

# Private Document Pack

## COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: [Corporate.Services@fingal.ie](mailto:Corporate.Services@fingal.ie)

County Hall  
Swords  
Co Dublin

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**To Each Member of the  
Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee  
(Services A - Operational Matters)**

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the **Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee (Services A - Operational Matters)** will be held Hybrid in the **Council Chamber - Grove Road, Blanchardstown/MS Teams** at **3.30 pm** on **Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

**Ciara O hAodha  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services**

.....  
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## A G E N D A

- 1 **Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee (Services A - Operational Matters) Meeting held on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2025**

### QUESTIONS

- 2 **Councillor S. Shovlin - Repair of Street Lights near St. Catherine's Park - AI104333**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to repair, as a matter of urgency, the streetlights which are out of order on the Clonee Road from the roundabout just before Rokeby Park to the entrance of St. Catherine's Park, Lucan as there are now five different lights either not working or faulty?"

- 3 **Councillor S. Shovlin - Clonsilla Shop Front Footpath Improvements - AI104673**

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the improvement of shop front footpaths in Clonsilla, including plans and timelines?"

- 4 **Councillor S. Shovlin - "Bulbs not Bonfires" Campaign in this LEA - AI104723**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to implement a "Bulbs not Bonfires" campaign for 2026 in this Local Electoral Area, similar to the initiative previously carried out by South Dublin County Council?"

- 5 **Councillor J.K. Onwumereh - Installation of Pedestrian Crossing at Hampton Wood Drive on St. Margaret's Road - AI104347**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to install a pedestrian crossing at the junction of St. Margaret's Road by Hampton Wood Drive to address the heavy footfall and speeding vehicular activities?"

- 6 **Councillor H. Redwood - Cleaning of Old Porterstown Road and Keenan Bridge - AI104389**

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report detailing if regular road sweeping and weed clearance of the old Porterstown Road, particularly around Keenan Bridge is carried out and if so, to report on the maintenance schedule?"

**7 Councillor A. Donnelly - Christmas Tree for Ongar - AI104767**

"To ask the Chief Executive to outline if a Christmas tree has been organised for Ongar as most of the area has now been taken in charge?"

**8 Councillor A. Donnelly - Precautions to Prevent Damage to Ice Rink in Millennium Park - AI104769**

"To ask the Chief Executive to advise if the Ice Rink Company have been instructed to take additional precautions this year as their structure was very badly damaged by storm Éowyn?"

**9 Councillor A. Donnelly - Complaints regarding New Lighting in this LEA - AI104770**

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on how many complaints have been received regarding the new lighting columns being rolled out in this Local Electoral Area?"

**10 Councillor A. Donnelly - Trimming of Shrubbery at Stonebridge Boundary Wall - AI104778**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given for the trimming back of shrubbery at Stonebridge Wall?"

**11 Councillor A. Donnelly - Update regarding Lighting at Willow Wood Green/Stonebridge Road Footpath - AI104779**

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the detailed assessment of the path in the green area linking Willow Wood Grove and Stonebridge Road with the bus stop on the Ongar Distributor Road, which was to be undertaken to identify possible solutions to provide lighting to this path, at a more appropriate height and wattage, and take into account the required exclusion zone around the medium-voltage overhead ESB Networks cables in the area?"

**12 Councillor A. Donnelly - Christmas Tree Drop Off Locations in this LEA - AI104780**

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a list of Christmas tree drop off locations for Christmas 2025 in this Local Electoral Area?"

**13 Councillor G. Sheehan - Installation of Barriers at Meadow Copse Road - AI104771**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given for the installation of a scrambler prevention barrier at Meadow Copse Road crossing to Rusheeney View?"

**14 Councillor B. Hanaphy - Removal of Undergrowth - Westway View and Westway Grove - AI104793**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to cut back the bushes and undergrowth between Westway View and Westway Grove and on the green between Sheephill Avenue and Westway Estate as there is an issue with dumping in the area?"

**15 Councillor B. Hanaphy - Removal of Rubbish - Lanesborough Park Area - AI104794**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to arrange for the removal of rubbish in the shrubbery areas of Lanesborough Park, Jamestown Road, Melville Road and St. Margaret's Road, as the Council operates a regular road sweeping service in Lanesborough, usually every Tuesday, and it is not possible for the machinery to access these areas to remove litter and rubbish?"

**16 Councillor B. Hanaphy - Repair of Broken Path - Blanchardstown Road North - AI104796**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to repair the broken footpath at the pedestrian crossing at the Technological University Dublin roundabout, on Blanchardstown North, and to inspect the condition of the footpaths at the other pedestrian crossings on Blanchardstown Road North?"

**17 Councillor B. Hanaphy - Installation of Signage - Sheephill Avenue and Westway - AI104797**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to installing a "No Dumping" sign on the green between Sheephill Avenue and Westway?"

**OPERATIONAL  
NEW WORKS, ETC.**

**18 Draft Fingal County Council Parking Control Bye-Laws 2025**

**19 Porterstown Road Proposed Traffic Calming Measures**

## MOTIONS

**20 Councillor T. Leddy - Installation of Yellow Box - Fairhaven - AI103577**

"That the Chief Executive arrange to install a yellow box at the entrance to Fairhaven Estate to allow residents enter and exit at peak times, especially during events in the Phoenix Park."

**21 Councillor B. Hanaphy - Timeline for Replacement Ramps - Blackcourt Road - AI104285**

"That the Chief Executive provides a timeline of when works will commence for the replacement ramps on Blackcourt Road."

**22 Councillor A. Donnelly - Proposal for Improvements to Coolmine Woods - AI104698**

"That the Chief Executive gives consideration to the proposal submitted (details supplied) for improvements to Coolmine Woods in next year's Programme of Works."

**23 Councillor T. Leddy - Improved Walking/Cycling Infrastructure - Edmund Rice College - Castleknock - AI103684**

"That the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Board of Management of Edmund Rice College and the Department of Education, implement an alternative walking and cycling access route to Edmund Rice College from the western side of the school toward Castleknock Manor, enabling children to safely walk and cycle from Castleknock."

**24 Councillor A. Donnelly - Provision of Raised Tables at Ongar Village - AI104777**

"That the Chief Executive provides two raised tables in Ongar Village as an interim measure to address safety concerns, one at the goods entrance to Dunnes Stores car park and a second between Willan's Way and Lily's Way, as these are the areas that residents find most dangerous."

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Comhairle Contae Fingal  
Fingal County Council  
BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR  
AREA COMMITTEE  
(Services A – Operational Matters)  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

A meeting of the Members of the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee (Services A-Operational Matters) was held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Blanchardstown, at 3.30pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## PRESENT

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| John Burtchaell       | JK Onwumereh    |
| Eimear Carbone Mangan | Patrick Quinlan |
| Kieran Dennison       | Helen Redwood   |
| Breda Hanaphy         | Siobhan Shovlin |
| Angela Donnelly       | Ellen Troy      |
| Tom Kitt              | John Walsh      |
| Mary McCamley         | Ted Leddy       |

## OFFICIALS PRESENT

Vanessa Carey (Senior Executive Officer); Deirdre Sinclair (Administrative Officer); Naomi Weir (Senior Executive Officer); Hugh James (Senior Executive Engineer); Quintin Greally (Executive Engineer); Stephen Johnson (Executive Parks & Landscape Officer); Karen Leeson (Senior Executive Engineer); Ronan Davis (Staff Officer); Elaine Tobin (Assistant Staff Officer)

The following agenda items were considered during the meeting:

**CMA/165/25** (Agenda Item No 1)

**Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee (Services A Operational Matters) Meeting held on Thursday the 26th of June 2025**

Minutes of the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee (Services A – Operational Matters) held in the Council Chambers on Thursday

26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record.

It was proposed by Councillor G. Sheehan and seconded by Councillor JK. Onwumereh and **RESOLVED**:

“That the recommendations contained in the Minutes of the Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar Area Committee (Services A - Operational Matters) Hybrid Meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

**CMA/166/25** (Agenda Item No )

### QUESTIONS

It was proposed by Councillor J. Walsh and seconded by Councillor T. Kitt and **RESOLVED**:

That pursuant to Standing Order No. 51, Questions numbered 02 to 24 inclusive be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

**CMA/167/25** (Agenda Item No 2)

Councillor M. McCamley - Request for CCTV in Tyrrelstown Park - AI103515

**CMA/168/25** (Agenda Item No 3)

Councillor M. McCamley - Tolka Park Car Parking Area - AI103565

**CMA/169/25** (Agenda Item No 4)

Councillor S. Shovlin - Bulb Planting - Castlefield Estates - AI103687

**CMA/170/25** (Agenda Item No 5)

Councillor S. Shovlin - Inspection of Footpaths - Lambourn, Clonsilla - AI103877

**CMA/171/25** (Agenda Item No 6)

Councillor S. Shovlin - Tidying of Pillars at Riverwood Entrance - AI103879

**CMA/172/25** (Agenda Item No 7)

Councillor S. Shovlin - Installation of Rubbish Bin - Carpenterstown Road - AI104106

**CMA/173/25** (Agenda Item No 8)

Councillor S. Shovlin - Installation of Exercise Equipment - Laurel Lodge Green - AI104134

**CMA/174/25** (Agenda Item No 9)

Councillor B. Hanaphy - Repainting of Road Markings and Yellow Box - Junction of Church Road and Mulhuddart Village - AI103841

**CMA/175/25** (Agenda Item No 10)

Councillor B. Hanaphy - Maintenance of Hedging at Tyrrelstown Boulevard - AI104271

**CMA/176/25** (Agenda Item No 11)

Councillor J. Walsh - Update on Completion of Kellystown Cemetery - AI103860

**CMA/177/25** (Agenda Item No 12)

Councillor E. Troy - Plans for Lowering Incidences of Illegal Parking in this LEA - AI103864

**CMA/178/25** (Agenda Item No 13)

Councillor E. Troy - Park Patrols - Tyrellstown Park - AI103866

**CMA/179/25** (Agenda Item No 14)

Councillor E. Troy - Increased Level of Rats in this LEA - AI103869

**CMA/180/25** (Agenda Item No 15)

Councillor E. Troy - Works on Footpath and Stone Wall - The Elms, Castleknock - AI103870

**CMA/181/25** (Agenda Item No 16)

Councillor H. Redwood - Tree Replanting Schedule - Coolmine/Clonsilla - AI103875

**CMA/182/25** (Agenda Item No 17)

Councillor JK. Onwumereh - Urgent Concerns Regarding Anti-Social Behaviour, Pallet Stockpiling, and Community Safety in this LEA - AI104189

**CMA/183/25** (Agenda Item No 18)

Councillor J. Burtchaell - Installation of Pedestrian Crossing - St. Margaret's Road/Hampton Wood Drive - AI104242

**CMA/184/25** (Agenda Item No 19)

Councillor J. Burtchaell - Measures for E-scooters, E-bikes and Scramblers in Hartstown Park - AI104243

**CMA/185/25** (Agenda Item No 20)

Councillor J. Burtchaell - Playground Repairs - Heathfield Playground - AI104266

**CMA/186/25** (Agenda Item No 21)

Councillor A. Donnelly - Works Schedule for Hartstown Link Road - AI104279

**CMA/187/25** (Agenda Item No 22)

Councillor A. Donnelly - Installation of Public Bench - Ongar Distributor Road - AI104278

**CMA/188/25** (Agenda Item No 23)

Councillor A. Donnelly - Communication regarding the Public Realm in this LEA with Councillors - AI104280

**CMA/189/25** (Agenda Item No 24)

Councillor A. Donnelly - Damage to New Trees in this LEA - AI104282

**MOTIONS**

**CMA/190/25** (Agenda Item No 25)

Councillor T. Leddy - Annual Presentation for Phoenix Park Concerts and Bloom Festival - AI103575

The attached Motion in the name of Councillor T. Leddy was proposed by Councillor T. Leddy and seconded by Councillor J. Walsh

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was considered.

Following discussion, the Committee **AGREED** the report

**CMA/191/25** (Agenda Item No 26)

Councillor J. Walsh - Walkability Study - Castleknock Village - AI103873

The attached Motion in the name of Councillor J. Walsh was proposed by Councillor J. Walsh and seconded by Councillor M. McCamley

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was considered.

Following discussion, the Committee **ACCEPTED** the report

**CMA/192/25** (Agenda Item No 27)

**Councillor B. Hanaphy - Road Markings at the Roundabouts on the R121 - AI104272**

The attached Motion in the name of Councillor B. Hanaphy was proposed by Councillor B. Hanaphy and seconded by Councillor A. Donnelly

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was considered.

Following discussion, the Committee **ACCEPTED** the report

**CMA/193/25** (Agenda Item No 28)

**Councillor A. Donnelly - Lighting at Playground in Ongar Park - AI104276**

The attached Motion in the name of Councillor A. Donnelly was proposed by Councillor A. Donnelly and seconded by Councillor B. Hanaphy

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was considered.

Following discussion, the Committee **ACCEPTED** the report

**CMA/194/25** (Agenda Item No 29)

**Councillor A. Donnelly - Traffic Calming Measures - Willow Wood Park - AI104277**

The attached Motion in the name of Councillor A. Donnelly was proposed by Councillor A. Donnelly and seconded by Councillor B. Hanaphy

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was considered.

