

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2026

ITEM NO. 07

EROSION AT MALAHIDE BEACH - AI109906

Question: Councillor C. Haughey

"To ask the Chief Executive to advise if there are any plans by the Council to tackle coastal and dune erosion at Malahide Beach, and whether the Council is aware of the impact the erosion is having on the population of the sand martins that use this location as a nesting area?"

Reply:

Impact on Sand Martins at Malahide Beach

The Operations Department is not aware of any impact on nesting Sand Martins at Malahide Beach caused by reported coastal erosion at this location.

OPW's Coastal Erosion Change Section

The OPW now has national responsibility for Coastal Erosion in Ireland and in that regard, they have set up the Coastal Erosion Change Section which is part of the OPW's Risk Management and Climate Adaptation Business Unit. The OPW also has a national coastal change monitoring programme which is focusing on the Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas. This was preceded by a Pilot Coastal Monitoring Survey Programme which identified monitoring areas for annual surveys. We have also been advised that the OPW is currently working on the development of Policies and Standards.

OPW Past Coastal Erosion Database

In order to collate and assess coastal erosion reports, the *Past Coastal Erosion Database* (PCED) was developed by the OPW to help identify and monitor coastal erosion events. Launched in April 2026, coastal erosion information reports received by the OPW will help them identify locations at potentially significant risk, inform and verify any predictions of future coastal change, and assist in

targeting coastal survey and monitoring programmes leading to coastal erosion defence projects.

Malahide Beach Coastal Erosion to be Reported to Office Of Public Works (OPW)

Following on from the receipt of this Question, the Operations Department will refer this information directly to the OPW's Coastal Erosion Change Section for their review and inclusion in their coastal erosion monitoring & assessments. I can advise that this report of Malahide Beach erosion will be entered onto the online PCED for the OPW to review. Included in this report will be photographs of the beach taken by staff and the report will be submitted online in the coming week.

Planned Works for Malahide Beach

With regard to Malahide Beach, the Operations Department confirms that there are currently no plans for projects regarding coastal erosion at the location. Coastal protection measures are not installed where no critical public infrastructure is at risk, to allow the natural cycle to continue (accretion & erosion). This may be subject to change as the OPW reviews the reports submitted to them on the PCED.

Following our submission of the Malahide Beach Coastal Erosion Report, the Operations Department will keep the Elected Members updated regarding future communication we receive from the OPW's Coastal Erosion Change Section about this location.

Source of Reply:

Karen Gallagher, Senior Engineer, Operations Department