage for textiles collected and recycled between January and September were 186.30 tonnes.

Litter Management

A total of 262 planned route inspections were carried out by the Litter Wardens in October 2021.

Additionally, in October, the Litter Wardens commenced on going inspections at industrial estates and housing estates in preparation for Halloween. Warning notice have been issued to businesses /shops to remove any bomb fire materials from the front of their premises.

Details of fines and warning notices for October 2021 are shown in the table below.

Month	Fines issued 2020	Warnings Issued 2020	Fines Issued 2021	Warnings Issued 2021
January	83	39	3	16
February	103	12	33	23
March	32	16	36	35
April	0	1	66	27
May	0	3	71	116
June	35	1	45	35
July	99	18	75	21
August	49	7	36	23
September	34	7	28	28
October	3	7	47	41

Two of the fines listed above in the Litter Enforcement Section were for dog fouling offences.

In the District Court, there were **5** fines successfully prosecuted cases in October.

Dog Warden & Dog Shelter Service

The Fingal dog shelter has been renamed as The Dublin County Dog Shelter. A Facebook page has been set up to assist in reclaim and rehoming of dogs.

Between 15th September and 26th October 2021, a total of 9 dogs from Fingal entered the Dog Shelter. Four of the dogs were strays, five of the dogs were surrendered.

Six of the dogs have so far been rehomed, one has been reclaimed and two dogs are currently on hand.

Fines issued under the Control of Dogs Act

Month	Fines Issued
Jan	3
Feb	6
Mar	5
Apr	5
May	1
Jun	0
Jul	3
Aug	0
Sept	0
Oct	0

Horse Welfare Programme

The final Equine ID clinic for Dunsink landfill outreach programme for 2021 has now taken place. The outreach programme has entered a phase of monitoring and welfare inspections.

The Regional Horse Welfare Group continues to meet. The next meeting is early November 2021.

Water Quality Protection



Help support the draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 public consultation process

An updated draft Catchment Assessments has been published by the EPA, https://www.catchments.ie/updated-draft-catchment-assessments-published-by-epa/. These assessments provide an overview of the situation in the catchment, draw comparison between Cycle 2 and Cycle 3, and will help support the draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 public consultation process.

This is a reminder for interested parties to assess their catchment and to get submissions in for the draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 public consultation process https://www.catchments.ie/public-consultation-on-the-draft-river-basin-management-plan-for-ireland-2022-2027/.

The consultation period closes on Thursday, 31 March 2022.

Feedback on Bathing water directive public consultation

Feedback on the EU bathing water directive public consultation is planned for the fourth quarter 2021. The commission has scheduled its adoption in the first quarter 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12658-Bathing-water-quality-review-of-EU-rules_en

Landfill Aftercare

Balleally Landfill/Rogerstown Park

In October, the resident herd of cattle at Balleally landfill were joined by a flock sheep totalling 126 ewes and 4 rams.

The sheep will provide an important function in their grazing paddocks by reducing the need for diesel fuelled tractor motors that have been used to mow these meadows, thereby providing a more

sustainable practice that fits with the Councils' climate action policy.

They will also serve as another feature for the public to enjoy while visiting the Park during Saturday opening.

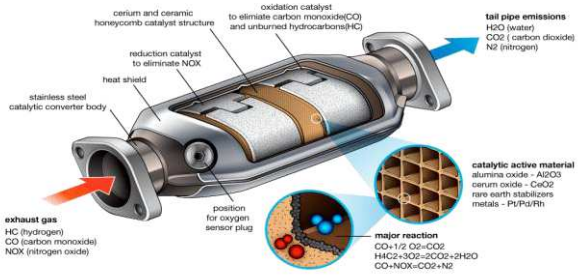


Sheep settling in at Rogerstown Park

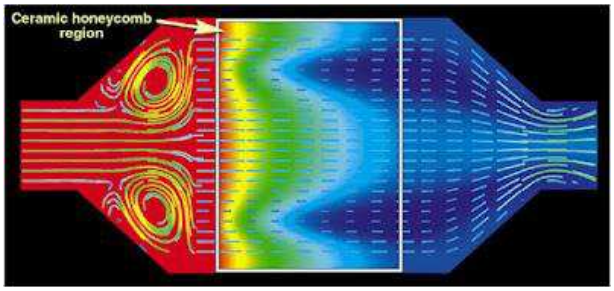
Waste Enforcement

Metal Theft and Traceability Investigation

End of Life Vehicles (ELVs') and their components can have a significant monetary value (catalytic converters, lead acid batteries, alloy wheels). Metal recycling facilities can potentially facilitate this illegal activity by accepting high value waste streams arising from illegal sites or criminal activity. These waste streams enter metal recycling facilities under the guise of 'general public' and are subsequently processed for cash payments.