Following discussion, the Committee **ACCEPTED** the report

**CMA/195/25** (Agenda Item No 30)

**Councillor B. Hanaphy - Update on Mick Walsh Car Park - AI104284**

The attached Motion in the name of Councillor B. Hanaphy was proposed by Councillor B. Hanaphy and seconded by Councillor A. Donnelly

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was considered.

Following discussion, the Committee **ACCEPTED** the report

**CMA/196/25** (Agenda Item No 31)

**Councillor T. Leddy - Open Space Maintenance Policy in this LEA - AI103576**

The attached Motion in the name of Councillor T. Leddy was proposed by Councillor T. Leddy and seconded by Councillor J. Walsh

The attached report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was considered.

Following discussion, the Committee **ACCEPTED** the report

The Meeting concluded at 16.35hrs

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**AREA CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATED**

## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 2**

#### **REPAIR OF STREET LIGHTS NEAR ST. CATHERINE'S PARK - AI104333**

##### **Question: Councillor S. Shovlin**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to repair, as a matter of urgency, the streetlights which are out of order on the Clonee Road from the roundabout just before Rokeby Park to the entrance of St. Catherine's Park, Lucan as there are now five different lights either not working or faulty?"

##### **Reply:**

Eight (8) no. lights were out on the Laraghcon Distributor Road near the entrance to Rokeby Park, due to faulty lanterns and a cable issue. New lights were ordered and were installed on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. They are currently all operating on a temporary public lighting supply and will be transferred to a new permanent supply when ESB Networks complete their work.

All lights at this location are currently operational.

##### **Source of Reply:**

Karen Leeson, Senior Executive Engineer, Public Lighting, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 3**

**CLONSILLA SHOP FRONT FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS - AI104673**

**Question: Councillor S. Shovlin**

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the improvement of shop front footpaths in Clonsilla, including plans and timelines?"

**Reply:**

It is our intention to construct a wall/railing between the public footpath and the privately owned forecourt/parking area in front of the shops on the Clonsilla Road. Vehicular/pedestrian access will be maintained for the users of the shops. It is hoped that the segregation between the two areas will help control vehicular movements in and out of this area and so improve the safety for pedestrians using the public footpath.

The project will be included for consideration in the Draft Programme of Works for 2026, and if approved by the members, the works will be scheduled to be carried out in the first or second quarter 2026.

**Source of Reply:**

Hugh James, Senior Executive Engineer, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 4**

**"BULBS NOT BONFIRES" CAMPAIGN IN THIS LEA - AI104723**

**Question: Councillor S. Shovlin**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to implement a "Bulbs not Bonfires" campaign for 2026 in this Local Electoral Area, similar to the initiative previously carried out by South Dublin County Council?"

**Reply:**

The Operations department in the Dublin 15 electoral area has been carrying out a similar initiative for several years. Extensive quantities of bulbs are provided to 70 community groups and resident associations annually to plant within their area. It is agreed with the area supervisor where groups can plant the bulbs so they don't impede with the grass maintenance.

The allocation of bulbs has increased significantly over the years to the current value of €10,000 which is included in the Programme of Works 2025.

**Source of Reply:**

Lourda Darcy, Assistant Executive Parks & Landscape Officer, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 5**

**INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT HAMPTON WOOD  
DRIVE ON ST. MARGARET'S ROAD - AI104347**

**Question: Councillor J.K. Onwumereh**

"To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to install a pedestrian crossing at the junction of St. Margaret's Road by Hampton Wood Drive to address the heavy footfall and speeding vehicular activities?"

**Reply:**

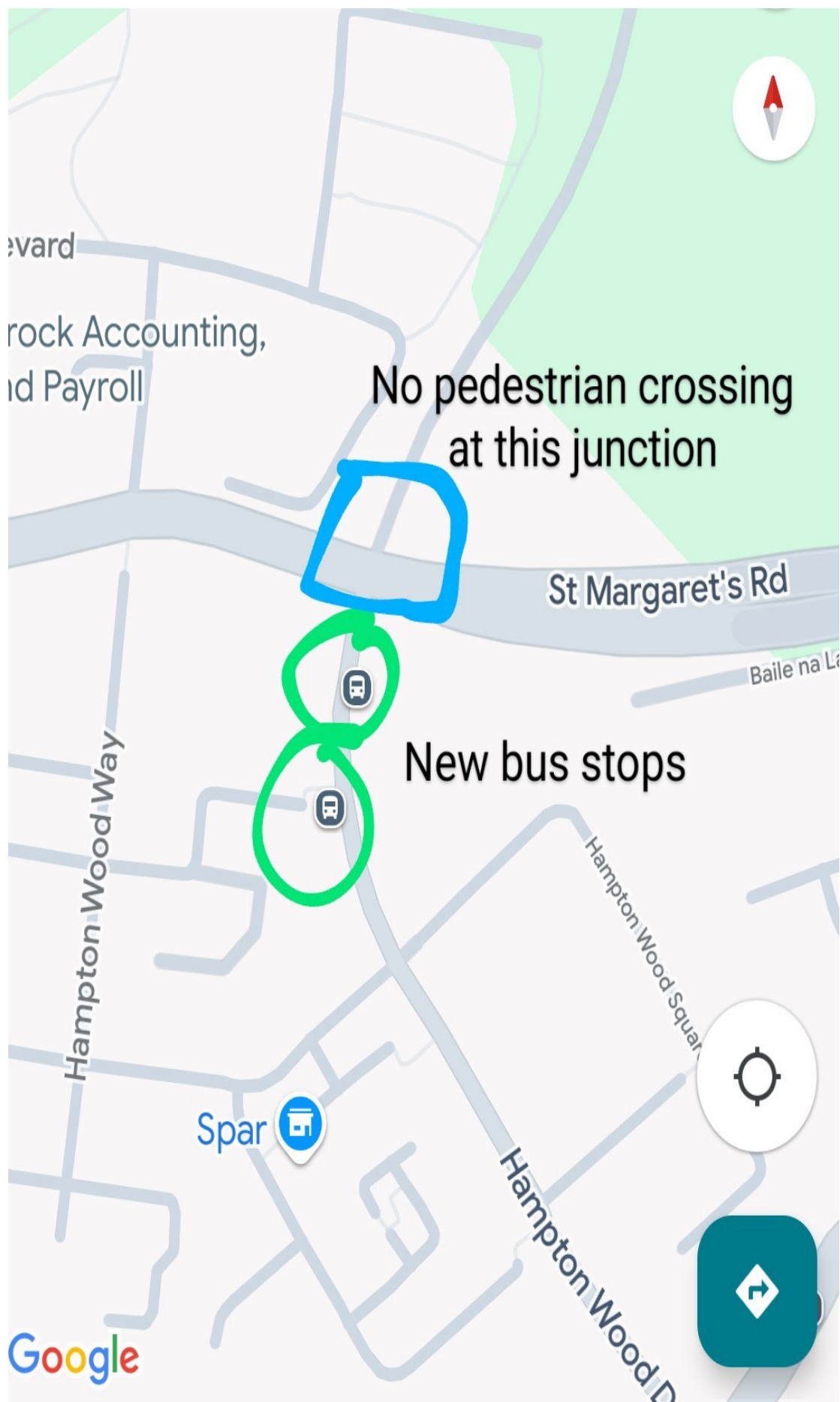
The area was inspected, and the request for a signalised crossing close to the junction of St. Margarets Road and Hampton Wood has been added to the Programme of Works list for consideration.

Consideration will be given for a signalised crossing in a future Programme of works when it is being prepared.

**Source of Reply:**

Quintin Greally, Executive Traffic Engineer, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 6**

**CLEANING OF OLD PORTERSTOWN ROAD AND KEENAN BRIDGE -  
AI104389**

**Question: Councillor H. Redwood**

“To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report detailing if regular road sweeping and weed clearance of the old Porterstown Road, particularly around Keenan Bridge is carried out and if so, to report on the maintenance schedule?”

**Reply:**

The area referred to in the question is part of the depot sweeping roster and monitored regularly. This location is swept once every 8 weeks.

**Source of Reply:**

Michael Tynan, Area Inspector Inspector, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 7**

**CHRISTMAS TREE FOR ONGAR - AI104767**

**Question: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“To ask the Chief Executive to outline if a Christmas tree has been organised for Ongar as most of the area has now been taken in charge?”

**Reply:**

A Christmas tree has been procured for Ongar for 2025/2026.

**Source of Reply:**

Stephen Johnson, A/Executive Parks & Landscape Officer, Operations Department

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## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 8**

#### **PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO ICE RINK IN MILLENNIUM PARK - AI104769**

##### **Question: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“To ask the Chief Executive to advise if the Ice Rink Company have been instructed to take additional precautions this year as their structure was very badly damaged by storm Éowyn?”

##### **Reply:**

During storm Éowyn, Millennium Park was closed in the interest of public safety. Millennium Park then remained closed for a further day to allow the site to be made safe. Fingal and Cool running events worked closely during the storm to ensure the safety of the public was a priority.

For 2026, the operator has consulted with the marquee supplier and following a full risk assessment review, several key improvements have been introduced for 2025/2026 to strengthen the events resilience against extreme weather conditions.

These include:

##### **Structural Reinforcements:**

- Additional internal bracing installed throughout the marquee structure.
- Increased ballast weights added to anchor points to improve wind resistance.

**Emergency Planning:**

- Updated and expanded evacuation and emergency response plan, including clear procedures and communication plans.

**Operational Improvements:**

- Enhanced weather monitoring and direct liaison with the marquee company during high-risk forecast periods.
- Pre-storm checklists introduced for securing the site.

Fingal and Cool running events will follow all guidance related to any future storms in the interest of public safety.

**Source of Reply:**

Stephen Johnson, A/Executive Parks & Landscape Officer, Operations Department

## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 9**

#### **COMPLAINTS REGARDING NEW LIGHTING IN THIS LEA - AI104770**

##### **Question: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on how many complaints have been received regarding the new lighting columns being rolled out in this Local Electoral Area?”

##### **Reply:**

Public Lighting are undertaking a programme of column replacements throughout the county, as most of the existing columns have either reached the end of useful life or are approaching end of life. Many of these columns are in very poor condition and need to be replaced. Some cable replacement works are also being undertaken where required to bring the public lighting installations up to current electrical standards.

Lighting calculations are carried out on the existing column positions before works commence to confirm the existing lighting levels. Where the new columns cannot be reinstalled in the original column positions, due to identified poor lighting levels or cabling issues, additional lighting design calculations have been carried out to determine the best locations for the replacement columns while still achieving the required light levels on the roadway and footpaths.

The Council is also obliged to ensure the roadway and footpaths are lit to the appropriate standard and that we minimise spill light and light pollution in areas that are not in the Council’s ownership.

In the Blanchardstown/Castleknock/Mulhuddart/Ongar LEA, one hundred and ten (110) no. columns have been replaced so far in 2025, with another twenty-six (26) no. columns in the process of being replaced in the Ashfield Estate in Mulhuddart.

Two (2) complaints have been received about the column replacement works being undertaken; one about a light relocated in a cul-de-sac in Lohunda Park, and one from Ashfield Gardens about the lights being too dark and requesting additional lights.

### **Lohunda Park**

With regards to the complaint received about the relocation of a column in a cul-de-sac in Lohunda Park, the light levels on the road and footpaths when the column was in its original position at the top of the cul-de-sac, did not meet the required lighting levels and standard for a road of this type. Street lights in general, are designed to emit most of the light sideways out of the light, to spread the light up and down a road, with a certain amount emitted out of the front of the light, to light the road and footpath opposite the light. The original light position at the top of the cul-de-sac created a lot of sideways spill light (light pollution) into the adjacent properties, and it did not provide enough forward light down the road. This meant the light levels on the roadway and footpath between the top of the cul-de-sac to the next light position was below the required standard.

The new column position improved the light levels on the road and footpaths and brought the light levels in the affected area up to the required standard. The new column position has also reduced the light spill and light pollution into adjacent properties, which can make these front gardens appear darker.

A night check was also carried out in Lohunda Park on 18th September 2025, and the light levels were measured at the back of the footpaths for the area referred to in the complaint received. The light levels recorded were well above the minimum levels required for an area of this type.

### **Ashfield Gardens**

With regards to the complaint received about the light levels from the new columns in Ashfield Gardens, the works to replace the existing public lighting columns in this area are still ongoing. The replacement columns for the two lights nearest to the property referred to in the complaint received, were installed beside the original columns. The lights currently installed on these two replacement columns are

temporary and the permanent light fittings still need to be installed. The new lights should improve the lighting levels along this part of Ashfield Gardens when they are installed.

When the current works in Ashfield Gardens are completed, the lighting levels will be reviewed and measured, and this review will determine if any additional works may be required.

**Source of Reply:**

Ms. Karen Leeson, Senior Executive Engineer, Public Lighting, Operations Department.

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 10**

**TRIMMING OF SHRUBBERY AT STONEBRIDGE BOUNDARY WALL -  
AI104778**

**Question: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given for the trimming back of shrubbery at Stonebridge Wall?”

