COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

BALBRIGGAN/RUSH-LUSK/SWORDS AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
(Services B – Strategic & General Matters)

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ITEM NO. 16

PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL OCCUPATION BY ENCAMPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS - AI109732

Question: Councillor P. Mulville

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on steps that can be taken to prevent illegal occupation by encampment on public lands across the Balbriggan/Rush–Lusk/Swords Area Committee area?"

Reply:

In relation to the prevention of illegal occupation by encampment on public lands across the Balbriggan/Rush-Lusk/Swords area, Property Services advises that, where lands are acquired by the Council, every effort is made to secure such lands through the installation of appropriate boundary treatments, including fencing and locked access gates. While this is not feasible in every instance, such measures are implemented in the majority of acquisitions.

Lands that are not secured by fencing, gates or other physical barriers are inherently more vulnerable to unauthorised access and illegal encampment. In such cases, the matter is generally addressed when an encroachment or illegal occupation is brought to the attention of the Council. Upon notification, the Council assesses the circumstances and takes the appropriate action in accordance with established procedures.

It should be noted that even where lands are secured, those determined to encroach will often be able to do so. Property Services will continue to consider appropriate

security measures in regard to public lands, where practicable to try to reduce the risk of unauthorised occupation of Council-owned lands.

Source of Reply: Ciara OhAodha, Senior Executive Officer, Economic, Community and Cultural Development.