Fingal County Council's Waste Enforcement Unit are assisting the Garda Divisional Crime Task Force with a major investigation into metal theft and traceability (catalytic converters) within the Dublin Region. This joint operation has resulted in several metal recycling facilities being searched within the last 6 months with large quantities of catalytic converters recovered in conjunction with millions of euro worth of precious metals such as palladium, rhodium and platinum. Palladium is now more valuable than gold and rhodium hit record highs earlier this year, having increased in value more than 200% since March 2020.





Waste Enforcement officers targeted individuals who transported high value waste streams to metal recycling facilities without a waste collection permit with a view to profit. Waste facilities were also investigated for breaches of permit conditions for allowing members of the public, as opposed to commercial customers, access to the facility to sell high value waste streams.

11 legal files have been finalised and summonses filed with the district court for S34 and S39 breaches of the Waste Management Act 1996. Each file takes several weeks to prepare as officers need to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that an offence has been committed. Further work will be

required in terms of court appearances and giving evident to secure convictions however the work undertake so far has had a dramatic effect on reducing the theft of catalytic converters throughout the Country and the subsequent sale/acceptance of high value waste streams at metal recycling facilities.

The Waste Enforcement Unit are also assisting 15 other Local Authorities in similar investigations regarding the illegal transportation of high value waste streams throughout the country. A total of 100 individuals who transported wastes such as catalytic converters without a permit are being investigated in conjunction with several large metal recycling facilities.





The work undertaken by Fingal County Council's Waste Enforcement Unit has helped raise awareness on metal theft and traceability at a local, regional and national level through collaboration with the Gardai, the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Further work is required to bring about legislative changes to tackle several key issues identified by the FCC Waste Enforcement Unit regarding metal theft and traceability. This work has already commenced with WERLA and the Gardai highlighting key issues on foot of FCC intel at a recent National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee.

RMCEI Inspection Plan 2021

Significant work has been completed regarding the RMCEI Inspection Plan for Q1 – Q3. For Waste Enforcement waste collection permit and waste facility permit validations are being finalised with on-site verification checks and compliance inspections scheduled to year end. Data validation of all waste streams in and out of a facility are crucial to ensure compliance with waste legislation and to feed into annual EPA statistics. Compliance with permit conditions is also important to ensure that facilities are managed effectively and to prevent environmental pollution. There are 100 waste collection permits and 22 waste facility permits in operation within Fingal and a considerable amount of time is spent each year by enforcement officers managing these permits.

Construction and Demolition waste inspections continue involving review of the following:

- Article 27 notifications on By Products such as soil and stone, concrete and asphalt and follow-on inspections
- C & D Skip operators of interest – movement of waste
- Major public projects – C & D waste management plans
- Planning applications – waste and environmental considerations
- Anomaly waste data - waste permitted facilities

- Anomaly waste data - waste collection permit holders.

Enforcement officers have been working closely with the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority and the Waste Planning Officer for a variety of inspections targeting specific C & D waste streams.





Responding to waste related complaints continues to be a major priority for enforcement officers. A total of 177 waste complaints were received during the period January – September 2021 involving 300 work days. Two waste enforcement officers work full time dealing with these complaints with an average complaint taking approx. 1.75 days to fully investigate and close out. The majority of complaints related to backyard storage and burning of waste (75%) with illegal dumping and fly tipping accounting for a further 20%. Awareness and education around the management of domestic waste in a sustainable and environmentally safe manner is vital to ensure all households participate in a waste collection service as per the waste presentation bye-laws and use a three-bin service to manage their waste. A fixed payment notice of €75 can be issued to a householder if a bin service isn't in place and if no proof of how waste is being managed is provided. A bin service project to identify households who don't currently have a bin collection service in place is proposed for 2022 once GDPR issues have been resolved with the Data Commissioner.