**Reply:**

The works at this location are on the programme of works schedule and will be completed within the next couple of weeks.

**Source of Reply:**

Colin Gilhooley, Area Inspector, Operations Department

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## Shrubbery Stonebridge boundary wall



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## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 11**

#### **UPDATE REGARDING LIGHTING AT WILLOW WOOD GREEN/STONEBRIDGE ROAD FOOTPATH - AI104779**

##### **Question: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the detailed assessment of the path in the green area linking Willow Wood Grove and Stonebridge Road with the bus stop on the Ongar Distributor Road, which was to be undertaken to identify possible solutions to provide lighting to this path, at a more appropriate height and wattage, and take into account the required exclusion zone around the medium-voltage overhead ESB Networks cables in the area?”

##### **Reply:**

The detailed assessment will be completed as part of the preparations and costings of works to be considered for the 2026 Programme of Works. A preliminary lighting design has been carried out and the final lighting design layout will be determined by the detailed site assessment.

##### **Source of Reply:**

Ms. Karen Leeson, Senior Executive Engineer, Public Lighting, Operations Department.

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 12**

**CHRISTMAS TREE DROP OFF LOCATIONS IN THIS LEA - AI104780**

**Question: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“To ask the Chief Executive to provide a list of Christmas tree drop off locations for Christmas 2025 in this Local Electoral Area?”

**Reply:**

Christmas Tree Drop Off locations for 2025 are as follows:

- Hartstown Park, Car Park adjacent to Hartstown Secondary School
- St. Catherine’s Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin
- Millennium Car Park, Coolmine, Dublin 15

**Source of Reply:**

Colin Gilhooley, Area Inspector, Operations Department

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## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 13**

#### **INSTALLATION OF BARRIERS AT MEADOW COPSE ROAD - AI104771**

##### **Question: Councillor G. Sheehan**

“To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given for the installation of a scrambler prevention barrier at Meadow Copse Road crossing to Rusheeney View?”

##### **Reply:**

Currently, the Operations department has moved towards a K-barrier style entrance which can be seen throughout Dublin 15. While this slows scramblers, electric bikes etc. it does not prevent them from entering the open space.

At Meadow Copse road and Rusheeney view, the installation of a K-Barrier would not be considered. This is because there are several metres of tie-in works, which would be required to make people use this entrance only. The estates on both sides are easily accessed through many other routes, so the installation of a barrier here would not resolve the issue.

##### **Source of Reply:**

Stephen Johnson A/Executive Parks & Landscape Officer, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 14**

**REMOVAL OF UNDERGROWTH – WESTWAY VIEW AND WESTWAY  
GROVE - AI104793**

**Question: Councillor B. Hanaphy**

“To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to cut back the bushes and undergrowth between Westway View and Westway Grove and on the green between Sheephill Avenue and Westway Estate as there is an issue with dumping in the area?”

**Reply:**

These works are scheduled to take place as part of the winter works programme 2025/2026 in the coming months.

**Source of Reply:**

Colin Gilhooley, Area Inspector, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 15**

**REMOVAL OF RUBBISH – LANESBOROUGH PARK AREA - AI104794**

**Question: Councillor B. Hanaphy**

“To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to arrange for the removal of rubbish in the shrubbery areas of Lanesborough Park, Jamestown Road, Melville Road and St. Margaret’s Road, as the Council operates a regular road sweeping service in Lanesborough, usually every Tuesday, and it is not possible for the machinery to access these areas to remove litter and rubbish?”

**Reply:**

These areas have been inspected and litter picks are due to be carried out in the coming weeks.

**Source of Reply:**

Colin Gilhooley, Area Inspector, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 16**

**REPAIR OF BROKEN PATH – BLANCHARDSTOWN ROAD NORTH -  
AI104796**

**Question: Councillor B. Hanaphy**

“To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to repair the broken footpath at the pedestrian crossing at the Technological University Dublin roundabout, on Blanchardstown North, and to inspect the condition of the footpaths at the other pedestrian crossings on Blanchardstown Road North?”

**Reply:**

Thanks to the Councillor for notifying the Council of this matter.

The Traffic Section have contacted their contractor and instructed them to rectify the hardstanding at the crossing.

The work will be carried out and completed in the coming weeks.

**Source of Reply:**

Quintin Greally, Executive Traffic Engineer, Operations Department

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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**ITEM NO. 17**

**INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE – SHEEPHILL AVENUE AND WESTWAY -  
AI104797**

**Question: Councillor B. Hanaphy**

“To ask the Chief Executive if consideration can be given to installing a “No Dumping” sign on the green between Sheephill Avenue and Westway?”

**Reply:**

The Council do not install “No Dumping” signage in residential areas.

**Source of Reply:**

Michael Tynan, Area Inspector, Operations Department

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# **Fingal County Council Parking Control Bye-Laws**

## **Report on Public Consultation**

**Blanchardstown–Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Ongar,  
Services A, Area Committee Meeting**

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025**

# Legislative Background



As per the draft Bye-laws FCC is acting in exercise of the powers vested in it by Section 101 of the Road Traffic Act 1961, as amended and Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.

Provision is made for the regulation of car parks in the 1961 Act and parking places on public roads in the 1994 Act and therefore S. 199 of the Local Government Act 2000 does not apply.

## CAR PARKS

Section 101 (7) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 provides:

*Any local authority may make bye-laws as to the use of any car park provided by them under this section, and, in particular, in relation to all or any of the following matters:*

- (a) restricting the classes of vehicles which may be admitted to the car park;*
- (b) specifying the charges to be made for the use of the car park;*
- (c) specifying the periods for which vehicles may remain in the car park.*
- (d) specifying the conditions subject to which vehicles may use the car park.*

The Local Government Act 2000 does not apply as per S. 199 2(b) thereof "A bye-law may not be made under this subsection for a purpose as respects which provision for that particular purpose is made by or under any other enactment or may be made under such enactment".

## Public Consultation



- An advertisement was placed in 2 No. local newspapers, and a copy of the Draft Fingal Parking Control Bye-Laws were published on the Fingal Consultation Portal from the 17<sup>th</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025.
- Copies of the Draft Bye-Laws were also made available for inspection in Council offices, and the Consultation was advertised several times across the Council's social media platforms.



# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AS PER DRAFT BYE-LAWS

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# Proposed Amendments to Parking Control Bye-Laws



## 1. Review Parking Charges – Proposed Changes:

| On Street Parking Charges | Current  | Proposed |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Range ↓↑ p/hr             | €0.50    | €1.00    |
|                           | €1.20    | €1.70    |
| On Street Long Stay       | €2 p/day | €5 p/day |

| Car Park / Off Street Charges |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| €0.50hr / €3 day              | €1hr / €5 day |

| Residential Parking Permit | FCC       |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Permit                     | €20 / €30 | €30 / €50 |
| Replacement                | €10       | N/C       |
| Change of vehicle          | €10       | N/C       |
| Change of address          | €10       | N/C       |
| Visitor Disc               | €1.50     | N/C       |

| Commercial Permit | FCC      |
|-------------------|----------|
|                   | 600 €700 |

| Car Club Permit | FCC |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
|                 | 500 | N/C |

# Proposed Amendments to Parking Control Bye-Laws



## 2. Proposal to introduce new Pay and Display Locations at Coastal Car Parks:

|                                         |                                          |                                          |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Coast Road<br>Car Park,<br>Malahide     | Portmarnock<br>Beach Car<br>Park (North) | Portmarnock<br>Beach Car<br>Park (South) | Red Island<br>Car Park,<br>Skerries     |
| Tower Bay Car<br>Park, Portrane         | South Beach<br>Car Park,<br>Donabate     | Loughshinny<br>Beach Car<br>Park         | Rush Beach<br>Car Park<br>(North), Rush |
| Rush Beach<br>Car Park<br>(South), Rush | Howth<br>Summit Car<br>Park, Howth       | Balscadden<br>Car Park,<br>Howth         | Carrickbrack<br>Hill Car Park,<br>Howth |

*\*First hour free of charge and €1.00 per hour thereafter subject to a maximum charge of €5 per day.*

# Proposed Amendments to Parking Control Bye-Laws



## 3. EV Charging spaces

- Statutory time-plate 3hour max stay, provision for enforcement



## 4. Update Bye-Laws text with reference to:

- “*Display of permits*” – now virtual permit system
- “*Quay Street Car Park – South of Bracken River*” – remove and replace with Mill Street Car Park
- Bridgefield Car Park “*1 hr free parking*” – 2 hrs free parking
- Mobility Hub – Definition

## 5. Exemptions

- Local Authority and An Post vehicles during normal course of duties -S.I. No. 222/2024 - Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 and S.I. No. 274/1998 - Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) (Amendment) Regulations, 1998

# SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

## Public Consultation



A total of **553 submissions** were received during the consultation period.

- 5 submissions were received in favour of the proposed amendments to the Bye Laws.
- 2 submissions related to the proposed increase in on-street parking charges.
- 1 submission related to the proposed increase in commercial permits.
- 1 submission related to restriction on residential permits for purpose built apartments.
- 15 submissions received relating to the change in fee structure for Mill Street Car Park (incl. Max. 3hr Stay).
- 529 submissions related to the introduction of parking charges at coastal car parks.

# Public Consultation -

## Submissions in favour of proposed amendments



*"I fully support the introduction of fees at the above locations. However there must be a clear path for where the money collected will be spent by the council. A footpath from portrane to tower bay is vital especially as this is a walking route and is dangerous in it's current condition. The car park at balcarick is in need of surfacing in tarmac. Is is not fair to the public to charge at these locations unless these funds can be used for these upgrades."*

*"I wholeheartedly support the introduction of car park charges. Hopefully the funds can be used to provide more safe walking and cycling infrastructure and bike parking to encourage people to reach the area safely and healthily. The pollution caused by car exhausts is particularly horrible on hot days when the car parks are full and hopefully this will encourage people to adopt more sustainable modes of transport. Equally, it should be ensured that public transport is prioritised and that parking for people with special needs is protected."*

*"I agree in principle to charging for parking as I believe too much of public land is given to cars. However, the main reason for the over use of cars in the Fingal area is because of a lack of infrastructure given to public transport or active travel. You will need to offer proper alternatives to encourage people to leave their cars at home. This would mean more frequent public transport and safer routes for people using bikes or mobility scooters..."*



# Public Consultation

## Submissions relating to proposed increase in on-street parking charges and commercial permits:



*"The proposal to remove free parking in key locations in Fingal is bad enough but in addition Fingal Co Co are also proposing a 25% increase in on street parking fees across many locations. There is no justification for such an increase, charges have already risen by 20% in recent years. The new proposal will mean a 50% increase in parking fees over a small number of years, almost double the rate of inflation for the period."*

*"FCC would appear to be unaware that the cost of living in this country is very high, amongst the highest in the EU. It is very disappointing to see a public body doing its best to make the cost of living even higher by imposing additional and increased charges. It is evident that the policy of FCC along with most other local authorities in Ireland is to abolish as much as possible free parking and install paid parking in every square inch."*

- Fingal County Council propose to increase the on-street parking charges following a comparative assessment carried out against other Dublin LA's, and privately operated parking facilities throughout the county. The charges (including commercial permits) proposed remain lower than other LA's.
- The estimated increase in income from parking charges will form part of the Budget 2026 discussions and will provide for increased operational expenditure.

# Public Consultation

## Submissions relating to residential permits for purpose-built apartment blocks:



*"The draft bye-laws discriminate against apartment residents, preventing them from applying for residents' permits and against their carers and visitors, who are also prevented for applying for permits."*

- Part III of the Parking Bye- Laws state: **"resident"** means a person other than the occupant of a purpose-built apartment block, who satisfies the Council that his/her normal dwelling place is at a premises situated in a street containing a ticket parking area;

- Owing to the density and volume of units contained in purpose built apartment blocks, it would not be feasible to facilitate residents permits for all occupiers.
- Purpose built apartment blocks have allocated parking per apartment. This negates the requirement for on-street residents permits.
- At the time of purchase or lease, occupiers know if they have a parking place with the unit.
- All other local authorities apply the same conditions under their respective Parking Bye-Laws.
- The Council do not propose to amend this previously adopted section of the Parking Control Bye-Laws 2020.

# Public Consultation

## Submissions relating to change of fee structure (incl. 3hr Max Stay) in Mill Street Car Park:



*"Removing the daily limit from this car park will cause havoc to daily commuters as the train station space isn't sufficient. It is full at 7am as most people work in the office between Tues-Thursday. People also use it to spend more than 3h in town, GP, at the cinema or beach, etc. That park isn't that full that you need to put a 3h limit surely?..."*

*"I wish to raise my serious objections to the proposed reduction in hours you can park in Mill Street Car Park. This carpark is needed for commuters to get to work in Dublin City Centre.*

*The train station carpark is full around 7am...I live in rural Balbriggan and need to use the car to get as far as the train station. If you continue to make it so difficult I'll drive to work and that's against the green agenda and adds to traffic congestion."*

*"I wish to object to the proposed change of enforcing a parking time limit of max 3 hrs for the Mill Street Car Park Balbriggan. This car park is used by people who commute to work using the train as myself. There is no car parking available at the Balbriggan Train Station most working days after 7 am."*

- The 67 spaces available at the Town Centre Car Park in Mill Street / Quay Street primary function is to service users of business, leisure and amenities in the town.
- Long Stay car park users including rail commuters can avail of the new **free car parking** spaces available at Bath Road, Bath Road overflow, and Bremore Castle. These car parking facilities cater for long-term / all day parking, and are within 6 – 15 min walk to Balbriggan Train Station.

