

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

FINGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2029

TUESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Sheet 6 Lusk-Rush

Motion from Councillor Brian Dennehy : 82270

Local Objective

Facilitate Agri Tourism

REPORT:

The Elected Members of the Planning Authority may only make amendments to the Draft Development Plan 2023 – 2029 under Section 12(6) or 12(10) of the 2000 Act, as amended, in connection with matters contained in the Chief Executive's Report.

The motion outlined above is not considered to be connected with matters contained in submissions received or the Chief Executive's Report on the outcome of the consultation process on the draft Fingal Development Plan 2023 – 2029.

Accordingly, any amendment outside that scope is considered to be illegal and invalid.

Should the Elected Members decide to consider the Motion, the planning report is as follows;

The content of this motion is noted.

The subject lands are located west of Rush and immediately east of the railway line. They are currently zoned RU in the draft Plan.

It is not considered necessary or appropriate to include a local objective to facilitate agri-tourism as proposed by the motion.

Firstly, it should be noted that the Council recognises that tourism is one of Fingal's most important economic drivers for Fingal. The implementation of the *Tourism Statement of Strategy & Work Programme 2017 – 2022* including the marketing of Fingal as a visitor location and the engagement with local tourism groups continues across the County. Flavours of Fingal continues to grow and highlights the quality and depth of food and farming in Fingal.

The importance of the horticultural business to Fingal and the need to showcase our food and craft markets is also recognised by the Council. Fingal is renowned for its agri-food and horticulture sector and they make a significant contribution to employment in rural areas, being a pivotal source of enterprise creation and opportunities. All of these sectors will play a vital role in the rural economy in the future.

To support this sector, the County Council has prepared the Fingal Agri-Food Strategy, a key aim of which is to create a Fingal food and drink tourism destination to provide an enhanced consumer/tourist experience for the region and to help its towns and villages achieve destination status. The Council has commenced this strategy and has developed the 'Dublin's Coast & Fields' brand.

The Draft Development Plan includes a number of objectives and policies aimed at supporting the strategies referred to above such as:

- Policy EEP21 – Facilitating the Development of Tourism
- Objective EEO46 - Rural-Based Tourism
- Objective EEO53 – Tourism in Rural Villages
- Policy EEP31- Fingal Agri-Food Strategy 2019-2021

It is considered that the above objectives already sufficiently reflect the Council's wider vision to support and encourage agri-tourism in rural areas of the County.

Furthermore, it is not considered appropriate to add a new local objective to facilitate 'agri-tourism' as such a use is already promoted throughout the County and is 'permitted in principle' within the RU land use zoning Objectives.

As a result, any planning applications lodged for such a use would be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will be assessed in terms of their contribution towards the achievement of the zoning objective and vision and their compliance and consistency with the policies and objectives of the Development Plan.

Recommendation:

No change to Draft Plan.