



**Development of a Beach Management
Plan for the Burrow, Portrane, Co.
Dublin**

**An Action of the Fingal Heritage Plan,
2005-2010**

January 2007

**Fingal County Council
County Hall
Swords
Co. Dublin**

FC0106/FINAL



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Burrow is an area of the Portrane peninsula comprised mainly of open farm land, scattered housing, dunes and estuary foreshore defined to the north and west by the Rogerstown estuary, to the east by the Burrow beach and to the south by the urban area of Portrane village.
2. The Burrow beach is an extremely valuable resource to both residents and visitors for a number of reasons, including its aesthetic, environmental, recreational and community characteristics. In addition, the coastal waters of the Burrow Beach have achieved "Blue Flag" status in 2006.
3. Fingal County Council, with support from the Heritage Council, commissioned a consultative process with the objective of producing a beach management plan for The Burrow, in summer/autumn 2006.
4. The objective of the Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach is to allow Fingal County Council to work in partnership with the community to preserve the character of the area while allowing for recreational use and enjoyment by present and future generations. Appropriate preservation of the function and stability of the dune system and the maintenance of the natural biodiversity of beach and dune systems was a common theme throughout the consultation process.
5. Consultation with all stakeholders was emphasised in the development of the beach management plan and a number of consultation methods were included in the plan preparation process. The aim was to ensure wide participation and also to test the methods with a view to future replication of consultation-based beach management plans. The main methods used were meetings with key stakeholders, an opinion survey and an open public meeting. These were supplemented with documentary research and additional telephone and email correspondence with interested parties.
6. The consultation found that the Burrow is characterised by a high level of regard and support by loyal users and local residents. There is considerable local pride in the area and a strong community spirit that has driven local activity such as beach clean-ups and local representation and involvement.
7. We received great co-operation and benefited from the local knowledge and experience from stakeholders who proposed many good ideas, which have informed the beach plan.
8. The plan is intended to be an action plan based on partnership, setting out a range of practical and achievable actions in the short-, medium- and long term. This report will highlight the beach management issues raised by the community and other stakeholders.

9. Four main issues were raised throughout the consultation period. These include:
 - ❑ Local quality of life, including such elements as litter and waste, recreational uses of the beach and behaviour and safety
 - ❑ The environment, including ecology, flora and fauna and erosion
 - ❑ Improved public awareness, including signage, designations and planning
 - ❑ Amenities and Access, including such areas as local facilities, information, tourism and the boardwalk.
10. As a result of these issues raised, four main outcomes for implementing effective beach management practices have been identified in the proposed *Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach*, Chapter 5 of this report.
11. This document makes recommendations on how Fingal County Council in conjunction with other key stakeholders can best address beach management issues. The range of proposals include creating a boardwalk, fencing off parts of the dunes, information signage at strategic locations along the beach, closing off the access gate at the northern end of the peninsula to prevent vehicle access, among others.
12. The Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach will be implemented by the Council in co-operation with other stakeholders.
13. It was a good process and should lead to a stronger understanding and create the framework for successful, proactive partnership-based management. As a pilot project, the beach management consultation for The Burrow deliberately aimed to employ a wide range of methods to allow people the opportunity to express their views. It is clear from both the detailed and coherent nature of many inputs that The Burrow has a well established community well able to express its views and interested in participating in area development. This consultation has been successful in allowing these issues to be raised and discussed directly with county council personnel, who have also been clearly seen to be interested in working hard for the betterment of the area.

1.0 Introduction

The Burrow is an area of the Portrane peninsula comprised mainly of open farm land, scattered housing, dunes and estuary foreshore defined to the north and west by the Rogerstown estuary, to the east by the Burrow beach and to the south by the urban area of Portrane village.



Figure 1: Fingal, with Portrane highlighted in red

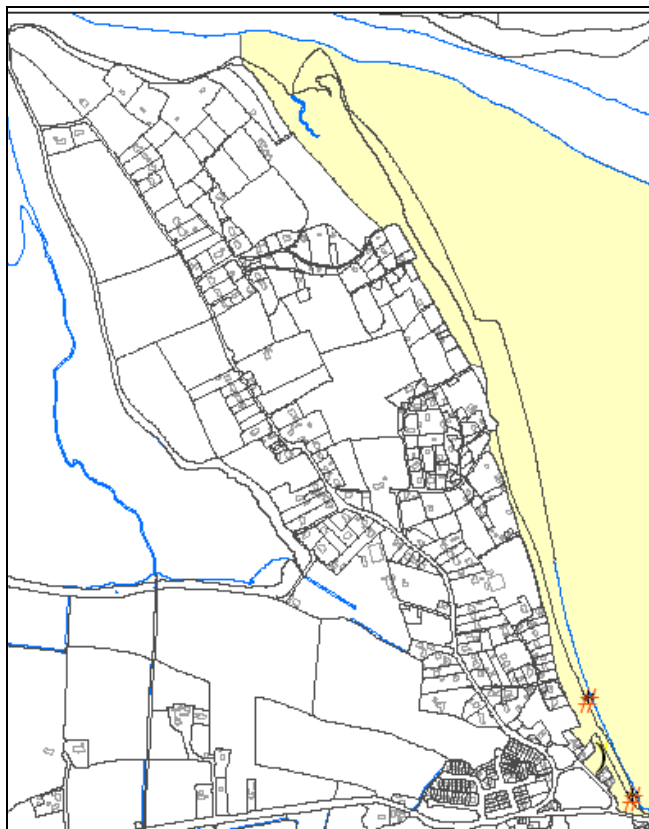


Figure 2: The Burrow area of Portrane

1.1 The Burrow Beach, Portrane

- 1.1.1 The sandy stretch of beach known as the Burrow Beach lies on the seaward side of the sand and shingle bar that comprises Portrane Peninsula. The Peninsula extends from the village of Portrane northward into Rogerstown Estuary. The southern tip of the Burrow beach (known as The Brook) lies about 3km from Donabate village and 6.5 km from Swords.
- 1.1.2 The Burrow beach is a valuable and popular amenity with residents and visitors alike including a significant population of summer residents who stay in the caravan parks and beach houses dotted along that part of the peninsula and separated from the beach by the sand dunes.
- 1.1.3 The Burrow beach is an extremely valuable resource to both residents and visitors for a number of reasons, including its aesthetic, environmental, recreational and community characteristics. In addition, the coastal waters of the Burrow Beach have achieved Blue Flag status in 2006.
- 1.1.4 The Blue Flag is a well-recognised, well respected eco-label, awarded to beaches and marinas with excellent environmental management.

- 1.1.5 The Beach at the Burrow in Portrane is one of Ireland's designated beaches under the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations, 1992¹. Regular monitoring is carried out on the beach by Fingal County Council (FCC) during the summer months (as required by the Regulations).
- 1.1.6 The area supports a diverse range of native species, and is known for certain birds and plants in particular. In some areas along the Burrow, including the beach, development pressures and human impacts are interfering with the natural shoreline processes which balance the cycles of beach erosion and deposition, consequently causing the loss of adequate sandy beach areas, and reduced aesthetic and environmental value.
- 1.2 The Beach Management Plan**
- 1.2.1 Fingal County Council, with support from the Heritage Council, commissioned a consultative process with the objective of producing a beach management plan for The Burrow, in summer/autumn 2006.
- 1.2.2 The terms of reference for the project set out that preparation of the plan should be preceded by a consultation process covering the local community, local elected representatives, Fingal County Council staff, and other stakeholders including an Taisce, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government) and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.
- 1.2.3 The beach management plan is intended to be an action plan, based on partnership, setting out a range of practical and achievable actions in the short, medium, and long-term to tackle issues such as:
- beach cleanliness
 - water quality
 - nature conservation (taking account of SAC², SPA³ and pNHA⁴ designations)
 - management of ecologically important sand-dunes and saltmarsh areas
 - management of public access to the beach and its environs
 - provision of information and instruction for visitors
 - health, safety and welfare for residents and visitors

¹ S.I. No. 155 of 1992

² Special Area of Conservation

³ Special Protection Area

⁴ Proposed Natural Heritage Area

1.2.4 The objective of the Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach is to allow Fingal County Council to work in partnership with the community to preserve the character of the area while allowing for recreational use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

1.2.5 This will include the promotion of sustainable beach management practices which will ensure that the integrity of the sand dunes and saltmarshes is maintained and biodiversity maintained and enhanced. .