- Parking to a max of 3 hour limit is available for beach users. Members of the public wishing to partake in beach activities over the maximum stay can consider the **long-term free parking** options available at *Bath Road, Bremore Castle and Lambreecher*.

# Coastal/Beach Car Parks

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# Public Consultation

## Submissions relating to the introduction of parking charges at coastal car parks:



*"Adding charges for the use of the parking at Donabate and Portrane Beach will inhibit local residents from daily walks/swims and activities on the beach. This provides an unnecessary cost for something that is a really important amenity to the locals."*

*"I oppose the proposal for car parking charges at Loughshinny Beach car park, as being a resident of Rockabill View we are already subject to visitors to the beach parking at the entrance to our small estate and effectively blocking the access to our houses..."*

*"The beach car parks should remain free of charge for visitors. Many of them are not accessible by public transport and are separate from the main population hubs. Car is the most frequent way that people access these areas, and the people of Fingal should be able to use their natural amenities free of charge"*

*"I'm totally against parking charges at beach car parks. Beaches are natural amenities for all to enjoy for our health and mental well-being. Personally, as a senior citizen, living alone, I get great enjoyment each day bringing my dog for a walk and meeting up with other dog walking people. All enjoyment would be taken away if I had to pay for a car park and watch the clock."*

*"I want to object to the proposed parking payments at various beaches in Fingal. We should all have the right to visit and enjoy our beaches without charge. We want people to come to our beautiful coastline and spend time in the outdoors. This should be a free amenity for all to enjoy."*



### Proposed New Charges at Car Parks – Breakdown of Submissions by location:

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|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Donabate</b>       | <b>172</b> |
| <b>Loughshinny</b>    | <b>21</b>  |
| <b>Malahide Beach</b> | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>Howth</b>          | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>Portmarnock</b>    | <b>27</b>  |

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Mill Street, Balbriggan</b> | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Red Island, Skerries</b>    | <b>48</b>  |
| <b>Rush</b>                    | <b>76</b>  |
| <b>Portrane / Tower Bay</b>    | <b>194</b> |
| <b>All Beach Locations</b>     | <b>187</b> |

## Public Consultation - Overview



### Context of submissions – Top 10 Break down by main subject:

1. Car Parks should remain free of charge (102 Submissions)
2. Lack of public transport and walking/cycling facilities (83 Submissions)
3. Added financial burden (50 Submissions)
4. Mental and physical health benefits – Should Remain FOC (37)
5. Charges will impact on local residents (65)
6. Will impact the elderly or mobility impaired (25)
7. May discourage the public from using the Beach (22)
8. Improvements needed to facilities (22)
9. Impact on tourism and local business (17)
10. Commuter Parking (7)



## Public Consultation - Overview

**Fingal County Council Review & Consideration of Submissions relating to the introduction of parking charges at coastal car parks:**

The Operations Department has reviewed, and given consideration to the submissions received at each of the new locations and considered each under the following criteria:

1. Access to public transport availability at each location.
2. Turnaround of parking bays for local businesses at carparks.
3. Traffic management issues during busy periods and summer months
4. Public usage at each location.

# Proposed Amendment to Charges at Coastal Beach Car Parks



Fingal County Council following Review & Consideration of Submissions relating to the introduction of parking charges at coastal car parks propose the following:

|   | Location                                | Parking Fee Proposed                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Mill Street Car Park, Balbriggan        | First hour free of charge and €1.70 per hour thereafter and on a pro rata basis for periods less than 1 hour (subject to a minimum purchase of €1.00). Maximum Stay time-limit 3hrs. |
| 2 | Bridgefield Car Park, Malahide          | First 2 hours free of charge and €1.70 per hour thereafter and on a pro rata basis for periods less than 1 hour (subject to a minimum purchase of €1.00).                            |
| 3 | Coast Road Car Park, Malahide           | First 2 hours free of charge and €1.00 per hour thereafter subject to a maximum charge of €5 per day.                                                                                |
| 4 | Portmarnock Beach Car Park, Strand Road | First 2 hours free of charge and €1.00 per hour thereafter subject to a maximum charge of €5 per day.                                                                                |

# Proposed Amendment to Charges at Coastal Beach Car Parks (Continued)



|   | Location                                            | Parking Fee Proposed                                                                                  |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | Red Island Car Park, Skerries                       | First 2 hours free of charge and €1.00 per hour thereafter subject to a maximum charge of €5 per day. |
| 6 | Howth Summit Car Park, Howth                        | First 2 hours free of charge and €1.00 per hour thereafter subject to a maximum charge of €5 per day. |
| 7 | Portmarnock Beach Car Park (South), Golf Links Road | No Charge                                                                                             |
| 8 | Tower Bay Car Park, Portrane                        | No Charge                                                                                             |
| 9 | South Beach Car Park, Donabate                      | No Charge                                                                                             |

# Proposed Amendment to Charges at Coastal Beach Car Parks (Continued)



|    | Location                             | Parking Fee Proposed |
|----|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 10 | Rush Beach Car Park (North),<br>Rush | No Charge            |
| 11 | Rush Beach Car Park (South),<br>Rush | No Charge            |
| 12 | Balscadden Car Park, Howth           | No Charge            |
| 13 | Carrickbrack Hill Car Park,<br>Howth | No Charge            |
| 14 | Loughshinny Beach Car Park           | No Charge            |

# Timelines

# Proposed Timelines for Review



**October 2025**

Report to Area  
Committees on  
Public  
Consultation and  
Draft Bye-laws



**December  
2025**

Report to SPC on  
Public  
Consultation and  
Draft Bye-Laws



**December  
2025**

Report to CPG on  
Public  
Consultation and  
Draft Bye-laws



# Fingal Draft Budget 2026

## Revenue Budget 2026



The increased income from Car Parking charges will form part of the Draft Revenue Budget 2026 budgetary considerations. This additional income will provide for an increased Operations budget delivering increased services in the public realm including:-

Page 70

- Funding of additional staff resources in all 3 areas
- Increased enforcement with the engagement of 3 additional Traffic Wardens
- Increased cleaning of beaches and villages during summer months
- Increased costs of Recycling Centres



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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

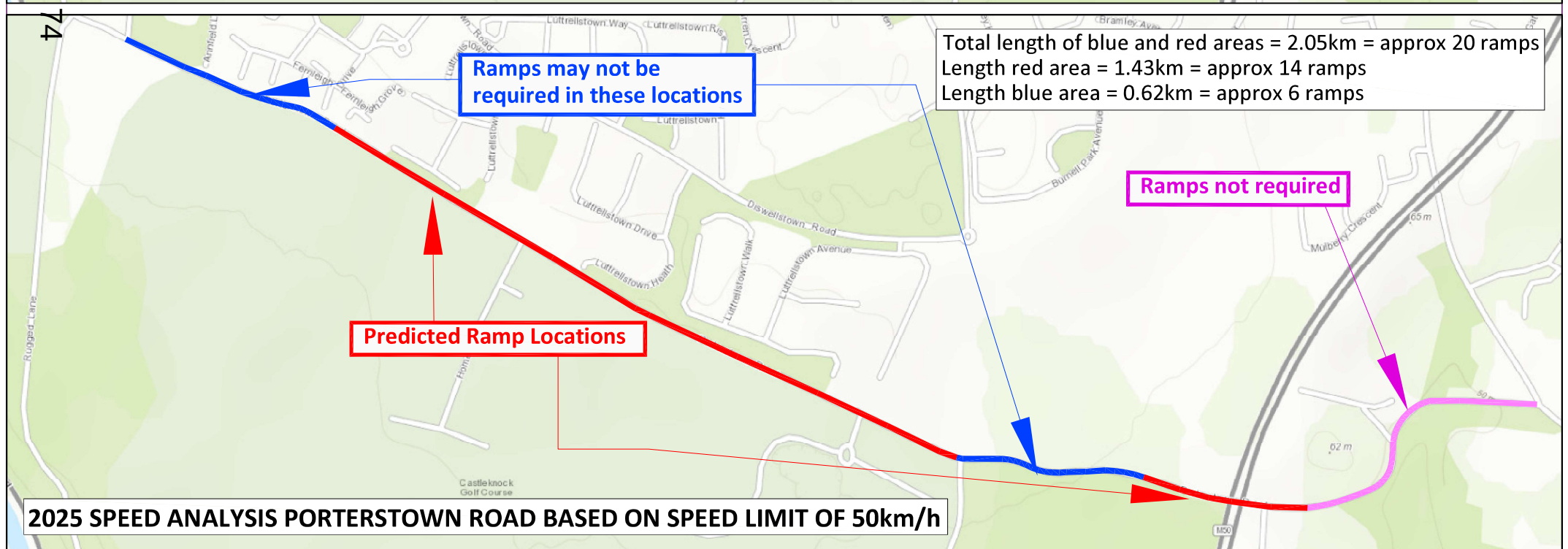
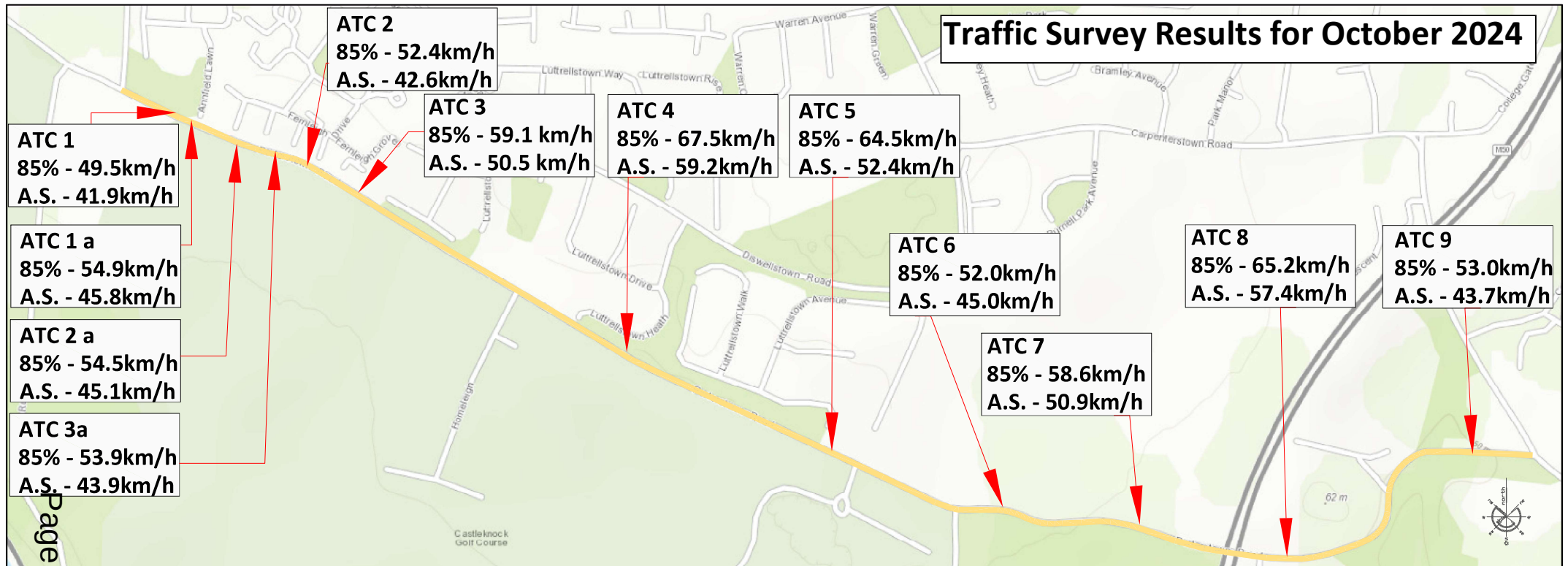
**MEETING OF BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE  
(Services A – Operational Matters & Water Services)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