For Q1 – Q3 a total of 736 inspections have been undertaken by waste enforcement officers out of a total of 1004 planned by the end of the year.

Category	No. Planned Inspections 2021	Inspections Completed Q1 - Q3
Waste Enforcement	1004	736
Water Pollution	940	617
Litter Management	2060	2602
Air & Noise Pollution	334	294

FINANCE

Contents

Financial Reports

Financial Reports

Refer to Appendix 1 for the following reports:

- Revenue Account Income & expenditure to 31st October, 2021
- Capital Account Income & Expenditure to 31st October, 2021
- Summary of Corporate Debtors to 31st October, 2021

APPENDIX 1

REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31st OCTOBER 2021

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	€
Housing & Building	58,384,366	71,062,100	82%	58,209,352	74,321,200	78%	175,015
Road Transport & Safety	21,005,758	24,972,900	84%	6,598,241	7,500,800	88%	14,407,518
Water Services	15,323,096	13,792,400	111%	14,106,646	17,168,500	82%	1,216,450
Development Management	14,001,174	13,785,400	102%	6,354,900	4,496,500	141%	7,646,274
Environmental Services	35,018,686	42,814,100	82%	5,576,613	6,089,700	92%	29,442,074
Recreation & Amenity	30,164,361	36,628,900	82%	1,806,436	1,921,900	94%	28,357,925
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	584,164	1,127,300	52%	219,463	225,100	97%	364,701
Miscellaneous Services	80,817,167	35,878,200	225%	65,414,998	14,325,100	457%	15,402,169
Central Management Charge	34,235,414	46,313,300	74%	2,729,914	3,187,700	86%	31,505,500
Local Property Tax / GPG				6,253,333	7,504,000	83%	-6,253,333
Rates				124,695,083	149,634,100	83%	-124,695,083
	289,534,187	**286,374,600**	**101%**	**291,964,978**	**286,374,600**	**102%**	**-2,430,791**

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION TO 31/10/2021

		Balance at 01/01/2021 €	Expenditure YTD €	Income YTD €	Balance at 31/10/2021 €
A	Housing & Building	-33,151,165	39,228,543	-31,222,025	-25,144,647
B	Road Transport & Safety	17,501,293	25,495,525	-2,915,596	40,081,222
C	Water Services	-12,552,750	1,149,971	-811,122	-12,213,901
D	Development Management	-101,477,199	8,663,313	-33,310,727	-126,124,613
E	Environmental Services	-14,681,189	1,989,083	-7,328,874	-20,020,980
F	Recreation & Amenity	-12,299,513	11,958,554	-1,396,553	-1,737,512
H	Miscellaneous Services	-79,809,475	3,589,561	-25,876,864	-102,096,778
	Total	**-236,469,998**	**92,074,549**	**-102,861,761**	**-247,257,209**

SUMMARY OF CORPORATE DEBTORS TO 31/10/21

	Balance at 01/01/2021 €	Balance at 31/10/21 €	Current debt €	> 1 Year €
RATES	**-14,751,274**	**22,999,948**	**19,165,390**	**3,834,557**
LOANS	**1,701,915**	**1,893,560**	**292,200**	**1,601,360**
RENTS	**7,082,917**	**8,260,199**	**3,982,396**	**4,277,803**

