

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029

Tuesday, 18th January 2022

Chapter 2 – Planning for Growth, Core Strategy & Settlement Strategy

ITEM No. 77

Motion from Councillor Joan Hopkins : 73656

To ask the Chief Executive to add the following objective.
Promotion of our coast line for health and wellbeing by providing fully assessable open water public pools at suitable locations in Howth/Sutton/Portmarnock.

REPORT:

The intent of the motion is acknowledged. However it is considered that the policies and objectives contained in the draft Plan and, taken in conjunction with the Development Management process are considered to be sufficiently robust to guide and inform any future development proposals/initiatives of this nature in Howth, Sutton and Portmarnock and in the wider Fingal area. As such, the essence of the motion is considered to be adequately addressed in the Draft Plan.

Given the strategic nature of the Development Plan, the delivery of location specific infrastructure is more appropriately considered within the context of a capital programme.

Fingal recognises the coast as a hugely important resource for the citizens of the County and the wider Dublin region, and will continue to promote its sustainable development, with the Draft Plan including a range of policies to support and promote development in suitable coastal locations and coastal and environmental protection in the Draft Plan.

The increase in popularity of sea swimming is noted and Chapter 9 contains a range of policies and objectives relating to Coastal Tourism and Recreation

(Section 9.7.2). Our coastline is recognised as an established area of leisure and amenity, with great potential for tourist related projects including more open water public pools. It is also noted that the infrastructure associated with such activities can conflict with the sensitive nature of the coast and it will be necessary to identify specific locations on the coast where public pools and other water-based activities can be catered for without conflicting with other objectives or being contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The Draft Plan includes a number of relevant policies and objectives, including the following:

Policy GINHP31 Coastal Recreation

Encourage leisure and amenity type uses along the coast so long as such uses do not cause significant adverse impacts on the environment, visual amenity and heritage.

Policy GINP32 Coastal and Harbour Access

Enhance and promote access to the coast and harbours, including the promotion of coastal and harbour recreational facilities where appropriate, while also prioritising protecting the coastal environment.

Objective GINHO71 Protection of Beaches

Protect beaches, and bathing areas as valuable local amenities and as a tourism resource and support the maintenance, protection and improvement of access to them.

Policy IUP19 Bathing Water Quality and Beaches

Maintain Fingal's beaches for bathing to a high standard and protect and improve water quality and bathing facilities for them to attain 'Blue Flag' standards.

Policy CIOSP15 - Promote, develop and support the provision and upgrade of "Open Seawater" facilities to the highest specifications and standards at suitable locations across the Fingal region.

Therefore, no change is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

No change

REVISED CE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend CIOSP15 to read as follows:

Promote, develop and support the provision and upgrade of “Open Seawater” facilities, including fully assessable open water public pools to the highest specifications and standards at suitable locations across the Fingal region.