1.3 This report

1.3.1 This document makes recommendations on how Fingal County Council can best address beach management issues in partnership with all key stakeholders.

1.3.2 The report will describe the site and the processes at work, and will outline the aims and objectives for the Burrow beach and how these can be achieved.

1.3.3 The plan is intended to be an action plan based on partnership, setting out a range of practical and achievable actions in the short-, medium- and long term. This report will highlight the beach management issues raised by the community and other stakeholders.

1.3.4 Chapter 2 describes the Burrow beach, including its habitats, birds and threats. Chapter 3 considers the consultation process, including the opinion survey carried out on the beach and the public consultation meeting with local residents and interested parties. Chapter 4 gathers together an overview of some of the main issues arising from the initial stages of research and the consultation stage. Chapter 5 proposes some options for implementing effective beach management practices.

2.0 The Burrow Beach



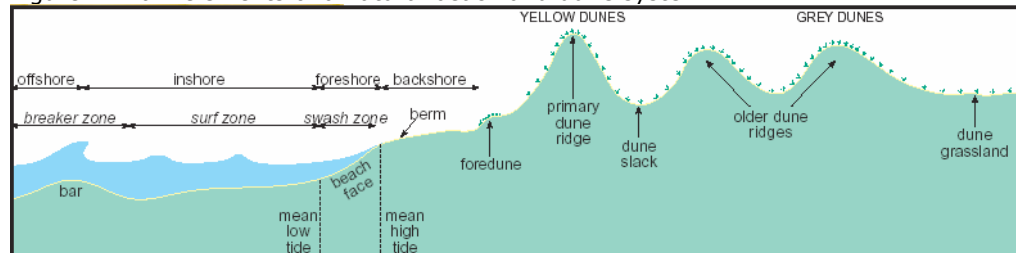
2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This chapter presents a broad overview of the Burrow and its ecological and recreational aspects and features.
- 2.1.2 The coastline of Fingal is a popular recreational resource, rich in natural heritage and history. The Burrow also boasts a range of important coastal habitats, together with rare plant species and internationally important populations of wildfowl. This is an excellent area for studying coastal phenomena such as sand dune development.
- 2.1.3 These coastal ecosystems need careful management and are susceptible to negative impacts from increasing development and increased use by people. Finding ways for residents and visitors to enjoy the natural heritage of the area while protecting the Burrow into the future will ensure that it retains its appeal for all.

2.2 Beach and Sand Dune Formation

2.2.1 Before we begin to examine the ecological and recreational aspects of the Burrow beach, it is important to understand the physical processes at work with regard to beaches and dune systems. The shape and form of beaches and dunes results from the interaction of waves, tidal currents and winds with the available sand sediment. Beaches are created as sand is brought in by waves from offshore sources or from alongshore by wave and tidal currents. Wave action builds the low angle deposit of sand that we call a beach. The main elements of a beach system can be seen in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Main elements of a natural beach and dune system.



2.2.2 Beach erosion is an essential part of natural coastal processes. Beaches are composed of individual grains of sand which move easily with the forces of the waves, currents and the wind. These forces both build up and erode our beaches. Human intervention such as the removal of vegetation or the placement of structures on the dune systems can interfere with the natural processes of erosion and accretion⁵.

2.2.3 Sand dunes are dynamic features of the beach system that act as long-term buffers to coastal erosion. Sand dunes are accumulations of sand deposited above the shoreline by both wave and wind action. They erode during periods of high waves, with the sand being moved offshore into sand bars, and accrete during normal wave conditions as sand is moved back onshore. It is important to remember that the whole Burrow peninsula is mostly made up of sand.

2.3 Rogerstown Estuary and the Burrow Beach

2.3.1 At this stage it is important to examine the relationship between the Burrow beach and Rogerstown Estuary.

2.3.2 Rogerstown Estuary, of which the Burrow peninsula in Portrane is a part, is a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA – Rogerstown Estuary, No. 208). It is also a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). These designations can be seen in the maps of the Fingal County Development Plan.

⁵ An accumulation of sand or other beach material due to the natural action of waves, currents and wind i.e. a build-up of sand.

- 2.3.3 The primary national nature conservation designation is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA). Under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000), NHAs will be legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed. This process of formally proposing NHAs has started. It is an objective of Fingal County Council to protect proposed NHAs such as the one at Rogerstown Estuary. All other national (e.g. Statutory Nature Reserve, National Park), European (e.g. SPA, SAC) and global (e.g. Ramsar Site) nature designations overlap with and are subsets of the basic NHA designation. NHAs are protected via controls on planning permission, e.g. applications must be referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the statutory conservation body.
- 2.3.4 The main European conservation designations are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). SACs are prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive 94/43/EEC'. The EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) came into force in 1979 and it requires each member state to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds that are prescribed within the legislation.
- 2.3.5 SPAs and SACs are designated because of the presence of important species or habitats, not to conserve visual amenity or access. Within the designated areas there are strict controls on development with strong legal backing. In addition authorities can control activities outside the designated areas which might have impacts inside them. The outer part of Rogerstown Estuary is a statutory Nature Reserve, a designated SPA and the wider Estuary is a candidate Special Area of Conservation under the E.U. Habitats Directive.
- 2.3.6 At the global level designations which can potentially include beaches and dunes are Ramsar Wetland Sites and World Heritage Site. There are 21 Ramsar sites in Ireland. Several of these include beach and dune systems, including Rogerstown Estuary which was added to the Ramsar list on 25th October 1988.
- 2.3.7 The Burrow beach (also known as Portrane beach, see map following) contains a sand dune system developed on a glacial ridge running North West along the outer boundary of Rogerstown Estuary. An extensive beach fronts the dune system, which is itself located between rocky headlands at the northern and southern ends of the beach. The location of Rogerstown Estuary and the Burrow beach (Portrane beach) can be seen in the map on page 9.
- Rogerstown Estuary**
- 2.3.8 The Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers flow into the sea at Rogerstown Estuary, a Special Protection Area, which lies directly west of the Burrow area. The estuary is a good example of this type of ecological system and

has examples of all the typical types of habitat one finds in estuarine systems.

- 2.3.9 At low tide the estuary drains exposing the mud and sand flats, fringed by areas of saltmarsh in places. For example the northern tip of the Burrow Beach includes *Cord grass* and *green algae* which grow in the muddy areas and *tassel weed* which is grazed by the *Brent geese* and *Wigeon*. *Lugworm* and *mussels* in the outer estuary add to the food sources that attract birds, particularly during the winter months.
- 2.3.10 The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland which is required by national and European law. Under the EU Birds Directive⁶ each member state must designate "Special Protection Areas" for birds. Some species of birds are listed as requiring particular conservation measures in Annex I of this directive. Species from this list that occur in Rogerstown Estuary include *Golden Plover* and *Little Tern*.
- 2.3.11 As well as protecting species, the directive also provides for the protection of sites, which are important for migratory species such as ducks, geese and waders. Rogerstown Estuary includes good examples of a number of estuarine and coastal habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive⁷ and is an important link in the chain of estuaries on the Irish east coast. It supports an internationally important population of *Brent Goose* and a further 14 species of national importance in Ireland.
- 2.3.12 As of September 2006, 120 SPAs have been designated in Ireland joining a total of over 4,200 sites covering over 380,000 sq. km across the EU.

⁶ 79/409/EEC

⁷ 92/43/EEC



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2.4 The habitats of the Burrow

The Sand Dunes

- 2.4.1 The Burrow peninsula itself (as part of the Donabate-Portrane Peninsula) is made up of a series of sand dune ridges running from north to south. Sand dunes are dynamic natural systems that change when wind and water shift sand from place to place. Plants start to grow where sand collects and dunes develop.
- 2.4.2 The dunes of the Burrow vary in their stage of development from early to established with examples of embryonic, mobile and fixed dunes in evidence. To the west of the Burrow peninsula lies Rogerstown Estuary, while sand and gravel ridges form the spine of the Burrow. The body of the peninsula hosts a range of houses, huts and caravan parks and there is some tilled and arable land in the south west.
- 2.4.3 The embryonic dunes that lie in places to the rear of the sandy Burrow beach have been adversely affected by visitor traffic and erosion. However toward the more secluded, northern end of the beach the plants that characterise these systems such as *Prickly Saltwort* and *Sea Sandwort* are more established and provide an anchor for the sand.
- 2.4.4 A system of mobile dunes lie between this embryonic system and a more established dune ridge dominated by *Marram grass*, which stretches back to the village. Vegetation that would usually form in the lee of the mobile dunes and on fixed dunes is a little scarce as most of the areas where this

could occur are sites for holiday homes or other buildings. However there is a ridge of fixed dunes to the north of the peninsula close to the saltmarsh.

