

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HOWTH/MALAHIDE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
(Services A – Operational Matters)**

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2026

ITEM NO. 26

MOWING GREEN AT PORTMARNOCK - AI110129

Motion: Councillor B. McDonagh

“That the Chief Executive change the mowing pattern on the green area in Portmarnock opposite the service station to allow 30%-50% of it to be mowed more regularly to facilitate the return of a feeding habitat for brent geese.”

Report:

The Operations Department and the Biodiversity Team are not aware of any issues with the current mowing patterns. The maintenance schedule at this location aligns with the natural migration patterns of the geese.

- **Late August Cut:** Cutting the wildflowers at the end of August ensures the vegetation is low and managed in a timely manner. Geese prefer short grass and clear sightlines when they land in **September and October** so they can easily spot potential predators. Keeping the area short throughout the winter provides the geese with an ideal feeding and resting ground during their crucial overwintering months.
- **Spring Transition:** Allowing the meadow to grow freely after they leave between **February and April** gives native wildflowers the perfect window to establish, bloom, and support essential pollinators like bees and butterflies all summer long.

Source of Report:

Therese Casey, Executive Parks and Landscape Officer, Operations Department