

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

Tuesday, 27 September 2016

Motion from Councillor Adrian Henchy: Sheet 7. AI029134

CVQ 3811

This Council resolves to undertake a land use study into recreational, cultural and tourism uses at the Quay Portrane in order to promote Donabate / Portrane as a tourism, cultural, hertiage and recreational destination.

REPORT:

The motion is seeking the preparation of a land use study into recreational, cultural and tourism uses at the Quay Portrane in order to promote Donabate / Portrane as a tourism, cultural, heritage and recreational destination

The merit of the submission is recognised and in this regard the unique character of lands at Portrane is recognised in the Draft Plan, including lands at The Burrow and The Quay. Accordingly, any development in these areas must be sensitively designed and must respect the unique character, landscape and visual amenities of the area, having regard to the local issues of coastal erosion and the significant landscape and biodiversity sensitivities in the area including a Flora Protection Order, Special Protection Area (SPA), Natural Heritage Area (NHA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and designated Ecological Buffer Zone.

The lands included within the map attaching to this motion are zoned as High Amenity and abut the coastline (incorporating the indicative route of the Fingal Coastal Way).

Recommendation CE CH4.12 of the CE Report recommends that a study be carried out to decide on the optimal future development of lands in the Burrow area of Portrane (which is to the north of the existing Village). It is considered that any study of this Burrow area will include an investigation into recreational, cultural and tourism uses in the wider Portrane area.

Recommendation CE CH 4.12 states:

'Objective Portrane xx

Prepare a study to decide on the optimal future development of lands in the Burrow area, having regard to the local issues of coastal erosion, flooding, drainage and the significant landscape and biodiversity sensitivities in the area including a Flora Protection Order, Special Protection Area (SPA), Natural Heritage Area (NHA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and designated Ecological BufferZone.'

The cliff walk between Portrane and Donabate is included as part of the Fingal Coastal Way (and includes the subject lands). This route is a long standing objective of the Fingal Development Plan and is a strategic greenway for pedestrians and cyclists along the coastal corridor from Howth to Balbriggan. An audit of these existing trails including 'rights of way' will form part of the planning and development of the strategic greenway of the 'Fingal Coastal Way' and the coastal path linking Donabate and Portrane is included in this audit.

Objectives ED61 and NH61 of the Draft Plan and the Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015-2018 promotes and facilitates the development of the Fingal Coastal Way. Objective ED61 seeks to: *'Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County, by advancing the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, through carrying out a route evaluation study within two years of the adoption of this Plan, ensuring a balance is achieved between nature conservation and public use and through identifying public rights of way in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and by exploiting former rail networks for use as potential new tourist and recreational walking routes.'*

The Council is currently moving ahead with the planning and environmental assessments required for the most critical link of the coastal way across the Malahide viaduct linking Malahide Demesne to Newbridge Demesne - The Broadmeadow Way. This will link the Donabate / Portrane Peninsula will Malahide.

Chapter 9 specifically deals with Natural Heritage in Fingal, with section 9.5 dealing specifically with the natural environment of the coast. Chapter 6 of the Draft Plan looks at tourism in Fingal (under Section 6.9) referencing the Fingal Tourism Strategy, which includes coastal villages and coastal tourism.

The promotion of the natural environment for recreational pursuits is recognised and supported specifically within Objective RF104. Objective ED64 of the Draft Plan promotes and facilitates a co-ordinated network of walking trails in the County through the development of a 'Recreational Trails Plan' within the lifetime of the Development Plan (2017-2023). This Trails Plan will include

provision for a variety of walking trails including strategic greenways and localised trails within low lying agricultural areas. A comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to way-marking and signage will also be included in this plan. The development of the Recreational Trails Network Plan will include a public consultation process where relevant stakeholders and interested parties will have an opportunity to make submissions.

Objective ED64 seeks to *'Develop a Recreational Trails Plan for the County in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, landowners and various community interest groups within the lifetime of this plan. This plan shall set out a coordinated strategic framework for future recreational trail development in the County.'* The development of the recreational trails network within the County is proposed at three levels: i) the strategic level [e.g. Fingal Coastal Way, the Liffey Valley area, and the Royal Canal Greenway], ii) town trails including Sli na Slainte and iii) village trails.

The Recreational Trails Plan is to be prepared by Fingal County Council and will include key stakeholders, including Fáilte Ireland.

Accordingly, having regard to the above, it is not considered necessary to insert a new Objective to Sheet 7 to undertake a land use study into recreational, cultural and tourism uses at the Quay, given the existing Draft Plan policies (including Objectives ED61, ED64 and Objective RF104) and the Council's proposal to undertake a study of the lands to the north of the subject lands at The Burrow, which is under significant development pressure.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that no change is necessary in this instance and that CE CH 4.12 be upheld.