

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BALBRIGGAN/RUSH-LUSK/SWORDS AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
[SERVICES A – OPERATIONAL MATTERS]**

THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2026

ITEM NO. 67

CLARIFICATION IN REGARD TO PARK SIGNAGE - AI107285

Question: Councillor J. Humphreys

“To ask the Chief Executive to confirm the legal basis for, and interpretation underpinning, the erection of signage in Fingal parks stating that “motorised vehicles” are prohibited (except Fingal County Council staff), where the imagery on the sign appears to prohibit both e-scooters and e-bikes.

In particular, to confirm:

1. Whether the Council is relying on Bye-Law 4.6(c) of the Regional Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws 2017 (mechanically propelled vehicles) as the enforcement basis for this signage.
2. Whether the Council considers a pedal-assist e-bike (250W maximum continuous rated power, motor assistance only while pedalling, cutting out at 25km/h) to be a “mechanically propelled vehicle” for the purposes of these Bye-Laws, noting the Department of Transport definition of an e-bike.
3. Whether the Council will review the wording and imagery on the signage to ensure it is legally accurate, clear to the public, and consistent with the Council's wider policy objectives on sustainable and Active Travel and to avoid a blanket ban being implied where this is not supported by the Bye-Laws?”

Reply:

The current Fingal Regional Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws 2017 are Bye-Laws regulating Regional Parks, Open Space and Recreational Playing Grounds owned, controlled or in the charge of Fingal County Council.

These Bye-Laws are in force to ensure that parks, open spaces and recreational playing grounds and their facilities are used to the maximum extent, in safety

and comfort and for the protection of parks, open spaces and recreational playing grounds which are provided as a public amenity and for respect and consideration for park users to ensure as much enjoyment as is possible of these amenities.

Section 4.6 refers to all Traffic related issues and 4.6 (c) makes reference to unauthorised vehicles *'No person other than authorised officials and employees of the Council shall drive or allow to be driven or be a passenger in any mechanically propelled vehicle in the park on unauthorised routes save with the permission in writing of the Council and then only in such areas as may be designated by the Council'*. Section 4.6 (h) specifically refers to Motorbikes & Scramblers *'No person shall in any park or open space engage in motorcycle scrambling except in an area designated by the Council for that purpose'*.

While the current Parks Bye Laws do not specifically mention the new phenomenon that is e-Bikes & e-Scooters, these new modes of transport are causing huge issues for park users. The Council has always clarified that while not specifically mentioned, these new types of transport are mechanically propelled / motorised and covered by Section 4.6(c). However, following many requests from the public and the Elected Representatives asking the Council to provide specific signage explaining that the use of e-Bikes/e-Scooters are prohibited, the Council has issued additional pole mounted signs displaying e-Bikes/e-Scooters.

The Council is aware that there are also versions of e-Bikes used by users that require assisted mobility. The Council's Park Rangers are aware that 'Assisted Mobility Bikes' are not prohibited, and the Council is not aware of any conflict regarding the use of 'Assisted Mobility Bikes' in public spaces. The signage installed is simply an intermediary measure until the next review of the Regional Parks & Open Space Bye-Laws are due in 2027.

The use of the various types of e-Bikes and e-Scooters having cognisance for the variety of 'Assisted Bikes' currently in use will have specific sections to outline the rules and regulations of their uses for the next chapter of Regional Parks & Open Space Bye-Laws for Fingal County Council.

Source of Reply: Aileen O'Connor, Senior Executive Parks & Landscape Officer, Operations