Figures for rents and loans are unadjusted by credits/prepayments

Appendix 2 – Active Travel - Protected Cycle Lanes

NTA funded projects

Sustainable Transport Measures Grants: 2021 Allocations		
Project Code:	**Project Name**	**Comments**
FCC/20/0007	Hartstown/Hunstown Protected Cycle Lane Phase 1	Complete
FCC/20/0007	Hartstown/Huntstown Protected Cycle Lane Phase 2	Works nearing completion for Phase 2a. Moving to Phase 2b, awaiting updated drawings for junctions and roundabouts. Safe Routes to School design underway for front of school treatment at St. Philip the Apostle, works to commence w/c 26/10/2021
FCC/21/0010	Bus Gate @ Littlepace (NTA)	This project is to be progressed by the NTA.
FCC/21/0001	Snugborough Road – NAC to Ongar	Scope of project under discussion to prepare brief and engage consultants on concept development
FCC/21/0006	Clonee to Blanchardstown SC	Scope of project under discussion to prepare brief and engage consultants on concept development
TBC	Castleknock to Dunsink Lane (Section1 Auburn Ave to Navan Rd)	Scope of project under discussion to prepare brief
TBC	Luttrelstown to Ballycoolin Rd (Junction Review)	Scope of project under discussion to prepare brief
FCC/20/0007	St Cronan's Avenue	The project has been expanded to include other issues that have been identified in the area through our Connectivity and Permeability Tracker and our Safer Routes to School programme. These include

		the Brackenstown Road Cycle lanes and St Cronan's Junior & Senior Schools for front of school treatment on Brackenstown Road. The full scope of the works required has been developed together with costings. These are currently under consideration and review in terms of safety, function and costing. Construction works expected to commence Q1 2022.
FCC/20/0004	Bicycle Parking	A contract is in place for the supply & installation of bike racks. We are reviewing requests for bike racks on an ongoing basis. Bike racks have been installed by our contractors in Skerries and Balbriggan, 56 rack, accommodating 116 bikes. The new bicycle stands are located in playgrounds, skateparks, beach and shopping areas. The Active Travel team are now finalising the next works package for Howth/Malahide with works expected to commence in November 2021. We continue to evaluate new bike rack requests on a weekly basis and assess in accordance with our criteria for suitability.
FCC/20/0006	Safe to Schools Programme - infrastructure	Options report on the 11 schools identified through NTA & An Taisce is being developed at present and engagement with the schools is ongoing. Detailed design is being worked on in relation to a school in each area is being developed so that we can move onto full engagement and Tender stage with these.
FCC/20/0007	Rivervalley/Rathingle Phase 1	Phase 1 complete
FCC/20/0007	Rivervalley/Rathingle Phase 2	Works commenced for Phase 2a. kerb build outs and uncontrolled pedestrian crossings, with raised ramps at entrances to estates. Phase 2b, awaiting updated drawings for junctions and roundabout. Safe Routes to School design to be considered for inclusion for front of school treatment at Holy Family NS.
FCC/20/0007	R132 Ministers Road to Blake's Cross	Options Appraisal Report completed and consultants currently drafting detailed design and tender package documents. A review of the current speed limit on a section of the road between Corduff National School and Ministers Road is underway to ensure the recommended

		design proposal can be constructed in compliance with national design standards. Once Detailed Design and Tender Package is complete, we will be going to the market to secure a Contractor to carry out the works, which are planned to commence early 2022.
FCC/20/0007	Baldoyle Grange Road	Works started on site, 9th August. Footpath/pavement works complete. Line marking 80% completed for new cycle lanes with epoxy resin treatment to follow, weather dependent. Bollard installation upon completion. Landscape architect has prepared concept sketches for proposed works along Grange Road. Internal review with stakeholders has commenced with regards to the landscape design. Replacement of cycle friendly gullies 40% completed and ongoing.
FCC/20/0007	Warrenhouse Road	Junction buildouts completed. Old line marking burned off and replaced with new cycle lane marking. Gullies replaced with new cycle friendly gullies. Central islands 100% removed to allocate more space towards cycle lanes. Epoxy resin and bollard installation due to commence this week.
FCC/20/0007	Howth Road & Dublin Road	Footpath repair works 60% completed and projected to be finished next week. Road repair and cycle lane repair works due to commence in early November. Epoxy resin application and bollard installation works to commence afterwards-weather dependent. Gully replacement works to commence next week.