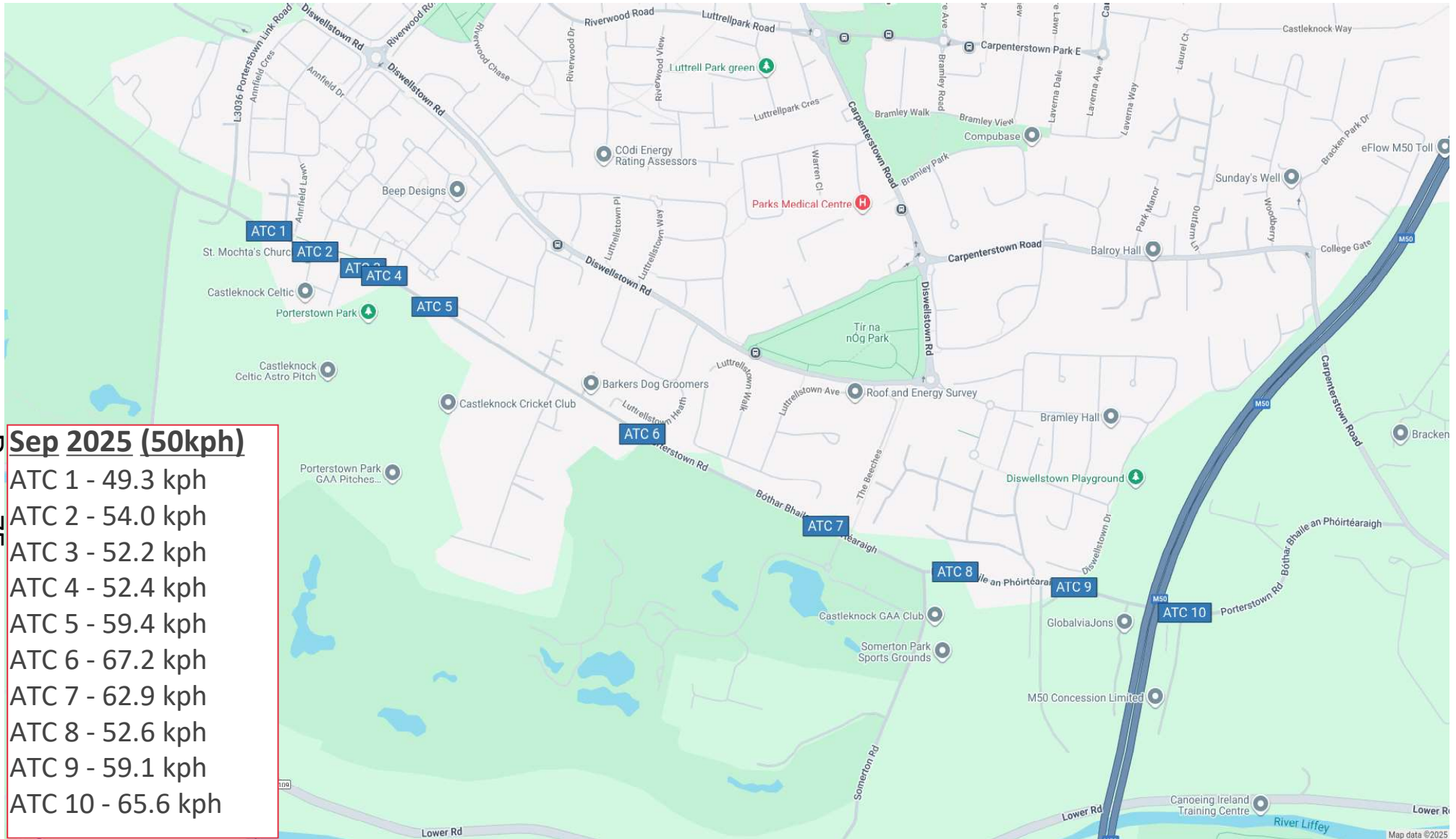
**Traffic Survey Results and Proposed Traffic Calming Measures on the Porterstown Road**

- October 2024 - Automatic Tube Count (ATCs) deployed on Porterstown Road (60kph)
- February 2025 - Speed reduction proposal went on Public Consultation
- April 2025 - Speed reduction from 60kph to 50kph implemented on Porterstown Road
- September 2025 - Automatic Tube Count (ATCs) deployed on Porterstown Road (50kph)

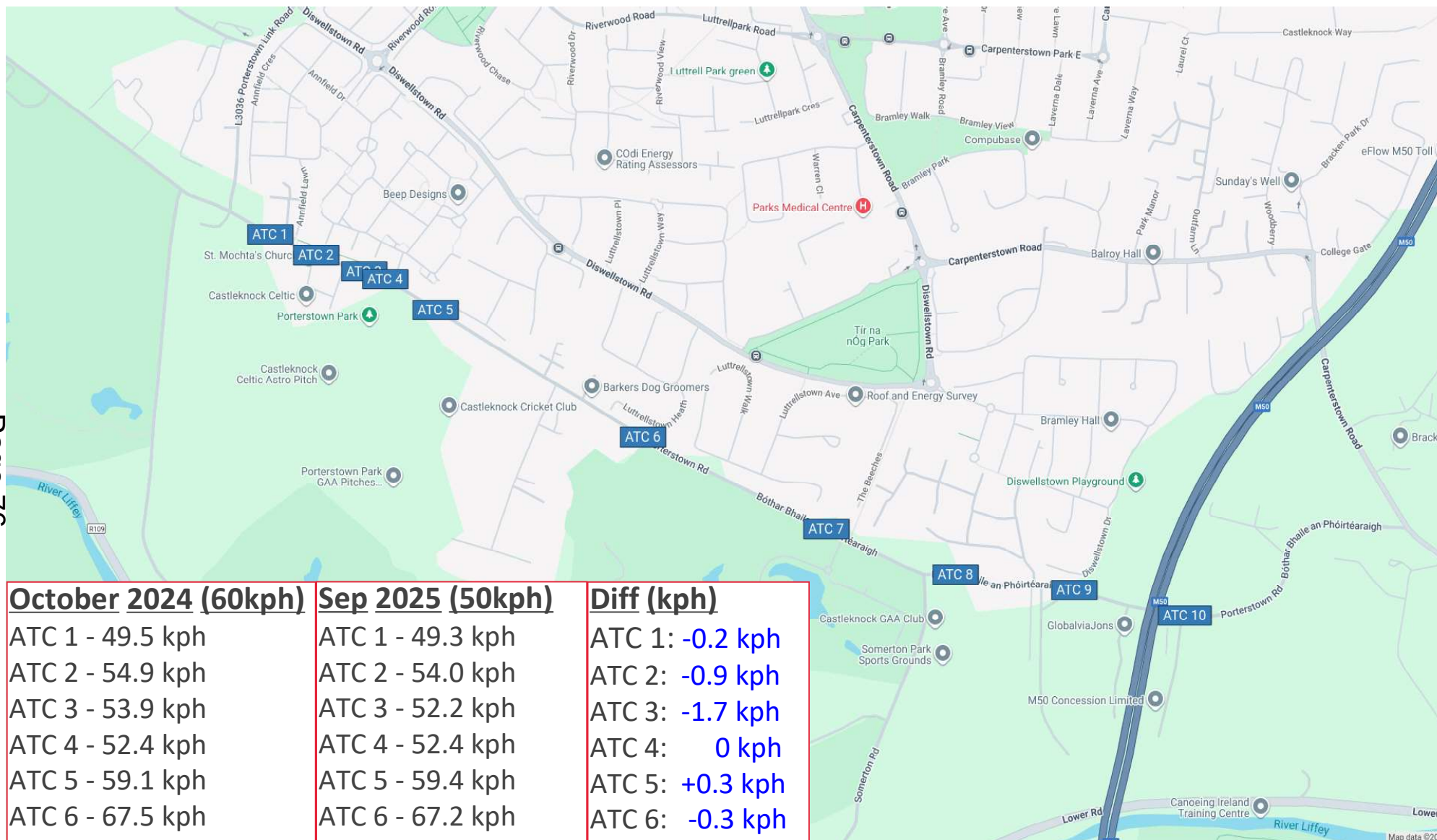
# Traffic Survey Results for October 2024



## Traffic Survey Results for September 2025



## Comparison of Traffic Survey Results for October 2024 & September 2025



| October 2024 (60kph) | Sep 2025 (50kph)  | Diff (kph)       |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ATC 1 - 49.5 kph     | ATC 1 - 49.3 kph  | ATC 1: -0.2 kph  |
| ATC 2 - 54.9 kph     | ATC 2 - 54.0 kph  | ATC 2: -0.9 kph  |
| ATC 3 - 53.9 kph     | ATC 3 - 52.2 kph  | ATC 3: -1.7 kph  |
| ATC 4 - 52.4 kph     | ATC 4 - 52.4 kph  | ATC 4: 0 kph     |
| ATC 5 - 59.1 kph     | ATC 5 - 59.4 kph  | ATC 5: +0.3 kph  |
| ATC 6 - 67.5 kph     | ATC 6 - 67.2 kph  | ATC 6: -0.3 kph  |
| ATC 7 - 64.5 kph     | ATC 7 - 62.9 kph  | ATC 7: -1.6 kph  |
| ATC 8 - 52.0 kph     | ATC 8 - 52.6 kph  | ATC 8: +0.6 kph  |
| ATC 9 - 58.6 kph     | ATC 9 - 59.1 kph  | ATC 9: +0.5 kph  |
| ATC 10 - 65.2 kph    | ATC 10 - 65.6 kph | ATC 10: +0.4 kph |

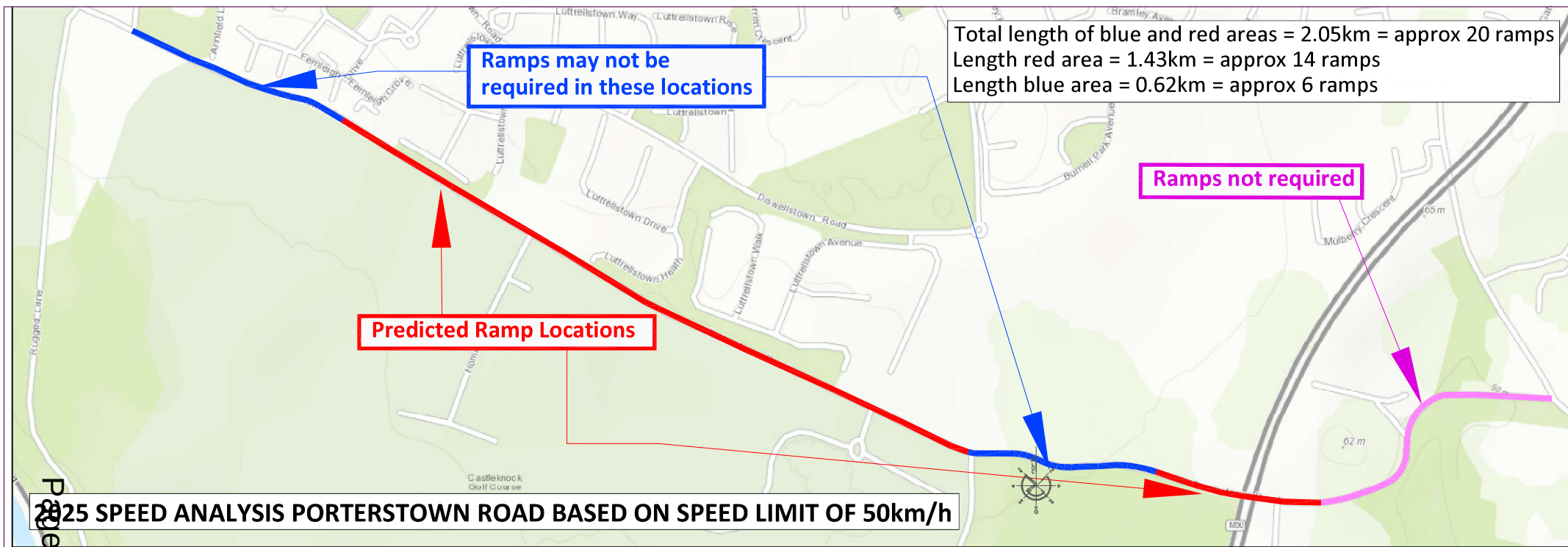
# **Guidance and Regulations for the Installation of Ramps**

- The Traffic Management Guidelines, 2022. Pg 102.  
Department of Transport

The design of a traffic calming scheme should aim to minimise accelerating and braking at and between features. It should encourage driving at a constant low speed. Good design practice is to space appropriate features as regularly and frequently as practicable (70m to 100m). Poor design practice is to have features that encourage harsh braking and consequent heavy acceleration in between (severe features or spacing greater than 120m apart).

