

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HOWTH/MALAHIDE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
(Services B – Strategic & General Matters)**

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2026

ITEM NO. 23

Question: Councillor D. Healy

“To ask the Chief Executive to advise how the availability of Howth Courthouse for community use is being communicated to community organisations and the general public?”

Report:

Community interests with a precedent for using the space in the evenings are facilitated with use of the building where possible; this arrangement is now subscribed to the maximum extent and Fingal County Council is currently unable to offer the building for further additional use. The Tourism and Community Departments are exploring mechanisms that would enable Howth Courthouse to be made available for additional community use while also continuing to fulfil its function as a tourism information office. Any increase in costs that may be associated with this will be considered for inclusion in 2027 budget proposals.

Howth is presently served with a state-of-the-art community centre at the nearby Racecourse Centre in Baldoyle. This building is designed for communities of all types, is sustainable, has a low carbon rating and is available and specifically resourced to cater to community group needs from 9am to 10pm. In addition, under the Capital Programme 2026-2028, the Community Development & Inclusion Division is progressing the redevelopment of the nearby Balydoyle Forum to the extent possible, recognising that funding provision for project remains under assessment.

Source of Reply:

Declan Power, Senior Executive Officer, Economic, Community and Cultural Development
Cormac Healy, Senior Executive Officer, Economic, Community and Cultural Development