- 2.4.5 A study entitled "Dune Protection measures at Portrane, the Burrow and Rush", commissioned by Fingal County Council and due for completion in early 2007 will address the dune systems and various methods of safeguarding their existence in the aforementioned areas in greater detail.

Saltmarsh

- 2.4.6 At the northern end of the peninsula a typical salt marsh has formed, this extends westward around the estuary and contains common salt marsh plants. A drier, sandy salt marsh habitat has developed in the low-lying zone directly behind the dunes. Visitors have traditionally walked through this area to the northern tip of the beach, an important site for roosting birds during the winter season. There is some evidence that dumping and disturbance by visitors, particularly with dogs, is having a negative impact on the roosting birds in this area.

2.5 Birds of the Burrow

- 2.5.1 Rogerstown Estuary which lies around the peninsula is the winter destination for a very significant population of *Pale-bellied Brent Geese*. Other winter bird populations of national importance include the *Greylag Goose*, *Shelduck*, *Shoveler*, *Ringed and Grey Plover* and *Knot and Black-tailed Godwit*. The estuary is a regular staging post for scarce migrants, especially in autumn when *Green Sandpiper*, *Ruff*, *Little Stint*, *Curlew Sandpiper* and *Spotted Redshank* are in evidence.
- 2.5.2 The Fingal Branch of Birdwatch Ireland (www.bwifingal.ie) has worked hard to protect the birds of the area and in 1995 purchased 30 acres of wetland habitat and entered management agreements with land owners for a further 15 acres. In 1998, with the co-operation of Fingal County Council, a hide was erected on the south shore of Rogerstown Estuary (approximately 3 km from the Burrow) on council land. A new additional hide has recently been constructed on the north shore of the Inner Estuary (on the far side of the railway bridge approximately 4.5 km from the Burrow beach).
- 2.5.3 According to a Kirk McClure Morton report produced in 1998 entitled "The Burrow Portrane Coastal Investigation and Feasibility Study", the main saltmarsh area was traditionally fed and flooded by Spring Tides through a channel running north/south through its northern boundary. The sea purslane, *Halimione portulcoides*, of the salt marsh proper, the sand couchgrass of the accreting sand have both been replaced by *Festuca rubra* (Red fescue) and many other species transitional to dune grassland, which is especially important at this site.
- 2.5.4 In relation to the Burrow beach, there is evidence that the roost site at the northern tip of the beach has been disturbed by visitor traffic and dogs. The sand and shingle banks off the northern tip of the peninsula, where the ground-nesting Little Tern was last known to have bred in 1991, have also been eroded away by the tide. The Ringed Plover is another beach nesting bird that is now absent, most likely due to disturbance. It is possible that the terns may be encouraged back to the Burrow by fencing off of suitable nesting sites or the construction of artificial floating islands which may be an option for the future.
- 2.5.5 However the success of all of these measures will rely on people being aware of the potential disturbance that can be caused by visitor traffic and dogs, in particular during the breeding season.



3.0 The Consultation Process



3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Public consultation formed the centre of the beach management plan preparation process. The aim was to gather information and to learn of local concerns and priorities. The process also had the aim of building the transparency and legitimacy of the process and of the subsequent management plan.
- 3.1.2 A number of consultation methods were included in the plan preparation process to ensure wide participation and also to test the methods with a view to future replication of consultation-based beach management plans. Methods used were meetings with key stakeholders, an opinion survey and an open public meeting. These were supplemented with documentary research and additional telephone and email correspondence with interested parties.
- 3.1.3 This consultation took place in the context of generally good relations between the local community and the county council and of a history of active engagement on local issues between the parties. Different constituency groups for the beach include local permanent residents,

regular (annual) holiday home occupants, and occasional visitors (either holiday makers or day beach users such as swimmers and dog walkers) Local residents have an active residents' association that has been in regular contact with the County Council. Historically, relations between county council staff and the residents' association have been good, with a number of meetings and ongoing correspondence over the years. Many of the key county council staff would be well known to the main residents.

3.2 Initial research

- 3.2.1 Our first step was to meet with the project steering group made up of Fingal County Council personnel. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the steps in the project and also to talk to some of the key stakeholders within the County Council – those with the most knowledge of The Burrow, the issues that would emerge in consultation, and the issues they would like to see addressed. This meeting discussed, among other things, litter, cleaning practices and litter bins; issues relating to bird protection, roosting sites and proposed walkways and fences; anti-social behaviour and dumping.
- 3.2.2 In parallel, desk research was conducted whereby other beach management initiatives were identified and those individuals and organisations with responsibility for any aspect of the site were identified and consulted. Existing Fingal County Council reports and correspondence specifically pertaining to The Burrow were also examined.
- 3.2.3 Review of previous correspondence indicated that county council relations with residents were reasonably good, with history of several meetings and exchanges of letters on the files. The letters revealed some frustration among residents about achieving results on foot of meetings, with a perception that positive discussions failed to produce action 'on the ground' when they talk. Some of the local issues discussed in this correspondence includes planning, anti-social behaviour and concern about quad bikes on the beach. Wider issues raised related to Fingal development, the Donabate Local Area Plan consultation and the proposed sewage works.

3.3 Consulting County Council personnel

- 3.3.1 We spoke with people from different departments within Fingal County Council on the 30th of June 2006 and the 27th of July 2006, including those working in the areas of environment, heritage, biodiversity (parks), planning and water services. These meetings took the form of group and bilateral meetings, including some discussions on the beach itself to identify specific sites and issues.
- 3.3.2 County Council personnel raised issues relating to their areas of work and from their experience working in The Burrow and dealing with local people. Among the issues discussed were litter and cleansing; ecology (including protection of rare plants and roosting sites); car access at the north end and associated concerns of behaviour and dumping; planning

and development issues and enforcement; and other issues such as local heritage.

3.4 Meeting key stakeholders

- 3.4.1 One of the priority stakeholder groups identified was the Burrow Residents' Association, and we met with four of their members on Friday, 18th of August 2006.
- 3.4.2 The residents realise that this area will be receiving a lot more "traffic" as a result of the proposals outlined in the Donabate LAP. They have been active in discussing how the area might develop and become a more valuable and widely known amenity, as well as how to protect it for local residents. Suggestions made at the meeting included:
- Better signage to mark the parking area, toilets, main beach entrance etc., and also walking route signs with local information
 - Fencing off the areas around the dunes to help control the erosion process
 - Removing vehicular access at the northern end, perhaps reviewing the location of the slipway and discussing access with the local caravan park – relates to both dumping and anti-social behaviour
 - Walkways at the back of the dunes to remove pedestrian traffic from the dunes themselves. These walkways could be a tourist feature with associated signage and provision of access for all
- 3.4.3 The meeting also covered the issue of enforcement of bye-laws, the idea of making a DVD/Video showing examples of good practice of beach development, and the lack of clarity about land ownerships, rights of way and the precise boundaries of the SAC.
- 3.4.4 Phone discussions were also held with representatives of both The Burrow Residents' Association and the Donabate Parish Council. These conversations covered areas of interest to the representatives, including planning concerns, issues of anti-social behaviour and other topics already mentioned above.
- 3.4.5 Other stakeholders we held discussions with included the An Taisce officer responsible for the administration of the Blue Flag scheme in Ireland. We were informed that The Burrow is very highly regarded for its cleanliness and attractiveness and is considered a very good blue flag beach. We also discussed The Burrow and its management with the responsible officer in the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This discussion focused on the requirements under the SAC designation.

- 3.4.6 Direct discussions with stakeholders was a central element of the consultation process for this beach management plan. It is clear that there are many interested people with direct experience and knowledge of The Burrow and well-formed views about how to manage it in the future.