LAMA

Cumann Chomhaltaí na nÚdarás Áitiúil

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN TRAINING SEMINAR

Planning & Mental Health



SLIGO PARK HOTEL & LEISURE CLUB ★★★★

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Wed 3rd, Thu 4th & Fri 5th November 2021

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PRO
Cllr. Damien Ryan



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Cllr. Joe Nevile



Oireachtas Liaison
Officer
Cllr. Joe Malone

Registration Fee €150 per delegate

Please return to: Cllr. John Sheahan
Email: john.sheahan@limerick.ie
Phone: 087 207 9268



Planning & Mental Health



LAMA
Cumann Chomhaltaí na nÚdarás Áitiúil

AUTUMN TRAINING SEMINAR



Planning & Mental Health

Wednesday 3rd November 2021
7:00pm – 7:45pm **Registration**

8:00pm **Seminar Opening**
Councillor Paul Taylor *Cathaoirleach of Sligo Co.Co*
8:30pm **Launch**
Councillor Kenneth Egan *Olympic Silver Medalist - BA Hons in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy*
Councillors' Assistance Programme Launch

Thursday 4th November
10:00am **Welcome Address**
Councillor Michéal Anglim *Chairperson LAMA*
Mr. Martin Lyndon *Chief Executive of Sligo County Council*

First Session 10.30am to 12.30pm
Planning (Councillors' Development Plans)
Chairperson: **Councillor Paul Taylor**
Speakers:
Niall Cussen *Chief Executive of the Office of the Planning Regulator*
Anne Marie O'Connor *Deputy Regulator of the Office of the Planning Regulator*
David Minton *Director of the North and Western Regional Assembly*

Lunch 12:45pm – 2:00pm

Afternoon Session 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Mental Health
Chairperson: **Councillor Terry Shannon**
Speakers:
Jade Foynes *Former President of LIT Students Union*
Councillor Kenneth Egan *Olympic Silver Medalist - BA Hons in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy*

Evening Session 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Party Meeting

Friday 5th November
10.30am to 12.00 noon
Vouched Expenses
Chairperson: **Councillor Sean Conlon**
Speakers:
Gary McGuinn *Assistant Principal Officer Department of Local Government and a Local Government Auditor (TBC)*

Accommodation
Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo, Co. Sligo
Phone: **071 919 0400**
Web: **www.sligoparkhotel.com**

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Oifig an Runaí Aire
Office of the Minister of State

14 October 2021

Mr. Brian Buckley
Fingal County Council
info@fingal.ie

Ref: HPLG-MoSB-00986-2021

Dear Mr. Buckley,

I refer to your correspondence in relation to Strategic Housing Development (SHD) Legislation, which was forwarded by Minister Darragh O'Brien.

Minister O'Brien, submitted a Memorandum to Government on 13 July 2021, accompanied by a General Scheme of a Planning and Development (Amendment) (LSRD) Bill 2021 (the General Scheme), outlining proposals for the replacement of the current planning arrangements in respect of Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs) with new streamlined arrangements for large-scale residential developments (LSRDs). The proposed new arrangements will effectively restore decision-making on such large scale housing developments to local authorities in the first instance.

The proposed new LSRD arrangements will comprise 3 pillars: pre-application consultation stage, planning application stage and appeal stage, summarised as follows:

- planning authorities will be required to complete the "final consultation meeting" element of the pre-application consultation stage, involving a bilateral meeting between the planning authority and the developer, within 8 weeks of the receipt of a request for such meeting;
- subsequent LSRD planning applications will be generally required to be determined by planning authorities within 8 weeks of receipt of an application;
- the determination of appeals against planning decisions by planning authorities will be generally required to be determined by An Bord Pleanala within 16 weeks of receipt of an appeal.

The application of these new arrangements is intended to streamline the decision making process for LSRDs, thereby providing greater certainty and clarity to developers regarding the timelines for decisions in respect of such development proposals.

Oifig an Aire Stáit don Rialtais Áitiúil agus Pleanála
Minister of State for Local Government and Planning

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin, D01 W6X0
T +353 1 888 2405 | minsterofstate@housing.gov.ie
www.housing.gov.ie

Further details in relation to the proposals are set out in the General Scheme which is available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a10f2-general-scheme-of-planning-and-development-amendment-lsrd-bill-2021/.

Pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme has already been undertaken by the Joint Oireachtas Committee (JOC) on Housing, Local Government and Heritage in September 2021. The report of the JOC on the General Scheme has just been received this week by my Department, and drafting of the Bill is well advanced.

Once approved by Government and published, it is intended that the Bill will be progressed through the Oireachtas and enacted as soon as possible with the new LSRD arrangements commencing on enactment of the Bill. The LSRD and SHD planning consent schemes will both operate concurrently for a limited period of time with developers being able to choose which process to engage with during this interim period. Once the final SHD planning applications have worked their way through the system, the LSRD arrangements will be the sole planning consent system for housing applications of this scale.