- Road Traffic (Bollards and Ramp) Regulations, 1988

3. A ramp shall only be provided where its centre is within 5 metres of a street light.



#### Sep 2025 (50 kph)

- ATC 1 - 49.3 kph
- ATC 2 - 54.0 kph
- ATC 3 - 52.2 kph
- ATC 4 - 52.4 kph
- ATC 5 - 59.4 kph
- ATC 6 - 67.2 kph
- ATC 7 - 62.9 kph
- ATC 8 - 52.6 kph
- ATC 9 - 59.1 kph
- ATC 10 - 65.6 kph

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Fingal County Council  
Operations Department

Traffic Section

Traffic Management  
Scheme 2025

## PORTERSTOWN ROAD, DUBLIN 15

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall  
Fingal County Council

Roinn na nOibríochtaí  
Operations Department



Traffic Section - Civic Offices, Grove Road, Banchardstown, Dublin 15.  
☎ (01) 8905000 ✉ roads@fingal.ie

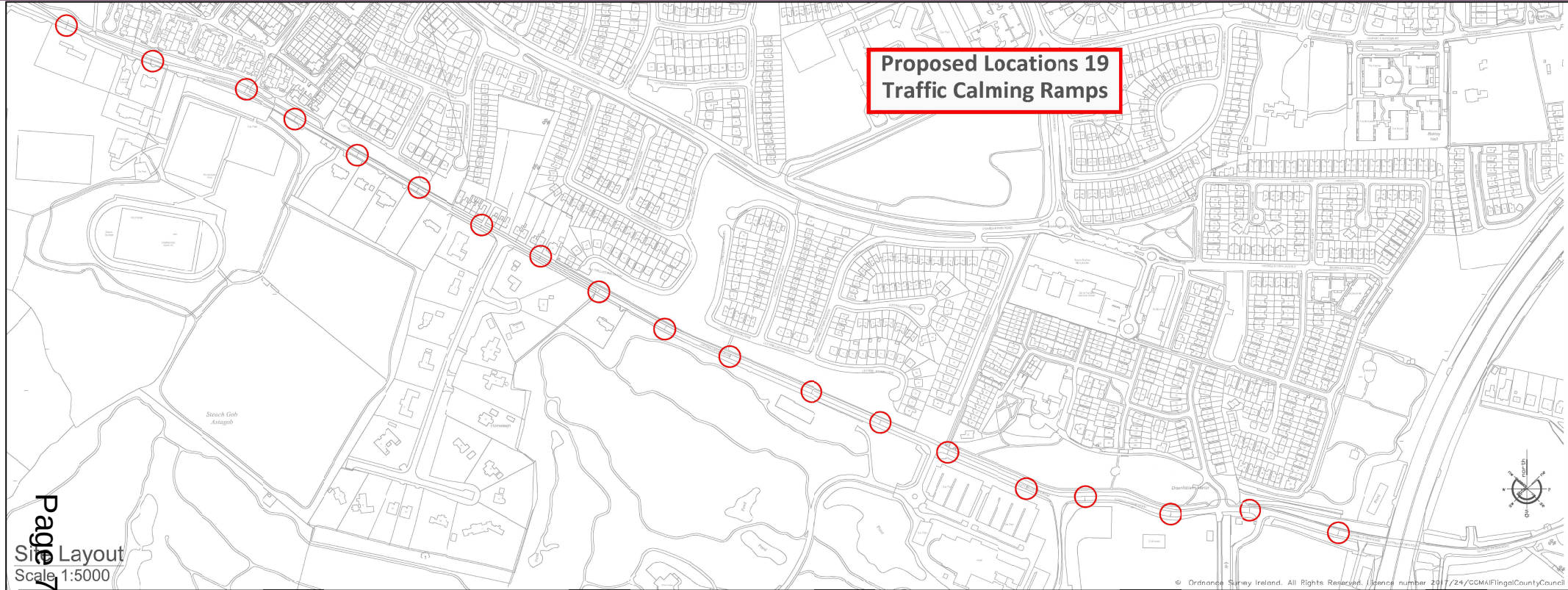
Director of Services: Mary T. Daly Date:

Senior Engineer: Karen A. Gallagher Scale: NTS

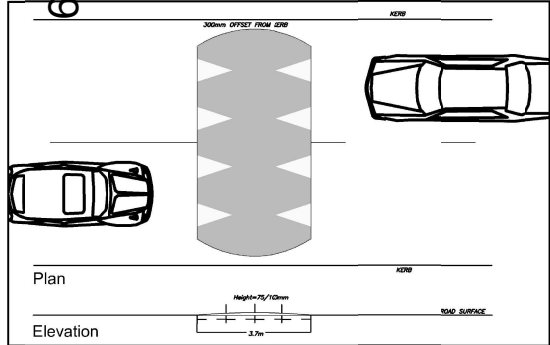
Senior Exec. Engineer: James Culhane Drawn by: cof

Project Engineer: Quintin Grealley Revision:

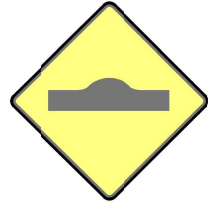
Drawing Number: 2025-PD-TC-003



Page 19  
Site Layout  
Scale 1:5000



Traffic Calming Ramp  
Not to Scale



Road Signage  
Not to Scale

COMHAIRLECONTAE FHINE GALL  
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROAD TRAFFIC ACTS 1993-2023  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT REGULATION ACT, 2009  
TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES 2025  
Porterstown Road Castleknock, Dublin 15

Fingal County Council in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 hereby gives notice that it has prepared Schemes for the provision of traffic calming measures at the following locations:

- Porterstown Road Castleknock, Dublin 15. 19no. Traffic Calming ramps Drawing No: 2025-PD-TC-006 refers.

The schemes include the provision of traffic calming ramps, appropriate road signage and markings where necessary.

Plans and particulars of the scheme as shown on the above Drawing Numbers are available for inspection from 28th October 2025 to 28th November 2025 as follows:-

| Location                                                                              | Day           | Opening hours                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Fingal County Council<br>Civic Offices<br>Grove Road,<br>Blanchardstown,<br>Dublin 15 | Monday-Friday | 9.00am - 5.00pm<br>(4.30pm Friday) |

The proposed schemes are also available to view on Fingal County Council's website at <https://consult.fingal.ie>

Representations in relation to the proposed scheme may be made in writing to: Administrative Officer, Blanchardstown-Mulhuddart/Castleknock/Olgar Operations Area, Fingal County Council, Grove Road Blanchardstown Dublin 15 or through the online consultation portal to be received no later than 5pm on 28th November 2025.

**Administrative Officer**  
**BMCO Operations**  
All comments, including the names of those making comments, submitted to the Council in regard to this Traffic Calming Scheme will form part of the statutory report to be presented to the monthly meeting of Fingal County Council.  
**Dated: 28th October 2025**

Accordingly the statutory report will list the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme in accordance with the regulations of the Road Traffic Act 1994.  
The submissions will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and consequently will appear on the Council's website. By making a submission the name of the individual or bodies will appear on the statutory report and minutes of the meeting.

Fingal County Council  
Operations Department

Traffic Section

Traffic Management  
Scheme 2025

**PUBLIC DISPLAY**  
**PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME**  
**- PORTERSTOWN ROAD, CASTLEKNOCK, DUBLIN 15.**

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall  
Fingal County Council

Réiteas na nOibríochtaí  
Operations Department

Traffic Section - Civic Offices, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.  
☎ (01) 8905000  
✉ [roads@fingal.ie](mailto:roads@fingal.ie)

Director of Services: Mary T. Daly  
Senior Engineer: Karen A. Gallagher  
Senior Exec. Engineer: James Culhane  
Project Engineer: Quintin Grealley  
Drawing Number:

Date:  
Scale: NTS  
Drawn by: cof  
Revision:  
2025-PD-TC-006

## **Traffic Calming Public Consultation**

### **Notice of the proposed traffic calming measures to be published for public consultation for**

- The Porterstown Road, Dublin 15

From Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October to Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November inviting observations and submissions.

## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 20**

#### **INSTALLATION OF YELLOW BOX – FAIRHAVEN - AI103577**

##### **Motion: Councillor T. Leddy**

“That the Chief Executive arrange to install a yellow box at the entrance to Fairhaven Estate to allow residents enter and exit at peak times, especially during events in the Phoenix Park.”

##### **Report:**

Over the coming weeks, the Traffic Section will carry out a number of inspections at the junction of Fairhaven and Castleknock Road to determine if access/egress at the estate entrance is problematic.

If warranted, a yellow box will be added on Castleknock Road.

Please note that lining works for 2025 are finished and if a yellow box is warranted at this location, it will be added to the 2026 lining contract.

##### **Source of Report:**

Quintin Greally, Executive Traffic Engineer, Operations Department

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## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 21**

#### **TIMELINE FOR REPLACEMENT RAMPS – BLACKCOURT ROAD - AI104285**

##### **Motion: Councillor B. Hanapahy**

“That the Chief Executive provides a timeline of when works will commence for the replacement ramps on Blackcourt Road.”

##### **Report:**

The Traffic Section were informed in Q2 of 2025 that some of the modular cushions on Blackcourt Road needed repair. The Depot carried out the repairs.

Upon inspection it became apparent that replacing the modular cushions with new asphalt cushions was the best option long-term.

The Traffic Section put out a tender in Q2 of 2025 and subsequently appointed a contractor to replace the modular cushions.

To keep the type of speed cushion consistent, it was decided to replace all the modular cushions with asphalt cushions for the full length of Blackcourt Road.

The work was completed on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.

##### **Source of Report:**

Quintin Greally, Executive Traffic Engineer, Operations Department

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## COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

### BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)

THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025

#### ITEM NO. 22

#### PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COOLMINE WOODS - AI104698

##### **Motion: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“That the Chief Executive gives consideration to the proposal submitted (details supplied) for improvements to Coolmine Woods in next year's Programme of Works.”

##### **Report:**

The Council firstly wishes to thank Adam Narey for the extensive work he has put into this proposal for public open space at Coolmine woods. Requests to improve an area from members of the public or local groups are always welcome, reviewed and, if agreeable, considered for future programmes of work, whether they are revenue or capital funded.

With any request which is feasible, the appropriate budget must be sought before it can be entered onto a works program. Current planned projects will take priority over any ad-hoc requests.

Based on the recommendations in the report, please see the following responses:

- The Operations Department are responsible and maintain the majority of the lands at Coolmine woods.
- Public open spaces and Parks are managed in line with the open space strategy. Where possible, changes to management practices will be made to achieve a net gain for biodiversity. Coolmine woods consist of a woodland and grassland area. As a priority for 2026, tree works within the woodland will

commence based on a recent tree survey. If any trees are suitable for sculpture, this will be considered, otherwise monoliths will be retained for biodiversity.

- The desire lines identified in the report are mown grass paths. These grass paths can change in shape and layout from year to year. These are not worn desire lines as may be seen in other open spaces and therefore works to formalise these would not be considered.
- There is public lighting currently on the main thoroughfare through the woods as this creates a shortcut when travelling from Grove Road to the Clonsilla road. However, no other area would be considered for lighting as there are lit alternative routes.
- It is acknowledged that the area at Coolmine woods could be considered an under-utilised space. This may be owing to its usage as a cut through and not as a destination. Fingal Operations staff have noted that the perimeter fencing is not conducive to increasing the public's use of the space. The site is deficient in any signage, and this will be addressed as soon as possible.
- For 2026, the Operations department will carry out essential tree works in the woods. Ecological improvements such as the installation of bird and bat boxes will be considered. Also, the use of a tree which is being removed to be used as a sculpture will be considered if a tree is deemed suitable. Improvements to the boundary fencing (replacement with lower fence or hedge) will also be considered for 2026 subject to budget.

The proposed works in 2026 will present opportunities for how this space may be further developed, for example, the addition of seating and bins.

**Source of Report:**

Stephen Johnson, A/Executive Parks & Landscape Officer, Operations Department



# **Coolmine Woods: Pathways to Accessibility, Safety and Nature**

**A Proposal Briefing Report for  
Cllr Angela Donnelly  
Sinn Féin Councillor for Ongar LEA  
Fingal County Council**

**Prepared by:  
Adam Narey BSc (Hons) Design and Innovation  
Local Resident, Blanchardstown**

**Contact: [Adampnarey@hotmail.com](mailto:Adampnarey@hotmail.com)**

**Mobile: 0831704800**

**Version: Draft 1  
Page 87**

**Google Maps Location: 53°23'4.24"N, 6°23'38.96"W**

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# 1. Executive Summary

This report presents a proposal for enhancing Coolmine Woods, a publicly accessible green space located opposite Blanchardstown Fire Station. The site holds clear value as a pedestrian corridor and community resource but remains underdeveloped compared to nearby parks. By introducing modest, low-impact interventions, the area could become a safer, more attractive, and more ecologically valuable space for local residents.

The findings draw on both local knowledge as a resident and regular user of the site and an analysis of current and historical satellite imagery (2002–2025). This combination provided evidence of how the site has been used and how its condition has evolved over time, particularly the development of pedestrian desire lines.

Key opportunities identified include:

- **Pathways and Connectivity** – Formalising existing desire lines with surfaced trails and creating a focal point with seating and public art, drawing inspiration from similar improvement projects delivered locally.
- **Safety and Infrastructure** – Extending lighting, adding bins and seating, and improving signage to reassure residents and support positive use.
- **Grassland and Biodiversity** – Enhancing grassland with native wildflowers, clarifying mowing practices, and introducing features such as bird boxes and bug hotels to strengthen ecological value.

It is recognised that not all proposed improvements need to be implemented at once. A phased approach informed by cost analysis would allow gradual delivery in line with available funding. In addition, land ownership and management responsibilities should first be clarified to ensure the correct authority is engaged.

The report concludes with recommendations for Fingal County Council and local representatives to commission a biodiversity review, explore funding mechanisms, coordinate with developers who have delivered comparable works in the area, and facilitate community participation in ecological supports. Together, these actions would help transform Coolmine Woods into a well-used, safe, and environmentally rich community asset.