3.5 Opinion survey

- 3.5.1 An opinion questionnaire was developed and used to garner the views of beach users on a number of days in August 2006.
- 3.5.2 The beach-based survey involved our researchers spending a number of weekend days on the beach seeking responses to a short questionnaire from a range of beach users. The questionnaire covered visitor demographics, people's attitudes to and perceptions and knowledge of the beach, and also looked at the ways in which people use and interact with the beach.
- 3.5.3 96 responses were received over 5 survey visits between Saturday 19th August and Sunday 27th August. Generally, the survey found that typical beach users were from the local area and were frequent visitors. Views of the beach were strongly positive with visitors finding it clean, quiet and attractive. The results are outlined in detail in Appendix 2.
- 3.5.4 The survey allowed us to collect the opinions of people actually using the beach and hear about their experiences, as well as developing an understanding of the profile of users in terms of age, gender, reasons for visiting and so forth. It also ensured access to the process by visitors to the area that do not reside locally and so may not have been involved in other elements of the public consultation.
- 3.5.5 The survey data also adds statistical legitimacy to the consultation in that it reinforces the discussions with stakeholders and at the public meeting by showing what a larger number of people think about the beach. The views expressed in the survey were in keeping with the themes discussed in other consultation elements and established that a considerable degree of consensus exists about The Burrow.

3.6 Public meeting

- 3.6.1 The consultation process culminated with a public meeting held in the local area. Advertising posters were placed in advance in the local area and the Residents' Association helped spread word about the meeting and ensure a good turnout.
- 3.6.2 35 people attended the meeting. We started the meeting with an overview presentation on the project, including results of the opinion survey and the range of issues that had been raised to date. In-depth discussions then took place in groups to allow for maximal participation and interaction. The participants were split into four groups and took it in turn to discuss issues by theme, the four themes being:

- Uses of the beach
- Nature and ecology
- Local quality of life
- Amenities and access

- 3.6.3 The issues of sand dune erosion featured significantly in the meeting, with concern being expressed as to the extent and rate of recent erosion. It was felt that practices such as walking or building in sensitive areas was exacerbating the problem and more could be done to prevent such behaviour. There was also a desire for remedial action to address erosion already underway. There was also discussion about planning and development, and an interest in definitively establishing exact land ownership and areas in public ownership for the peninsula.
- 3.6.4 The topic of information also featured at the meeting, with many people expressing a desire for more signage or other information on amenities, flora and fauna etc. The meeting also heard discussions on horses and dogs on the beach, litter and cleanliness and many other topics raised at various points in the consultation process.
- 3.6.5 The above paragraphs present but a very brief overview of the discussions. Further detail on the discussions of the meeting can be seen in Appendix 3.
- 3.6.6 There was coverage of the meeting afterwards in the Fingal Independent and North County Leader newspapers.
- 3.6.7 It was clear to us in facilitating the public meeting that many local people have a strong interest in their community and are willing to participate in discussions to help improve and develop it. The meeting allowed for open and frank discussion whereby all participants could have their views recorded on all main topics of interest. Participants expressed their happiness with the meeting as an opportunity to make an input into the consultation process.

3.7 Conclusions

- 3.7.1 As a pilot project, the beach management consultation for The Burrow deliberately aimed to employ a wide range of methods to allow people the opportunity to express their views. It is clear from both the detailed and coherent nature of many inputs that The Burrow has a well established community well able to express its views and interested in participating in area development. This consultation has been successful in allowing these issues to be raised and discussed directly with county council personnel, who have also been clearly seen to be interested in working hard for the betterment of the area.

- 3.7.2 Future public consultations on similar processes should contain all of the elements tested in this project. The public meeting is important for its fully open access: although in this case it seems that most participants were affiliated with the residents' groups there were clearly a number of participants with no other active involvement and thus it facilitated their inclusion in the process, as well as allowing for fuller discussions with the more active community members.
- 3.7.3 The beach opinion survey was important for allowing wider access to people not necessarily directly involved or indeed not living locally. Of course, the survey was 'lighter' in terms of the depth of discussions involved, but was valuable for its ability to establish how widely held certain views were. We can never be sure that all points of view were heard in the consultation process, and indeed certain constituencies (such as users of the northern boat jetty as an example) were probably not reached. This can be addressed through the more formal County Council consultation procedures which will take place when the Beach Management Plan is brought before the members of Fingal County Council for their consideration and agreement.

4.0 Overview of Issues Raised in the Consultation Process



4.1 **Local quality of life**

The "Local quality of life" issue includes the following elements:

- Litter and waste
- Recreational uses of the beach
- Behaviour and safety

Introduction

Litter and Waste

4.1.1 The cleanliness of The Burrow was a major topic in discussions about the beach. For the most part, The Burrow is regarded as a clean beach, and the work of Fingal County Council highly praised.

4.1.2 In general, litter levels are low, although there have been some reported incidents of bags of waste left on the beach by picnic groups-parties, and also of litter from night time alcohol consuming groups.

- 4.1.3 The Burrow beach is mechanically and manually cleaned during the summer period. The Beach is cleaned twice weekly with a beach machine from the roadway at Sea Park Housing Estate going approximately 1000 metres to the Lifeguard hut from May to September. The Beach machine is not used beyond the 1000 metre mark.
- 4.1.4 From the Sea Park Housing Estate to approx 800 metres beyond the lifeguard hut the beach is handpicked every day from May to September and again for the October Holiday Weekend and Christmas Holiday Period. Once every three weeks the entire beach to the point of the Peninsula is litter picked by hand.
- 4.1.5 A number of voluntary groups have organised very successful beach clean-ups at the Burrow beach. Fingal County Council aims to support such clean-ups wherever it can, and can assist by providing gloves and rubbish bags, helping to promote the event and collecting the filled rubbish bags and arranging their disposal.
- 4.1.6 The NPWS made the point that no mechanical cleaning should take place within the SAC area.

Recreational Uses of the beach

- 4.1.7 The Burrow is characterised by its popularity among its loyal users. Most visitors are there to walk, swim, exercise their dogs, or relax on the beach.
- 4.1.8 The use of speedboats and jet skis is not common at The Burrow. There are bye-laws in place governing the use of such equipment at all Fingal beaches. It is thought that increased usage of such equipment at the Burrow would not be welcomed by most visitors.
- 4.1.9 The Fingal County Council Beach and Foreshore Bye-laws 2006 (See Appendix 5) govern the presence of dogs and horses on the beach. Hours of access are set and persons in charge of a dog or horse on a beach are required to keep it under control and ensure no annoyance is being caused. People must also collect faeces and deposit it in a litter bin or other designated receptacle. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times in SACs and SPAs and horses are also prohibited in SACs and SPAs except where bridle paths are provided.
- 4.1.10 The NPWS made the point that no mechanical cleaning should take place within the SAC area.

Behaviour and Safety

- 4.1.11 Anti-social behaviour at beaches can take many forms. These range from small acts such as dropping litter to potentially life-threatening behaviour such as reckless driving or vandalism. Beaches can often become a focal point for behaviours such as drinking. Sometimes technical solutions to

problems such as vandalism can be helpful. Toilets and other facilities can be locked or designed to discourage such behaviour.

- 4.1.12 Outside of specific behavioural issues, hazards at a beach can come from a variety of sources. They can be the result of natural processes (e.g. tides and currents, rockfalls, jellyfish); incompatible activities taking place in proximity (e.g. jetskiing and swimming, or car driving and sunbathing); or users' behaviour (e.g. recklessness, thoughtless behaviour, ignorance of the potential hazards). Some are more amenable to control and management than others.

Stakeholder meeting discussions

- 4.1.13 All stakeholders generally see The Burrow as a clean beach and praise the work of Fingal County Council in this regard. There was some mention of problems away from the main beach area or at certain off-season times when cleansing is reduced, but these were in the context of a largely positive perception.
- 4.1.14 Many consultees raised the problem of fly-tipped waste –large items or quantities of rubbish that are dumped illegally instead of being disposed of properly at a landfill site – particularly at the Northern end in the saltmarsh area. The fly-tipping problem at the Burrow is strongly linked by many stakeholders to the issue of car access at the northern end of the peninsula, with a laneway near the saltmarsh being identified as the main route taken by cars engaging in significant dumping.
- 4.1.15 Some residents expressed frustration at enforcement of litter laws regarding dumping, citing incidents where dumping was reported and offenders identified but no sanction followed. There was a call for creating an environment where potential dumpers may be deterred by an expectation of being caught and punished.