I trust that this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Burke

Peter Burke T.D.
Minister for Planning and Local Government

Please note: I am a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Chief Executive's Office,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8.

Oifig an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh,
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T. 01 222 6738 F. 01222 2097 Deirdre.NiRaghallaigh@dublincity.ie

Mr. Brian Buckley
Meetings Administrator
Fingal County Council,
County Hall, Main Street,
Swords,
Co Dublin,
K67 X8Y2 .

6th October 2021

Our Ref: KB/DNR0410

Dear Meetings Administrator,

I wish to advise you at the monthly meeting of Dublin City Council held on the 4th October 2021, the following Motion was adopted:

"*Dublin City Council recognises and commends the invaluable service provided to the city, its citizens, its property and to all those who visit our city by the Dublin Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service. This service saves countless lives and reduces the physical impact of medical emergencies to individuals as well as preventing damage to property on a daily basis. Their service during the Covid 19 pandemic has been exemplary.*

However, with regard to staffing levels, Dublin City Council notes with much concern that DFB is currently operating under agreed staffing levels and is increasingly depending on an over reliance on overtime by Dublin Fire Brigade staff to meet daily fire tender and ambulance operational manning levels and that, on certain watches/shifts, there are not sufficient staff available to allow for the full complement of fire tenders to be deployed.

While Dublin City Council recognises and welcomes that there are currently 36 new recruits currently in training and that these will enter the DFB workforce in December, it also recognises that these additional recruits may not add to the current staffing numbers when all 2021 retirements are taken into consideration.

Therefore, Dublin City Council demands that i) two back to back recruit classes be scheduled immediately to exhaust the current training panel so as to alleviate this situation in a timely a manner as possible and ii) that a new panel be immediately established to allow for further recruit classes to be trained.

Dublin City Council also demands that every effort be made by both sides to reach an agreement on overall DFB operational manning levels and other outstanding issues currently being negotiated.

With regard to medical emergencies in the city, Dublin City Council recognises the three additional ambulances operationalised by DFB and funded by DCC (as opposed by the HSE) but also recognises that even with these additional ambulances the heretofore rapid response rate by DFB to medical emergencies has reduced. Dublin City Council, therefore, calls for the HSE to i) fully fund these 3 additional ambulances going forward, ii) fully fund and staff a further 2 DFB ambulances so as to allow more a more appropriate response rate by our ambulances to medical emergencies.

With regard to training, Dublin City Council recognises the essential need to ensure that all firefighters and officers are fully training in managing high rise fire and medical emergencies and calls for a full training programme to be scheduled to ensure full competencies across all watches and stations, including retained stations.

With regard to risk assessment, Dublin City Council calls for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Fire Safety Task Force Group Report published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and heritage (July 2018).

With regard to DFB staff well-being, Dublin City Council recognises the propensity for staff to suffer from burn-out if repeatedly working overtime to cover staff shortages and calls for i) the provision of information to staff regarding the tell-tale signs of burn-out and ii) the provision of support for staff who may be suffering from burn-out."

Yours Sincerely,



Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh
Meetings Administrator

c.c South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire County Council,

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

14/10/21

Dear Meetings Administrator,

Our Ref: M04/1021

Re: Motion Agreed at meeting of South Dublin County Council held on the 11th October 2021

The following Motion was AGREED at the Council meeting of South Dublin County Council held on the 11th October 2021.

That this Council agrees to write to the Department of the Taoiseach, all other Local Authorities in the state and Retail Ireland calling on the Irish and International Supermarkets operating here to join the Boycott of all Israeli Goods as a response to the current and never-ending Murderous Campaign against the Palestinian People including thousands of innocent Men, Women and Children.

I should be grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience. Please quote our reference no. M04/1021 on any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

P.P.

Miriam Reilly
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,
Áras an Chontae,
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Corporate Services
Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Guthán | Tel 066 7183514 Facs | Fax 066 7183848 Rphost | Email secretar@kerrycoco.ie Suíomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

19 October 2021

To/ Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

"That this Council call on Local Authorities throughout the Country and all Government Services to fly the Palestine Flag on November 29th which is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people."

