

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ITEM NO. 22

**SAFE ACCESS TO 38 BUS STOP FOR WATERVILLE RESIDENTS -
AI108924**

Motion: Councillor JK. Onwumereh

“That the Chief Executive commit to providing safe access routes to the 38 bus stop for residents of Waterville who have expressed concern over the lack of lighting on the concrete path through the trees at Corduff Crescent to the Snugborough Road, and on the tracks through the woods opposite Aran Court via Annagh Court and the walk opposite the woods past Garnish Square.”

Report:

A detailed site survey and assessment was carried out on the footpath between Garnish Square and Troy Square, to determine its suitability for the installation of public lighting. All possible options to provide lighting on this pathway were considered. Following this assessment, it was determined that the path in question is not suitable for the installation of public lighting for the following reasons:

a) Conflict with trees

- The required clearance between the existing trees and any proposed public lighting columns cannot be achieved. Both sides of the path are completely tree-lined over the full length of the path. The installation of public lighting infrastructure here would conflict with the Council's tree strategy for 2022-2032, “Forest of Fingal – A Tree Strategy for Fingal”, as the required seven metre separation clearance between the trees and any new lighting along the path cannot be met.

- The required ducting for any proposed public lighting scheme cannot be installed along the side of the path. Any ducting installed, must be kept away from the root structure of trees to avoid damaging the roots and undermining the trees, as well as protecting the ducting system from damage from the tree roots. This cannot be achieved along this path.
- Any proposed public lighting scheme along this path would require the use of hinged columns to allow access to the lights for future maintenance. There is not enough space longitudinally along the path to allow the public lighting columns to be lowered for future maintenance, due to the quantity of trees and their very close proximity to the path edge.

b) Biodiversity and tree preservation

Given the constraints outlined above, the works required would also conflict with Fingal County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030. Due to the quantity of trees along this path and their proximity to the path itself, the only way to install any public lighting here would be to remove a large number of these trees. This is against the Council's policy to preserve and protect biodiversity and trees within the council area.

c) Alternative route

There is a well-lit alternative route that leads from Garnish Square to Bus stop 1838 where the 38 bus also stops.

A detailed site survey and assessment was carried out on the footpath between Corduff Crescent and Snugborough Road, to determine its suitability for the installation of public lighting. All possible options to provide lighting on this pathway were considered. Following this assessment, it was determined that the path in question is not suitable for the installation of public lighting at this moment.

Like the previous location, the presence of mature trees creates constraints for the installation of additional public lighting infrastructure. However, our colleagues in the parks department will assess whether trees and overhanging branches along the walkway can be cut back. If this work is carried out, it is expected to significantly improve lighting levels on the footpath. Once the trees have been trimmed, the lighting can be reassessed whether the installation of public lighting becomes appropriate.

Source of Report:

Kevin Broderick, Executive Engineer, Public lighting section, Operations Department.