Survey issues

- 4.1.16 When asked what they liked about the beach, the majority of respondents spontaneously mentioned its cleanliness. Only 2% of respondents felt that the beach was not clean. 67% found it very clean, 27% found it acceptably clean. When prompted to comment on any cleanliness issues, 11% mentioned dog fouling and 8% mentioned the presence of some litter.
- 4.1.17 When asked what they didn't like about the beach, 60% said there was nothing they could think of. Some of the issues people raised (often when pushed) included concerns about anti-social behaviour (6%) poor facilities (11%) and the presence of too many dogs (11%).

Public meeting

- 4.1.18 Participants in the public meeting were asked directly what they thought about The Burrow's cleanliness. The general response was similar to that

noted above: that the beach is generally clean in terms of litter and that the efforts of Fingal to keep it so are appreciated.

- 4.1.19 More discussion took place on the issue of dumping, again focused on the problem towards the north end of the Burrow. As mentioned above, many people have noticed this as an issue and also have witnessed such dumping taking place. Again as noted above, there was discussion of perceived poor enforcement and a lack of support to local people trying to address the problem.
- 4.1.20 Dog faeces on the beach was another common issue raised during the public consultation meeting. A significant proportion of participants thought that a number of facilities should be provided for the public to collect and deposit dog faeces. There were also calls for more signage emphasising the legal requirement to pick up after dogs, and more enforcement against offenders.
- 4.1.21 In relation to behaviour and safety the feeling is that the Gardai know about the issue of quad bikes but have not or cannot do anything. This poses a safety issue for other users of the beach as well as destroying the dunes. There would appear to be a small number of people involved in this activity.
- 4.1.22 In relation to recreational uses, water quality at the Burrow beach was perceived as being very good, linking in to the blue flag status that the beach holds.

Discussion

- 4.1.23 Litter and waste emerged as the main issue under the heading of "local quality of life". The main impact of litter is visual, although some material, such as broken bottles, also poses a health risk. Litter is an immediately visible problem and one that is high on the list of most people's complaints. It is therefore one that should be given a high priority as, rightly or wrongly, it influences visitors' perceptions of a beach and of the way in which it is managed.
- 4.1.24 The cleaning schedule for the Burrow beach is as follows:
- From May to September, the beach is cleaned everyday, once a day from 600 metres north of the lifeguard hut to the public road on the southern side of the beach.
 - The very northern tip of the beach is cleaned once every fortnight to 3 weeks.
 - A beach machine is used to remove any seaweed on a Wednesday and Saturday morning.

- Fingal County Council also provide a beach cleaning service on all Bank Holiday weekends.

4.1.25 The Burrow is an extremely clean beach however, it is certainly not litter-free, but beyond some reinforcement of awareness through signage and some consideration of the numbers and locations of litter bins, the situation is probably as well managed as possible. One area where there may be need for action is, as for other topics, that of enforcement. A visible presence of litter wardens during the peak season may serve to reduce the incidence of litter further.

4.1.26 Of more concern is the problem of fly-tipping, where significant quantities of waste are often to be found in specific vulnerable locations. It is our view that this problem is best tackled through the direct step of removing or at least limiting car access to the dune system at the Northern end of the peninsula. A greater emphasis on enforcement and sanction of offenders would also send an important public signal. This can be reinforced through information and awareness activities. Work that Fingal has already undertaken in this area, such as the recent dog fouling campaign, is to be commended. The local community are an important partner in this issue and their work in terms of clean-ups and discouragement of dumping should be supported.

4.2 The Physical Environment

4.2.1 The physical environment includes the following elements:

- Ecology
- Erosion
- Flora and fauna



Introduction

4.2.2 The coastline of Fingal is a popular recreational resource, and rich in natural heritage and history. The Burrow also boasts a range of important habitats, rare plant species and an internationally important population of wildfowl. This is an excellent area for studying coastal phenomena such as sand dune formation.

4.2.3 These coastal ecosystems need careful management and are susceptible to negative impacts from increasing development and increased use by people. Finding ways for residents and visitors to enjoy the natural heritage of the area while protecting the Burrow into the future will ensure that it retains its appeal for all.

Stakeholder meetings

- 4.2.4 Concerns among council representatives were expressed with regard to people on the dunes as this is an important site for habitats and rare species of flora and fauna. The key issue is how to integrate nature conservation in parallel with recreational and other uses on the beach.
- 4.2.5 One of the major concerns expressed by the local residents was that the dune areas need to be vehicle free. As a result, the areas around the dunes need to be fenced off in order to try to manage the erosion process.

Survey

- 4.2.6 The issue of ecology, erosion and flora and fauna was not a major concern during the beach survey as most people interviewed simply used the beach to “hang out” or walk their dog.

Public meeting

- 4.2.7 As mentioned above, erosion is a major concern of many local residents, many of whom have observed changes over a long period of time. While there is acknowledgement of the natural dynamic processes involved, residents have also observed the ways in which human activity is affecting the processes. The main issues raised were regarding car access at the northern end of the peninsula (affecting the saltmarsh in particular) and about building development in the dune system (including the creation of new paths and damage to dunes within building projects). There is considerable concern about the deterioration of the dune system due to these influences, and the consequent risks to the sustainability of the area and of flooding in certain areas.

Discussion

- 4.2.8 Chapter 2 of this report describes some of the natural characteristics and values of the Burrow beach. The Burrow beach is a valuable and popular amenity with residents and visitors alike. It is also exceptional in terms of natural heritage, particularly rare plant species and wildfowl.
- 4.2.9 The designations for The Burrow and for the Rogerstown Estuary have been discussed earlier in the report. As discussed there, these designations have implications for land use and planning.
- 4.2.10 Obviously there can be a degree of incompatibility between designations and uses of the beach. The ideal situation would be to manage the beach for multiple uses in a balanced, integrated manner, while at the same time respecting the various conservation designations in place.

4.3 Improved public awareness, including designations and planning

4.3.1 This section includes the following elements:

- Signage
- Blue Flag
- pNHA, incorporating the SAC and SPA
- Planning and development in the area

Introduction

Signage

4.3.2 Signage is an important aspect of beach management. It has a range of uses including providing warnings about hazards, highlighting facilities, setting out management initiatives and requesting compliance.

Blue Flag

4.3.3 An EU Blue Flag was awarded to the Burrow Beach in 2006. The European Blue Flag Campaign is an initiative of the Foundation of Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE). It was introduced in 1987 and recognises annually those beaches and marinas which are clean, well managed and promote care for the environment.

4.3.4 The Blue Flag Campaign is administered by National Bodies in the EU states - An Taisce in Ireland. An award beach must be one of those monitored and identified under the Bathing Water Directive, and it must reach the higher guideline standards for water quality.

4.3.5 In addition, it must reach an acceptable standard on several additional physico-chemical parameters and a number of management criteria. Blue Flag status is highly coveted and figures largely in the marketing campaigns of those beaches that possess it. Further details can be found at www.blueflag.org. The Beach at the Burrow in Portrane is one of the designated beaches under the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations, 1992. Regular monitoring is carried out on the beach during the summer months as required by the Regulations.

4.3.6 As a Blue Flag beach, a lifeguard service operates at the Burrow beach between the period early July to end August each year. Lifeguards are present at the beach daily between 11am and 7pm during this period. Local hazards raised during consultation with local residents and the beach survey include risks from wind, the sea at low tide, bathing at the northern end of the beach where there are bad rip tides, and the wall at the southern end (at the Brook) where children are often seen jumping from the road onto the beach.

pNHA, SAC and SPA designations

- 4.3.7 In discussion with representatives from the NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Service), one of the main concerns raised was that the nature conservation requirements of the SAC/SPA areas are outlined in this report as well as the pNHAs, as it was felt that many people are not aware of the implications of the conservation designations.
- 4.3.8 The Biodiversity Officer with Fingal County Council agreed that access at the tip of the peninsula would be one of the main concerns from an ecological point of view and in particular roosting birds, as they are concentrated at the tip of the peninsula. The access arrangement is of particular concern. Another major concern is that of people walking on the dunes. If there was a boardwalk type structure in place, this would allow for controlled access to the dunes. Fencing off the dunes would perhaps be another option.
- 4.3.9 A representative from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources was consulted and made aware of this project.
- 4.3.10 Discussions with the Blue Flag campaign co-ordinator in Ireland indicate that the Burrow is well thought of in general and the efforts of Fingal County Council in terms of cleanliness and general management are acknowledged. The local public value the Blue Flag status highly. One point raised during the beach survey was that of information signage. International regulations on signage for Blue Flag beaches are developing and it is likely that further requirements in terms of information and format of displayed information will have an impact on the Burrow and other beaches in the near future.