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise le meas,

Pádraig Corkery
Meetings Administrator

GAEILGE AGUS FÁILTE

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Date/ 20th October, 2021

To/ Each Meetings Administrator

Dear Meetings Administrator

At a meeting of Tipperary County Council held on the 13th September, 2021 the following motion was considered and approved by the members: -

"The Council notes that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is proposing that Tipperary County Council procure consulting Engineering Services to assist in the process of amalgamation and rationalisation of Group Water Schemes in County Tipperary. We, the Chairman and Elected Members of the Council's Rural Water Monitoring Committee, are requesting that the Rural Water Unit of the Department engage proactively with the Rural Water Team of the Council's Water Services Section in preparing and finalising the contents of the Brief for the procurement of these services in a mutually satisfactory and complementary manner.

We are also requesting that, where a Group Water Scheme wishes to remain independent and not to be Taken in Charge by Irish Water, it will be so facilitated.

We are asking the Council to support this Notice of Motion so that it can be forwarded to the Rural Water Unit of the Department for attention".

In consideration of this motion, members requested that the Motion be forwarded to all Local Authorities for their consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 25

LEASING PART V UNITS

Motion: Councillor A. O'Rourke

"That the Chief Executive opposes the leasing of Part V units in Fingal and commits to purchasing all Part V units in the County as they become available now and into the future."

Report:

The option of satisfying a Part V obligation via leasing is set out in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, therefore it must be considered by the Local Authority in any Part V negotiations.

The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015 states that where a developer wishes to fulfil their Part V obligation by way of transfer of land to the Local Authority, this must be accepted by the Local Authority. In other words, the transfer of land is the default option. Where the developer does not wish to exercise the option of transferring land, the Act sets out six types of Part V agreement that may be made, one of these is the option to lease housing units to the Local Authority.

In general, the Council acquires Part V units rather than leasing them, however, the leasing of units to satisfy the Part V obligation may, in some instances be a more practicable option for the Council depending on what is proposed by the developer. For instance, if the developer is willing to provide significant additional units over and above the Part V requirement for social housing purposes. In the case of large apartment developments, the acquisition of units may not be practicable if long term rental of the entire development is being proposed by the developer.

The options set out in legislation to satisfy Part V obligations are subject to agreement between the Local Authority and the developer. Therefore, both parties must agree on how Part V will be satisfied, unless the developer indicates that they wish to provide 10% of the land. In that case the Local Authority must accept the offer of the land. Where it is not possible for the Local Authority to conclude an agreement which meets with its needs, then the default position applies, and the agreement must provide for the transfer of land to the Local Authority.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 26

LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BILL

Motion: Councillor N. Treacy

"Fingal County Council opposes the Land Development Agency Bill as we as a council believe the Bill is fundamentally flawed. The Land Development Agency will erode local democracy and further undermine FCC's ability to deliver social and affordable housing on public land. We call on the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Housing Darragh O'Brien expressing our concerns at the Land Development Agency Bill."

Report:

If the Motion is passed, the contents shall be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and when a response is received the Council will be informed.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 27

FUNCTIONS OF ACTIVE TRAVEL DEPARTMENT

Motion: Councillor A. Henchy

"That the Chief Executive gives a detailed report on how she expects the newly created Active Travel Department to function, integrate and operate, both now and into the future and to give consideration to a model of implementation similar to the current yearly Operations Works Programme where each Area Committee Group receives a fair allocation of funding towards their works programme to ensure Active Travel projects around improving walking and cycling infrastructure will be accountable, transparent and reach into every town and village across all of the County."

Report:

The Active Travel Unit is currently progressing projects under the current headings, in consultation with both internal and external stakeholders, as well as our main sponsoring authority, the NTA -

- Provision of protected cycle lanes
- Towns and Villages – review of Active Travel measures
- Safe Routes to School programme
- Provision of bicycle parking throughout the County
- Providing connectivity to facilitate and encourage Active travel
- Mapping and recording Active Travel infrastructure such as bike parking and cycle network

- Tracking and recording requests for Active Travel measures for consideration on future programme of works.
- Fingal Cycle Network
- Road safety -
    - School Wardens
    - Publicity and Promotion of Active Travel and Road Safety
    - Cycle training
    - Bike Sharing
    - Community Car.