## 2. Introduction

### **Project background and motivation:**

**This proposal sets out a vision for the improvement of an underused green space located in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, with a focus on enhancing biodiversity, accessibility, and community value through practical, achievable interventions. The project emerged from both professional and personal motivation: as a recent graduate in Design and Innovation—with a focus on environmental science and sustainable design—and a resident of the area, I have a vested interest in protecting and improving local spaces that contribute to ecological health and community wellbeing.**

**The site in question, while partially maintained through occasional mowing and equipped with public access paths, has remained largely underdeveloped for over two decades. Informal desire lines, fragmented habitats, and a lack of ecological planning suggest untapped potential. (This project aims to apply design principles and ecological awareness to reimagine the space not through major redevelopment, but through thoughtful land-use improvements that are sensitive to both environmental needs and how people already engage with the site.**

### 3. Site Overview

The site: commonly referred to as *Coolmine Woods*—is a publicly accessible green space located opposite Blanchardstown Fire Station and the Fingal Recycling Centre, along the edge of the Coolmine Industrial Estate. Despite its name, much of the area consists of open grassland interspersed with tree cover and informal paths.

Its central position within Blanchardstown places it at a crossroads between residential neighbourhoods, public transport links, schools and commercial areas, making it a natural thoroughfare for pedestrians.

The satellite image below outlines the site boundary and highlights its connections to surrounding infrastructure, underlining its potential as a local hub for safe movement, recreation, and ecological value.



Figure 1: Satellite image of Coolmine Woods, site boundary and links to surrounding infrastructure.



|                  |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Name:       | Coolmine Woods                                                                                                                                                    |
| Map Coordinates: | 53°23'4.24"N, 6°23'38.96"W                                                                                                                                        |
| Google Map Link: | <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/53%C2%B023'4.24%22N+6%C2%B023'38.96%22W">https://www.google.com/maps/place/53%C2%B023'4.24%22N+6%C2%B023'38.96%22W</a> |

Table 1: Coordinates recorded using Google Earth Pro. Locations are approximate and intended for general reference only.



| Full Site Dimensions |        |                                 |
|----------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Measurement Type     | Value  | Unit                            |
| Perimeter            | 939    | Metres (m)                      |
| Area                 | 41,866 | Square Metres (m <sup>2</sup> ) |
| Area (hectares)      | 4.19   | Hectares (ha)                   |

Table 2: Measurements calculated using the polygon and ruler tools in Google Earth Pro. Figures are approximate.

| Land Use Zone Breakdown |                          |                        |           |           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Zone                    | Description              | Area (m <sup>2</sup> ) | Area (ha) | % of Site |
| A                       | Grassland – North West   | 5,157                  | 0.52      | 12.3%     |
| B                       | Grassland – North East   | 1,087                  | 0.11      | 2.6%      |
| C                       | Grassland – South West   | 8,229                  | 0.82      | 19.7%     |
| D                       | Grassland – South East   | 5,668                  | 0.57      | 13.5%     |
| E                       | Tree Cover (Wooded Area) | 20,107.3               | 2.01      | 48.0%     |
| F                       | Pathways (3 paths)       | 1,617.7                | 0.16      | 3.9%      |

Table 3: Area estimates for fields, wooded sections, and pathways derived from Google Earth Pro measurements. Dimensions are approximate.



Figure 2. Site Zones (Coolmine Woods)  
Satellite image with overlay indicating key land-use types and internal zones.

The site data presented in Tables 1–3 was gathered using the measuring tools available in Google Earth Pro. While these measurements provide a reliable overview of the site’s scale, boundaries, and internal zones, they should be regarded as approximate. More accurate data could be obtained through on-the-ground surveying by qualified professionals with access to precision instruments.

## 4. Issues & Opportunities

### 4a. Access & Connectivity

Desire lines are a defining feature of Coolmine Woods. Diagonal routes across Zones A and C show how pedestrians naturally move between nearby residential areas, transport links, and commercial sites.

To understand how these routes developed, a review of nine historical satellite images (2003–2025) was undertaken. From these, four key images are presented here to illustrate the emergence, establishment and persistence of desire lines over time. The full sequence of images, with accompanying observations, is provided in *Appendix A*.

#### Historical Imagery Evidence (2002–2025)



#### 2002 (23 Years Ago):

At this stage, the site appears largely undeveloped, with the western half forming a single, continuous grass field, uninterrupted by the connecting path that exists today. The central path is visible from above, indicating that surrounding tree cover was relatively sparse and immature at the time. The vegetation appears to be in its early stages of growth, with smaller trees and limited canopy coverage, allowing for clearer aerial visibility throughout the site.

Figure 3: Satellite image of Coolmine Woods, 2002 (Absence). Source: Google Earth Pro.



## 2009 (16 Years Ago):

A significant change is visible in this image: the connecting path on the west side has been constructed, dividing the previously continuous western grassland into two distinct open areas (Zones A and C). Mowing patterns are clearly visible, with circular mow lines evident on each grass section, indicating consistent grounds maintenance and a shift toward a more structured layout.

Figure 4: Satellite image of Coolmine Woods, 2009 (Emergence). Source: Google Earth Pro.



## 2020 (5 Years Ago):

Two distinct desire lines are now clearly visible in the grass, running from the southwest and northwest corners of the site toward the central path, forming diagonal routes across Zones A and C. These well-worn tracks indicate regular pedestrian use, as local residents utilise the site as a cut-through to surrounding areas. The consistency and visibility of these lines—both from the air and on the ground—suggest they are not only persistent but also informally recognised by site maintenance teams. First-hand experience confirms that even during periods where mowing is reduced to promote pollinator habitat, these unofficial paths are often deliberately kept short, enabling continued access without disrupting biodiversity goals.

Figure 5: Satellite image of Coolmine Woods, 2020 (Establishment). Source: Google Earth Pro.



## 2025 (most recent image):

Tree cover stabilised following earlier maintenance, and informal access routes continuing to shape site use. The most notable change is in Zone A, where the desire line has become more pronounced, matching the visibility of the existing diagonal path in Zone C. This further highlights the site's role as an informal pedestrian thoroughfare, and underscores the need to formalise these well-used routes to balance access with environmental goals.

Figure 6: Satellite image of Coolmine Woods, 2025 (Persistence). Source: Google Earth Pro.

## Site Timeline Summary (2002–2025):

Over the past two decades, the site known as Coolmine Woods has undergone gradual but meaningful change. Initially characterised by open grassland and young tree cover, the site saw the addition of a west-side connecting path around 2009, which formally divided the western field into two distinct zones. As tree cover matured, canopy density increased—eventually obscuring internal paths from aerial view—while planted daffodil strips were added to key grassland edges. In recent years, strong desire lines have emerged and become increasingly pronounced, clearly demonstrating how the local community uses the site as a pedestrian link between key surrounding areas. Tree maintenance carried out between 2022 and 2024 slightly thinned the wooded area, improving visibility and safety. The evolving landscape illustrates a consistent pattern of informal public use and ecological growth.

The following page contains a larger version of the 2025 satellite image and annotations highlighting the desire lines.

2025 Satellite Image with Annotation



Figure 7: Satellite image of Coolmine Woods, 2025 (Source: Google Earth Pro).

# Issue

Historical satellite imagery shows the gradual emergence of informal diagonal paths (desire lines) across Zones A and C between 2002 and 2025. These tracks demonstrate consistent pedestrian movement linking residential areas, transport connections, and workplaces. While they reflect genuine community use, their informal nature raises concerns about accessibility, surface quality, and long-term ecological impact.

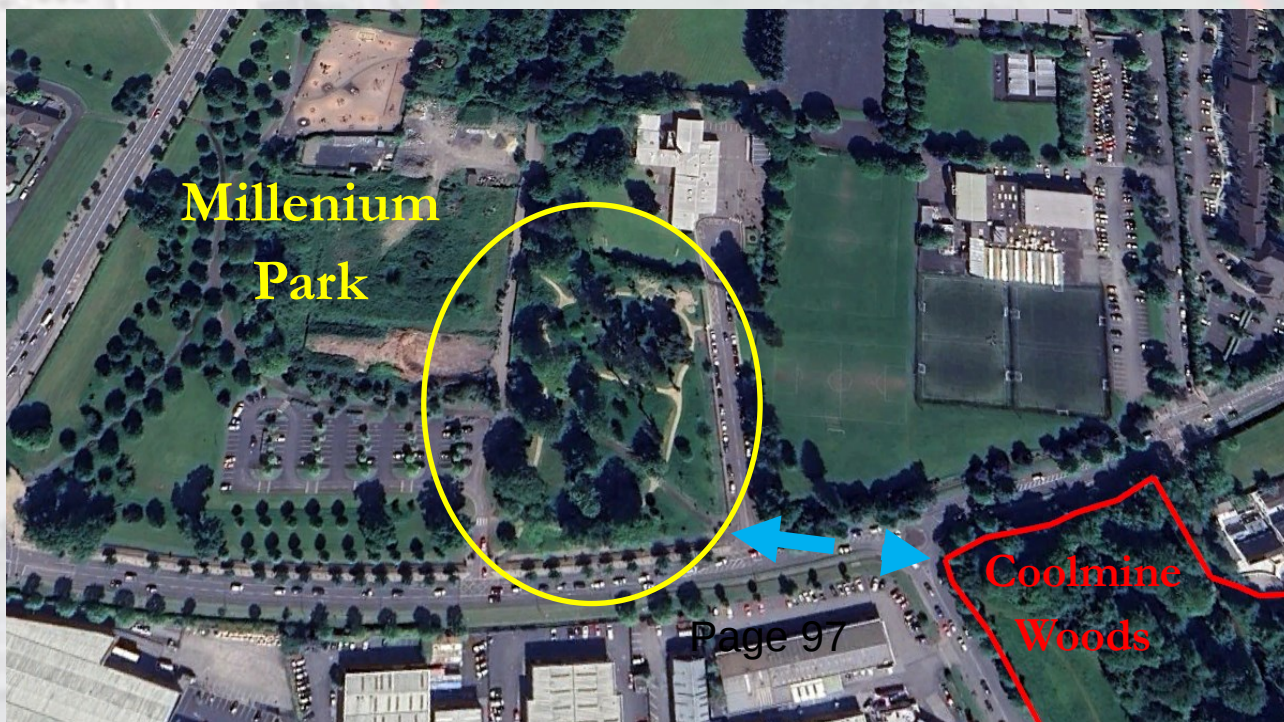
# Opportunity

A practical response is not only to formalise these desire lines with surfaced trails, but to take inspiration from a nearby case study. At the southeast corner of Millennium Park, just 100 metres from Coolmine Woods, a similar underused area with scattered mature trees was recently transformed. Hazardous trees were safely removed and repurposed as sculpted benches and carvings, while permeable gravel pathways were installed. These paths wind through the trees and converge at a seating area, centred around a sculpture by an Irish artist.

This approach provides a model for Coolmine Woods. By replicating the design style—gravel trails converging at a focal point—the site could achieve:

- Visual continuity with Millennium Park, creating a sense of joined-up planning.
- Improved accessibility through safe, defined walkways.
- Community value through integrated seating and public art.
- Cultural recognition by commissioning a sculpture that draws inspiration from Irish mythology around fire, symbolically honouring the Fire Station that overlooks the site.

This model demonstrates how low-impact interventions can combine function, safety, and cultural meaning, turning existing desire lines into an asset that enhances the site's identity.



## 4b. Limited Infrastructure & Amenities (including Safety)

### Issue

Coolmine Woods currently lacks several basic public amenities. Only one litter bin is provided, located on the eastern edge near a residential street, and there are no dedicated dog waste facilities. Seating, planters, and interpretive signage are absent, and lighting is limited to the central north–south path. These shortcomings reduce the site's usability and discourage longer visits.

In addition, community perceptions of safety remain a concern. While the site is used daily by dog walkers and residents, some avoid it due to poor visibility, limited lighting, and informal paths. This unease is reinforced by a tragic 2017 incident, which is still marked by memorials on-site. Although not overemphasised here, this history highlights the importance of addressing safety concerns as part of any future improvement works.

### Opportunity

Modest infrastructure upgrades would significantly increase both usability and public confidence. Suggested interventions include:

- Installing additional bins, including dog waste facilities.
- Providing seating and small planters to encourage community use.
- Adding interpretive signage to highlight site history and ecology.
- Extending lighting along any new formalised pathways and at key entry points.

These measures would align Coolmine Woods with nearby green spaces, making it more inviting, reassuring and accessible to the community.



## 4c. Underutilisation of Grassland Zones

### Issue

The grassland zones (A–D) make up a significant portion of Coolmine Woods but are currently unmanaged for either structured public engagement or biodiversity value. While these spaces are regularly maintained, their appearance is plain and underwhelming. Some planting has taken place—such as daffodil beds along Zones A and C—but visibility and public awareness of these features are limited.

### Opportunity

The grassland areas could be enhanced to provide both ecological benefits and community interest. Suggested interventions include:

- Introducing native wildflower meadows in selected areas to increase biodiversity.
- Installing seasonal signage to highlight planting schemes and encourage public awareness.
- Selective planting of shrubs or small native trees to create variation and improve visual character.

These low-cost measures would transform currently underused areas into attractive, functional spaces that support biodiversity and give local residents a stronger sense of connection with the site.



## 4d. Ecological Management Uncertainty

### Issue

There is evidence that mowing and maintenance practices at Coolmine Woods may already take biodiversity into account. Grass is often observed at heights of over 30 cm, and wildflowers appear during certain periods, suggesting seasonal or adaptive mowing. However, the absence of on-site signage or publicly available management plans makes it difficult to confirm the extent or effectiveness of these measures. Without transparency, the community cannot easily understand or appreciate the ecological intentions behind current practices.