Planning and Development

- 4.3.11 The Burrow is an area of the Portrane peninsula comprised mainly of open farmland, scattered housing, dunes and estuary foreshore. The Burrow peninsula consists of a warren of cul-de-sacs accessing a loose mosaic of permanent dwellings (mainly modern bungalows) caravans and mobile homes variously interspersed with areas of open ground. The environment remains rural but is under threat from becoming more urban in character.

Stakeholder meetings

- 4.3.12 As mentioned above, our discussions with the Blue Flag campaign co-ordinator in Ireland indicate that the Burrow is well thought of in general and the efforts of Fingal County Council in terms of cleanliness and general management are acknowledged. The residents felt that every effort should be made to maintain the Burrow beach to Blue Flag standard.
- 4.3.13 Given the substantial areas of open ground in the Burrow peninsula, the potential for additional development in the area is considerable. There is a concern that if new dwellings are permitted, this could establish a precedent opening up the area to development that would be severely

injurious to its particular environmental character, sense of place and amenity.

Survey

- 4.3.14 From the on beach survey, there did seem to be a general view that more signage would be helpful, such as direction signs to the beach car park, and more signs about the flora and fauna of the beach.
- 4.3.15 The survey dealt directly with the Blue Flag designation only. The beach survey indicated a high awareness of and regard for the Blue Flag status of The Burrow (See Appendix 2). 63% of respondents said it was important to them that the beach was a Blue Flag beach. Only 13% were not aware of the Blue Flag status.

Public meeting

- 4.3.16 One of the main points raised at the public meeting was that of planning and development in the area. As raised at the meeting, the Burrow is an area zoned under objective "HA" High Amenity in the Fingal County development plan for which the objective is to protect and improve high amenity areas. It is a development strategy as set out in the plan to protect and retain the distinctive village character of Portrane and to limit development in the Burrow area.
- 4.3.17 A further point to note from the public meeting was that additional development will generate more traffic movements, endangering public safety in the area.
- 4.3.18 One of the most pressing issues seems to be that of sand dune erosion. The perception is that a lot of land has been lost since 1940, 70 acres was mentioned. According to the public at the meeting, remedial action is now urgently needed and should be a priority.

Discussion

- 4.3.19 Local residents mention the designations most commonly in relation to the value of the local area and the importance of its protection. There is a commonly stated awareness of the richness of the flora and fauna. There is also interest, arising from the public meeting in developing the tourism potential of the area. The designations were not directly addressed in the beach survey, so it is difficult to gauge degrees of attitudes at this point.
- 4.3.20 Land tenure type is another important constraint on beach and dune management. Some confusion exists as to the land ownership structures in and around the Burrow area. The problem therefore has arisen whereby public land is perceived to be public property. The uncontrolled use of "dune buggies" are common consequences of the free access to the coastal lands held in the public realm.
- 4.3.21 The main planning and development issue that was raised throughout the consultation process included the fact that planning permission seems to

be granted closer and closer to the dunes – that building into the dunes without permission is common and there is a widely held perception that people seem to apply for, and receive retention for these properties without encountering many problems.

4.4 Amenities and Access

4.4.1 The main elements of the amenities and access section include the following:

- Local facilities;
- Information;
- Tourism,
- Boardwalk



Introduction

- 4.4.2 The Burrow is easily accessible by road and is located in an area with a potentially large visitor catchment area (with access via the M1 corridor). However, public transport is less well developed. There is one regular bus service to and from Swords, but this does not necessarily provide wider access. In contrast to many Fingal beaches, there is no direct train access.
- 4.4.3 Parking is a common problem at beach resorts, but one that does not significantly affect The Burrow. This is due to the presence of a public car park of adequate size for the visitor numbers currently experienced.
- 4.4.4 In a number of areas along the beach, unauthorised tracks have been defined and even constructed across the dune system. Also, four wheel

drive vehicles are thought to have worn paths across the dunes to access the beach in some areas. Vehicles can cause damage to a site if they are allowed to drive or park on the dunes. The fragile dune vegetation has a very limited load bearing capacity, and deep ruts can quickly appear.

- 4.4.5 There is one pub and one fish-and-chip restaurant next to The Burrow (near the lifeguard station) and also a convenience shop located about 100 metres away.

Stakeholder meetings

- 4.4.6 As mentioned earlier, the issue of car access at the northern end of the Burrow was raised many times during the consultation. It was felt by local residents (and others) that restricting car access here would be a very positive step for the area. It is argued, for one, that dumping would be greatly inhibited as a result. A concern about restricting access relates mainly to the use of the small boat jetty at the northern tip of the peninsula. However, various suggestions were made to address this, including facilitating occasional access (at key seasonal junctures) or moving the jetty to a new location near the southern end of the beach.
- 4.4.7 For the biodiversity staff of Fingal County Council, access at the tip of the peninsula would be one of the main concerns from an ecological point of view and in particular roosting birds as these birds tend to be concentrated at the northern tip of the Burrow peninsula. The access arrangement is of particular concern. Another major concern is that of people walking on the dunes. If there was a boardwalk type structure in place, this would allow for controlled access to the dunes. The option of fencing off dune areas (perhaps in conjunction with a boardwalk) was also discussed a number of times.
- 4.4.8 The development of the Burrow as a serious tourist attraction was mentioned at the Residents Association meeting, with a long term vision of establishing a museum at Stellas Tower and developing the fishing and boating industries in the area.

Survey

- 4.4.9 Respondents expressed positive views about the general nature of facilities, though there was some lack of awareness of facilities such as the toilets and also some concern about lack of access to these toilets during the off-peak season.
- 4.4.10 Some people in the survey expressed a desire for more café-type facilities, but it was seemingly often based on a lack of awareness of existing facilities. For the number of visitors in the area, level of facilities were considered reasonable by consultation participants.

Public meeting

- 4.4.11 Discussions about car access at the Northern end and the issues relating to boardwalks and fencing have been described above. The only concern

raised about parking was a request for directional signs to the car park, with many visitors not aware that a public car park exists. Many comments were made about the tourism potential of the peninsula, with appropriate balance sought between attracting new visitors and maintaining the positive characteristics of the area.

Discussion

- 4.4.12 As with other areas, discussion on this theme revealed to us a strongly positive general view of The Burrow and its amenity value. Local residents see additional tourism potential for the area and some have developed detailed ideas as to how to promote this. Local pride will continue to be an important asset in such regard.
- 4.4.13 Information signage was a frequently discussed issue, and seems to present an opportunity for immediate and direct improvement through new signage, including directional signs for the car-park and toilets as well as informational signage in relation to the sand dunes and saltmarsh area, and the dangerous swimming areas up towards the northern end. Consultation with local residents did not address in detail issues such as public transport access since this was not an expressed concern.
- 4.4.14 As detailed above, discussion of car access at the Northern end of The Burrow featured in many aspects of the consultation, with strong consensus among those consulted that consideration should be given to limiting access to improve dune protection and address dumping and other anti-social behaviour.

5.0 Beach Management Plan - Options

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Four outcomes for implementing effective beach management practices have been identified in the proposed *Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach* and these include:

Outcome 1. Physical Environment Conservation measures

Outcome 2. Amenities and Access

Outcome 3. Local Quality of Life

Outcome 4. Improved Public awareness including designations and planning

- 5.1.2 Although each outcome is numbered, they are not in order of priority or importance. Many of the actions will need to be implemented concurrently in an effort to obtain effective beach management practices for The Burrow Beach.
- 5.1.3 It is important to note that this Beach Management Plan is a 5 year plan and actions will occur within this 5 year period.
- 5.1.4 It is proposed that all actions are to occur as part of an ongoing timeframe in relation to the living *Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach*.

The objective of this Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach is to work in partnership with the community to:

- promote beach preservation;
- preserve the function and stability of the dune system by managing access points;
- protect beachfront properties from erosion by maintaining and/or rehabilitating the dune system;
- provide community guidance on sustainable use of dune areas to ensure the continued viability for beachfront residents and the community of the Burrow;
- maintain the natural biodiversity of beach and dune systems;
- preserve the present character of the area while allowing for recreational use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

- 5.1.4 This document makes recommendations on how Fingal County Council in conjunction with other key stakeholders can best address beach management issues.
- 5.1.5 The Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach will be implemented by the Council in co-operation with other stakeholders.