A strategy for the Active Travel Unit is currently being developed outlining our current approach.

Funding for various measures will be included in the Capital Programme 2022 – 2024.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 30

TREE REMOVAL PROCESS

Motion: Councillor J. Newman

"That the Chief Executive, prior to the adoption of the Tree Strategy, introduce a process which will inform local area Councillors on a regular basis of the intent to remove trees or hedgerows in their local areas, (except in emergency situations) and that the system of documenting requests or plans to remove trees in the Fingal area are transparent and accessible to Councillors on request."

Report:

The removal of street trees is carried out in accordance with the approved Council policy The Forest of Fingal A Tree Strategy for Fingal which was approved by the Elected Members in 2010. The public consultation phase for the revised tree strategy is complete. In accordance with the policy an assessment of a street tree is carried out by one of the parks professionals following on from requests from Councillors, TDs, members of the public. In accordance with the current policy, we deal with each tree on a case-by-case basis. If the decision is made to remove a tree by the professional team, following this assessment, the works are passed on to the tree crew in each area and works are programmed to ensure that crews carry out works on an area-by-area basis to ensure efficiencies.

The removal of street trees is one of the most contentious issues facing Council staff with invariably conflicting views between residents who want trees

removed and those who don't want them removed. The current Tree Strategy provides the basis for current decision making linked to the expertise of the professional staff.

It should be noted that where trees require removal a suitable tree will be planted in the nearest available suitable space. All tree planting is done during the winter months to ensure newly planted trees have the best chance of survival.

The Council invested recently in a new tree management software. As part of the process of introducing this software a detailed professional assessment of every street tree in the County was to be carried out however, due to Covid-19 restrictions we have been unable to carry out these assessments. Once the Covid-19 restrictions have lifted we will have these assessments carried out on a countywide basis. This new tree management software, when fully operational, will provide a significant resource to the Council and will facilitate an enhanced management of the current tree stock and will allow us better plan future tree removals and replacement. The software will also improve protocols around prior notice.

The Operations Department will always try to give reasonable prior works notice to residents, by means of a leaflet, to allow residents make alternative arrangements for parking of cars etc. Where a larger number of trees are planned for removal, we have always notified Councillors in advance to make them aware of such works. It is acknowledged that it not always possible to give a lot of prior notice as works will depend on staff and machinery availability, however every effort will be made to improve the system of prior notice given for any planned works.

The revised Forest of Fingal, A Tree Strategy for Fingal, is subject to approval at Novembers Full Council Meeting. In the public consultation process for the strategy, several observations also highlighted the need for improved communication and consultation in advance of significant tree works such as removals. This is addressed under the actions of Objective 4: Community Involvement, Public Engagement and Awareness Building of the draft strategy as follows:

Action 4.1 Construct a dedicated and interactive tree webpage on the Council's website. This will provide opportunities such as a Tree Champions contact list,

citizen science/public participation schemes for tree identification and surveying etc. and other tree related matters. It will also assist with knowledge sharing and public information and awareness purposes

Action 4.3 Develop protocols for engaging with communities and residents for proposed significant tree management works and works affecting trees

Resourcing is key to the successful delivery of these actions and will depend on the recruitment of a tree officer and team, which the revised strategy also proposes.

In addition to the above, the following policies apply to tree removal:

Policy 8 '*The Council aims to ensure that every tree felled is replaced to guarantee a renewable tree stock in Fingal for future generations'*

Policy 9 *'The Council will not remove trees without adequate justification. When felling work is proposed, the reasons for the work will be documented and recorded to include photographs'*

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

ITEM NO. 31

LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY 2021 – DISPOSAL OF LANDS

Motion: Councillor R. O'Donoghue

"That this Council rejects the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency 2021 Bill published by the Government removing the role of the Elected Members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency and in doing so agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that Elected Members retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council owned lands and that the Council circulates this Motion to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government requesting their support for this."

Report:

If the Motion is passed, the contents shall be forwarded to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and when a response is received the Council will be informed and the contents of the motion will be circulated to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government.