### Opportunity

A review of existing site management could clarify whether biodiversity considerations are formally integrated. Actions might include:

- Commissioning a biodiversity and land management review.
- Publishing seasonal mowing and maintenance plans online or on-site signage.
- Highlighting the ecological benefits of current practices through community-facing information boards.

This would build public confidence, demonstrate environmental stewardship, and provide a baseline for planning future enhancements.

## 4e. Unclear Biodiversity Support Features

### Issue

While Coolmine Woods contains tree cover and grassland, there is no visible evidence of dedicated biodiversity supports such as bird boxes, bug hotels, or habitat signage. These may exist but were not observed during site visits.

### Opportunity

A simple ecological survey could confirm what supports are present and identify gaps. Introducing low-cost features—such as bug hotels, bird and bat boxes, or community-built planters—would strengthen the site's ecological value while creating opportunities for local schools and groups to participate.

## 5. Proposed Improvements and Recommendations

### 5.1 Proposed Improvements

Based on the issues and opportunities identified, the following site-level improvements are proposed. These are practical, low-impact interventions that would significantly enhance Coolmine Woods for both ecological and community value:

#### Pathways and Connectivity

- Formalise existing desire lines with permeable gravel trails.
- Provide a focal point with seating and a public sculpture, mirroring the successful approach at Millennium Park. In that project, hazardous trees were repurposed into carvings and sculpted benches by Irish woodcarving artist Richie Clarke ([www.rcwoodcarving.com](http://www.rcwoodcarving.com)), whose portfolio includes works across Ireland and several installations in Blanchardstown. A similar approach at Coolmine Woods could deliver both functional improvements and a strong visual identity, while offering the potential for a sculpture thematically linked to fire and Irish mythology in recognition of the neighbouring Fire Station.

#### Safety and Infrastructure

- Extend lighting to new paths and key entry points.
- Install additional bins, including dog waste facilities.
- Provide seating and interpretive signage to encourage safe, positive use of the site.

#### Grassland Enhancement

- Introduce native wildflower meadows in selected areas.
- Improve visibility of existing seasonal planting (e.g. daffodils) through signage and maintenance.

#### Ecological Management

- Develop and publish a clear mowing/maintenance schedule to support biodiversity.
- Install signage explaining the ecological purpose of seasonal mowing.

#### Biodiversity Supports

- Add simple, low-cost features such as bird boxes, bug hotels, and bat boxes.
- Engage local schools and community groups in creating and maintaining these features.

## 5.2 Recommendations

To support delivery of these improvements, the following actions are recommended for consideration by Fingal County Council and local representatives:

1. Commission a biodiversity and ecological management review to establish current practices and identify enhancement opportunities.
2. Clarify land ownership and responsibility for Coolmine Woods to determine the appropriate body for decision-making and maintenance.
3. Conduct a cost analysis and phased delivery plan to assess funding needs and ensure improvements can be introduced gradually if full budgets are not available.
4. Explore funding and planning mechanisms for pathway formalisation, lighting extensions, and public art installation.
5. Engage artist Richie Clarke ([www.rcwoodcarving.com](http://www.rcwoodcarving.com)) or similar practitioners to create a focal sculpture at the path convergence point, themed around fire and Irish mythology to symbolically honour Blanchardstown Fire Station.
6. Coordinate with Millennium Park management to ensure design consistency and visual continuity between the two sites.
7. Facilitate community participation through schools, Tidy Towns groups, and residents in the design, installation, and maintenance of biodiversity supports.

## 6. Appendix

### Historical Satellite Imagery and Observation Notes:



2003

#### 2002 (23 Years Ago):

At this stage, the site appears largely undeveloped, with the **western half forming a single, continuous grass field**, uninterrupted by the connecting path that exists today. The **central path is visible from above**, indicating that surrounding tree cover was relatively sparse and immature at the time. The vegetation appears to be in its early stages of growth, with **smaller trees** and limited canopy coverage, allowing for clearer aerial visibility throughout the site.



2008

The site remains visually similar to 2002, with **no connecting path yet constructed on the west side**, and the **western grassland still forming a continuous open field**. However, **tree growth is visibly more advanced**, with slightly increased canopy density, particularly along the central path. **Mowing lines are evident across all grass areas**, suggesting regular maintenance and continued use of the space as open green ground.



2009

A significant change is visible in this image: the **connecting path on the west side has been constructed**, dividing the previously continuous western grassland into two distinct open areas (Zones A and C). **Mowing patterns are clearly visible**, with **circular mow lines** evident on each grass section, indicating consistent grounds maintenance and a shift toward a more structured layout.



2017

By this point, **tree growth has significantly increased**, with the **central path now obscured from view due to dense canopy cover**. There is **visible evidence of planted borders** along the **western edges of Zones A and C**, as well as on **either side of the connecting path**, forming narrow linear features in the grass. Field photographs confirm these were **3-metre-wide daffodil planting strips**, likely established as part of a seasonal community enhancement effort. **Mowing patterns remain evident** across all grass zones, indicating ongoing site maintenance.



2018

The site layout remains largely unchanged from the previous year. **Tree cover continues to obscure the central path**, and the **planted strips along the western edge of Zones A and C, as well as the sides of the connecting path, remain clearly visible**. Notably, the **mowing patterns now accommodate these planted zones**, indicating that they are being maintained intentionally and have become an integrated part of the site's management.



2020

Two distinct **desire lines** are now clearly visible in the grass, running from the **southwest and northwest corners of the site toward the central path**, forming diagonal routes across Zones A and C. These well-worn tracks indicate regular pedestrian use, as local residents utilise the site as a **cut-through to surrounding areas**. The consistency and visibility of these lines—both from the air and on the ground—suggest they are not only persistent but also **informally recognised by site maintenance teams**. First-hand experience confirms that even during periods where **mowing is reduced to promote pollinator habitat**, these unofficial paths are often **deliberately kept short**, enabling continued access without disrupting biodiversity goals.



2022

The site remains largely unchanged from 2020, with **visible desire lines** continuing to cross Zones A and C, reflecting ongoing pedestrian use. **Tree canopy density is at its highest**, with the central path still fully obscured from above due to thick foliage. This image serves as a visual reference point before **tree maintenance work**—carried out between 2022 and 2025—began to selectively remove deadwood and reduce overhanging limbs in the wooded area.



2024

Following tree maintenance carried out since the previous image, **canopy cover appears slightly thinner**, particularly in the central woodland area, allowing for improved light penetration and visibility of internal paths. The most notable change, however, is the **increased prominence of the desire lines**, especially in **Zone C**, where the diagonal track is now highly visible from above. This indicates **frequent and consistent foot traffic**, reinforcing the role of these informal paths as established movement corridors across the site.



2025

The overall site appearance remains consistent with 2024, with **tree cover stabilised following earlier maintenance**, and **informal access routes continuing to shape site use**. The most notable change is in **Zone A**, where the **desire line has become more pronounced**, matching the visibility of the existing diagonal path in Zone C. This further highlights the site's role as an **informal pedestrian thoroughfare**, and underscores the need to formalise these well-used routes to balance access with environmental goals.

## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 23**

### **IMPROVEMENT WALKING/CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE – EDMUND RICE COLLEGE – CASTLEKNOCK - AI103684**

#### **Motion: Councillor T. Leddy**

“That the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Board of Management of Edmund Rice College and the Department of Education, implement an alternative walking and cycling access route to Edmund Rice College from the western side of the school toward Castleknock Manor, enabling children to safely walk and cycle from Castleknock.”

#### **Report:**

To review if there are suitable alternative routes to the school, it will require input from the Active Travel Department, the Planning Department, and the Operations Department.

The Operations Department will engage with the other Fingal Departments to organise an internal meeting to discuss if there are viable alternative routes to the school.

#### **Source of Report:**

Hugh James, Senior Executive Engineer, Operations Department

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## **COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **BLANCHARDSTOWN-MULHUDDART/CASTLEKNOCK/ONGAR AREA COMMITTEE MEETING (Services A – Operational Matters)**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

#### **ITEM NO. 24**

#### **PROVISION OF RAISED TABLES AT ONGAR VILLAGE - AI104777**

##### **Motion: Councillor A. Donnelly**

“That the Chief Executive provides two raised tables in Ongar Village as an interim measure to address safety concerns, one at the goods entrance to Dunnes Stores car park and a second between Willan’s Way and Lily’s Way, as these are the areas that residents find most dangerous.”

##### **Report:**

The Traffic section deployed Automatic Tubes Counts (ATC’s) at the entrance to Dunne's Stores on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. The tubes will be deployed for a week. These tubes are designed to gather data on the number of vehicles, the vehicles' speed, and vehicle types. The Traffic Section will review this data to determine if a ramp or a controlled crossing is warranted at this location.

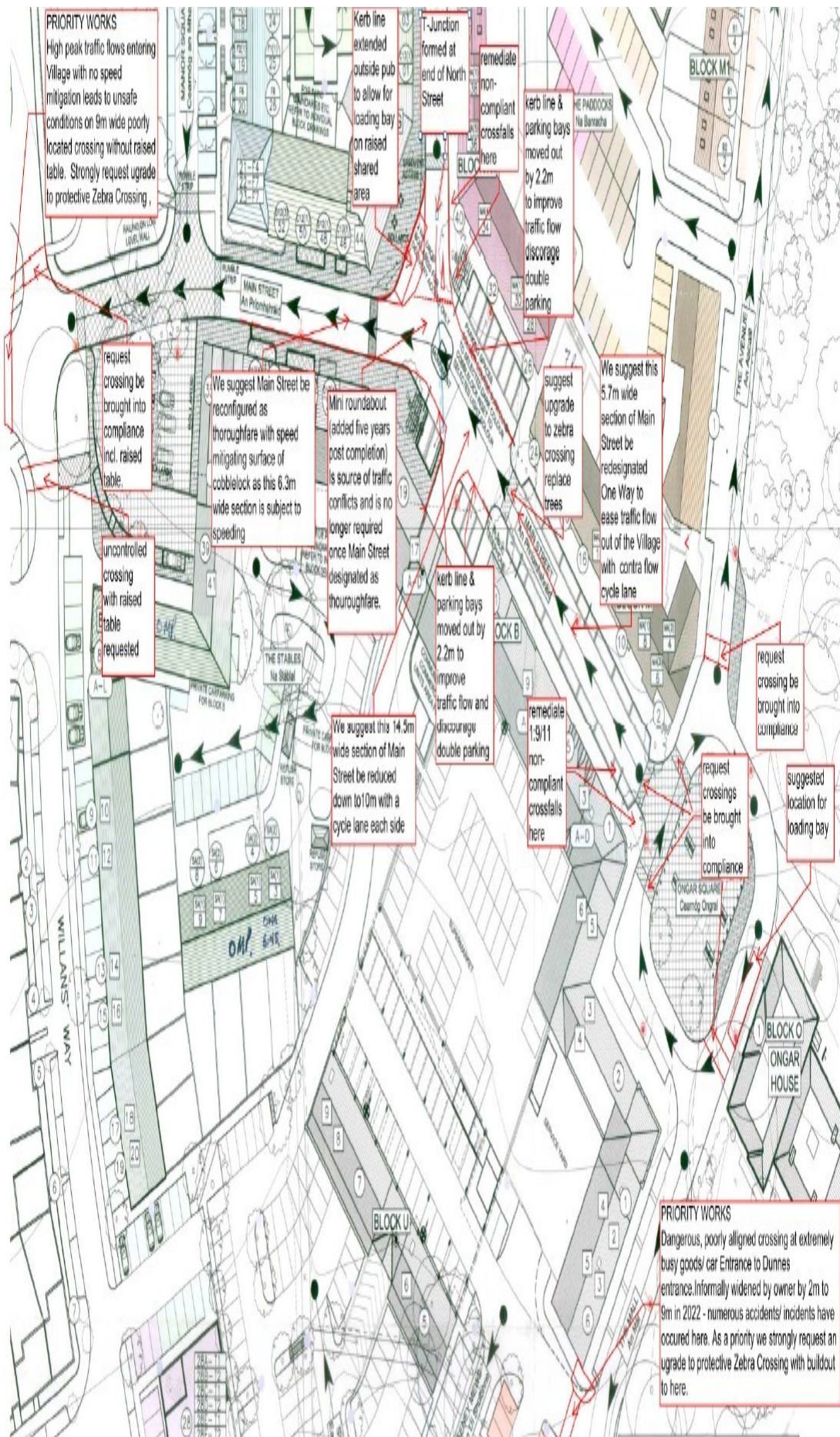
Just after the junction of Williams Way/Main Street, there is a large, raised table currently installed. Extending this raised table to include the junction would not be considered, as the raised table already in place would lose its effectiveness.

The Traffic Section will deploy an ATC at the junction in the coming weeks. The data obtained will be reviewed to determine if a ramp or a controlled crossing is justified. The location for the survey is sited where the current uncontrolled crossing is in place, as the start of the junction on the Ongar Distributor side.

If ramps or controlled crossings are required at these locations, they will be added to the 2026 Programme of Works, which is subject to approval by the Elected Members.

**Source of Report:**

Quintin Greally, Executive Traffic Engineer, Operations Department



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