OUTCOME 1: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION MEASURES



Background

The provision of dune protection is necessary where land use pressures will, in the absence of protection measures, cause damage to the dune landform or vegetation.

The basic principle in dune management is to maintain a satisfactory vegetative cover on the foredune. This will prevent sand blowing inland where it is permanently lost from the coastal system.

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) is the variety of all life forms - the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part. The conservation of biodiversity is important for a variety of ecological, economic and social reasons.


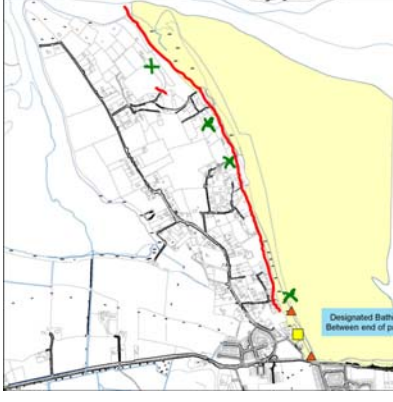
Objective:

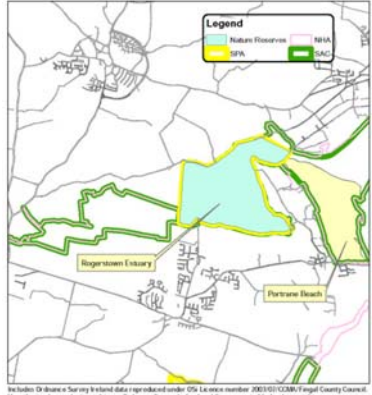
1. To preserve, protect and where necessary restore the dune systems of the Burrow Beach whilst providing for community use and enjoyment.

2. To protect and conserve biodiversity on the Burrow beach and dune systems through appropriate environmental management.

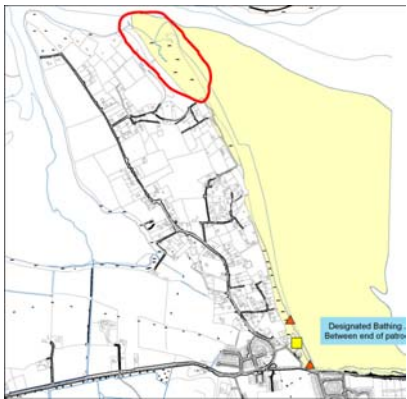
Actions

In partnership with the community, it is recommended that the following measures be implemented:

<p>Project Ref.: Outcome 1.1 (O1.1)</p> <p>Action: Agree and implement dune protection measures, in partnership with the NPWS following on completion in early 2007, of Fingal County Councils study entitled "Dune Protection measures at Portrane, the Burrow and Rush".</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010) Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG, NPWS and NGOs.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome O1.9, O2.2</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: O1.2</p> <p>Action: Control access to the dune and saltmarsh areas through fencing and gates (as indicated in red on the location map) where required and incorporate informative signage (as indicated with green Xs on location map), to ensure no unauthorised access or vegetation clearing occurs in these areas. Some fencing has been erected during the Christmas 2006 period – this has been an early achievement in terms of the beach management plan actions.</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008) Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG, the Heritage Council and NGOs.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: O1.3</p> <p>Action: Provide advice to residents and visitors to the beach regarding the maintenance of the active dune areas, through informative signage (see O1.2 map – green Xs, for proposed signage locations) and responses to information requests. Details of where information requests are to be sent will be included on the informative signage.</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008) Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, NPWS and NGOs.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 3.1, 4.1</p>	

<p>Project Ref.: O1.4</p> <p>Action: Retain areas on the protected landward side of the dune to provide for limited public access along the back of the dune, whilst ensuring the conservation objectives of the Beach Plan are achieved.</p> <p>Project Priority: Long-term (2011)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 2.2, 3.1</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: O1.5</p> <p>Action: Ensure beach users are aware that undertaking works on the publicly owned dunal systems without the required permission from Fingal County Council is an offence. This information will also be included on the proposed information signage – signage locations are indicated with green Xs on location map O1.2 above.</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with DEHLG and NPWS.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 2.2</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: O1.6</p> <p>Action: Ensure beach users are aware that littering and waste dumping are illegal, through the proposed information signage (see locations marked as green Xs on map O1.2). Actively discourage, through a prosecution/enforcement campaign, dumping and littering around dune areas, especially protected areas (see location map for protected areas). Promote the free civic amenity centres for appropriate waste management (through proposed information signage) located at Balbriggan, Swords etc.</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: This is the public's responsibility in association with Fingal CC, DEHLG and the Heritage Council.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 1.8</p>	

<p>Project Ref.: O1.7</p> <p>Action: Monitor the condition of the beach and dune systems in the Burrow, through quarterly inspection visits, with written reports. These reports should be based on agreed terms of reference and criteria, and all outcomes should be communicated directly to the Residents' Group and FCC Parks Division, and maintained/archived on FCC's website. An extension to this would be to examine the feasibility of a nature conservation project for Little Terns and Ringed Plovers.</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: DEHLG and the NPWS.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 2.4</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: O1.8</p> <p>Action: In conjunction with Outcome 1.6, encourage and support local residents to assist in removing litter from the Burrow Beach through programs such as regular (or timetabled) beach clean-ups.</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Residents' Groups and Fingal CC, in association with DEHLG and the Heritage Council.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 1.6</p>	

<p>Project Ref.: O1.9</p> <p>Action: Ensure that logs and branches that currently provide habitats remain on the beach and dune areas (with the exception of those that pose a safety risk). Retain also, all large native trees in the area to ensure adequate roosting and nesting sites for local and migratory bird species. The areas likely to be affected are highlighted in red on the map opposite. The undertaking of this project in conjunction with the programmes outlined in options O1.1, O3.1 and O3.2, is likely to be most efficient.</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG, the Heritage Council and NGOs.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 1.1, O3.1, O3.2</p>	
<p>Project Ref: O1.10</p> <p>Action: Agree a methodology for cleaning within the SAC and SPA areas, in conjunction with the NPWS.</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal County Council in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p>	

OUTCOME 2: AMENITIES AND ACCESS



Background

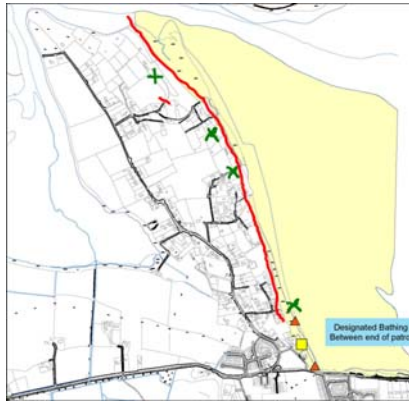


The Burrow Beach has been recognised as an important recreational area for many locals and visitors, creating a demand for access by pedestrians and vehicles. Such demand has resulted in significant damage to the function and stability of the dune systems of the Burrow Beach. In addition, the construction of unauthorised paths, roads and other means of access to the beach have been introduced, which can prevent the growth of native vegetation and pose a safety risk due to uneven surfaces, and the easy access dune buggies can gain to the beach as a result of these unauthorised access points.

Objective:

To provide safe public access to the beach, while protecting the environmental values associated with the beach and dune systems, especially at the Northern end of the Burrow

Actions

In partnership with the community, it is recommended that the following measures be implemented:

<p>Project Ref.: O2.1</p> <p>Action: In relation to the access point at the northern end of the beach, most people during the consultation process felt that this should be blocked off, therefore the recommendation is that this access point be closed off to cars – this option dovetails with O1.2 (as per picture opposite).</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG, and NGOs.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 1.2, O2.2</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: O2.2</p> <p>Action: Best Practice should be followed when constructing pedestrian access facilities such as the walkway suggested in this plan.</p> <p>Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG, the Heritage Council and NGOs.</p> <p>Linked Actions: O1.1, O1.2, O1.4, O1.5 and O2.1 and O2.3.</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: O2.3</p> <p>Action: Establish and maintain beach access tracks as reasonable needs require, placed no closer than 50 metres apart. These beach access ways (see proposed locations marked with red 'X' on map opposite) will be clearly identified and maintained in a safe condition and where necessary fenced and signposted, whilst removing all unauthorised existing beach access structures.</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG and the Heritage Council.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 2.2</p>	

<p>Project Ref.: O2.4</p> <p>Action: Regularly inspect fencing to ensure no unauthorised pedestrian or vehicle access to the beach and along the dune system occurs, to be undertaken in conjunction with the proposed monitoring. (See O1.7)</p> <p>Project Priority: Short term (2007-208)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: DEHLG and the Heritage Council.</p> <p>Linked Actions: Outcome 1.7</p>	
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OUTCOME 3: LOCAL QUALITY OF LIFE



Background

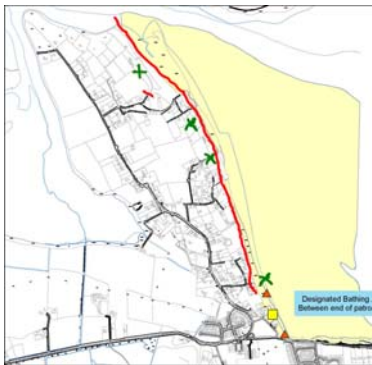


The Burrow Beach is a popular recreational area for both locals and tourists due to its unique character as a small urban coastal township and its proximity to the Dublin City area.

Objective:

To preserve the character of the area while allowing for recreational use by both the local community and tourists.

Actions

In partnership with the community, it is recommended that the following measures be implemented:

<p>Project Ref.: 03.1</p> <p>Action: Ensure equitable access for residents and visitors i.e. by building a boardwalk along the beach front which can be used by those with restricted mobility, parents with buggies/prams etc. in conjunction with options</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC.</p> <p>Linked Actions: 01.2, 01.3 01.4, 04.1</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: 03.2</p> <p>Action: Provide and maintain recreational amenities such as tables, shelters and seating at the Brook end (southern end) of the study area (see area outlined in red on map opposite) to help avoid (or minimise) disturbance to existing vegetation at the northern end.</p> <p>Project Priority: Long-term (2011)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, with DEHLG and the Heritage Council.</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: 03.3</p> <p>Action: Enhance the aesthetic values of the beach area for both residents and visitors by promoting use of the area for controlled activities such as fishing.</p> <p>Project Priority: Long-term (2011)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, with DELHG, the Heritage Council and Fáilte Ireland.</p>	

OUTCOME 4: IMPROVED PUBLIC AWARENESS INCLUDING DESIGNATIONS AND PLANNING



Background

The involvement and support of the community and visitors is a vital component in the conservation and protection of beach and dune ecosystems. A variety of media, including pamphlets, signage, along with educational presentations to various groups, community associations and residents of beach areas, can increase the public awareness regarding beach and dune conservation issues.

Objective:

Develop and promote public information and education programs on beach and dune conservation and preservation issues.

Actions

In partnership with the community, it is recommended that the following measures be implemented:

Project Ref.: O4.1

Action: Increase the availability and accessibility of information concerning beach and dune conservation and management, through provision of informative signage in association with options as listed below (proposed locations of signage illustrated as green 'X's on map opposite.)

Project Priority: Short-term (2007-2008)

Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG, the Heritage Council and NGOs.

Linked Actions: O1.2, O1.3 and O3.1



<p>Project Ref.: 04.2</p> <p>Action: Ensure public participation and consultation occurs in the ongoing development and implementation of the <i>Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach</i>. It is suggested that this would be conducted through a Local Authority interdepartmental Beach Consultation Group consisting of representatives from the Parks, Environment, and Heritage Departments, along with an Area Engineer and local representation.</p> <p>Project Priority: Ongoing (2007-2011)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with Residents' Groups, DEHLG, NPWS and NGOs.</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: 04.3</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>(a) Advise new residents to Donabate/Portrane (especially in new estates) of the importance of the beach and dune ecosystems at the Burrow Beach via an introductory information pack on the Burrow Beach area.</p> <p>(b) Identify key target audiences (e.g. schools, community associations, neighbourhood boards, developers, contractors, residents adjacent to beachfront areas etc.) to participate in the distribution of dune and beach management information educational "pack".</p> <p>(c) Try to incorporate elements of beach management into the Green Schools programme.</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC (Green Schools and Community Environmental Liaison), in association with Department of Education and Science, DEHLG, NPWS and NGOs.</p>	

<p>Project Ref.: 04.4</p> <p>Project Description: Use local authority's website (www.fingalcoco.ie) as a portal (or link mechanism to the local group's websites) to disseminate up-to date information or beach news which would be a very effective way in promoting the beach and the local activities of the various interested groups.</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010)</p> <p>Project Responsibility: Fingal CC, in association with interested and relevant groups.</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: 04.5</p> <p>Project Description: Try to establish the extent of public lands on the Burrow.</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium-term (2009-2010)</p> <p>Project Responsibility: Fingal CC planning department</p>	
<p>Project Ref.: 04.6</p> <p>Action: Support and encourage further professional training and development to equip Fingal County Council Officers with the skills and understanding needed to enhance knowledge in all aspects of beach and dune management.</p> <p>Project Priority: Medium to Long-term (2009-2011)</p> <p>Proposed Project Partners: Fingal CC, in association with DEHLG.</p>	

6.0 Project Conclusions



- 6.1 The Burrow Beach is a community asset, providing high environmental, social and recreational values.
- 6.2 However, beach and dune systems at the Burrow Beach have been modified significantly through a number of human induced activities including clearing of vegetation, modification of dunes and inappropriate development.
- 6.3 These concerns have been addressed in this Beach Plan and a number of key outcomes and associated actions developed to address them.
- 6.4 Adoption of the *Beach Management Plan for the Burrow Beach* will provide direction for Fingal County Council and the local community to implement effective beach and dune management practices for the Burrow Beach. This will ensure the preservation of the beach and dune areas, maintenance of natural biodiversity of the area and preservation of the character of the Burrow Beach while allowing for recreational use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

- 6.5 Many individuals and organisations have assisted in the preparation of this plan by providing information and comments during the process. Their time and effort is gratefully acknowledged.
- 6.6 The operation of a holistic beach management process is still in its infancy and the general attitudes to beach management, outside of those who live or use the beach regularly, can be one of misunderstanding.
- 6.7 This plan aims to have a positive impact on the Burrow beach in the long-term. However, for it to do so does require the delivery of key elements to drive it forward. These are - dynamic innovation, committed ownership by deliverers, biodiversity appreciation, commercial awareness, sustainable planning, productive partnerships, and above all it needs the comprehensive co-operation of the local community to provide long-term sustainability of the project.
- 6.8 The community aspect will also mean that the management of the scheme remains sympathetic towards local needs and views.
- 6.9 The plan should be reviewed periodically to observe whether outcomes are being reached. This review should be yearly, with any new changes in circumstances leading to the necessary amendments to objectives set.
- 6.10 It is suggested that this review will be conducted through a Local Authority interdepartmental Beach Consultation Group consisting of representatives from the Parks, Environment, and Heritage Departments, along with an Area Engineer and local representation.
- 6.11 It is the intention of Fingal County Council to highlight Fingal's beaches as good places to visit and enjoy. Fingal County Council should therefore be seen as taking a positive step forward in its approach to a more proactive and inclusive method of sustainable coastal management.
- 6.12 The effective implementation of this plan is an opportunity to be seen as a beacon of good practice, nationally, giving the people of the Burrow, Portrane and the greater Fingal area an asset to be very proud of.

Appendix 1: Legislative and Policy Context

Appendix 1 - Legislative and policy context

A1.1 Legislative Requirements

A1.1.1 Promoting public awareness about beaches and coasts has been a long standing and complex issue. Early policies affecting the coastal zone were predominantly issue oriented (e.g. water quality).

A1.1.2 Furthermore, the governance of coastal and beach areas has remained fragmented between countries and thematic areas (e.g. sectors) at both national and European level.

A1.1.3 Policy documents for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) are the first to recognise three critical areas, namely: the importance of land/sea interaction; the human dimension in coastal processes; and the need to integrate different sectors and stakeholders in order to avoid the type of conflict which leads to unsustainable development.

European Union Legislation

A1.1.4 Coastal zones are also addressed in other legislation, such as the environmental impact assessment directive (2001), the water framework directive (2000), the quality of bathing water directive (amended 2006) and the directive on quality required of shellfish waters (1979). In addition, coastal zones are also highlighted by the European spatial development perspective (1999). The management of the coastal zone is an ongoing concern and a European Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) was announced in 2000.

Revision of the Bathing Water Quality Directive

A1.1.5 In October 2005, the Council and the European Parliament agreed on a revision of the directive on bathing water quality. The old bathing water directive from 1976 is replaced, so as to reflect development made in scientific knowledge and managerial experience since 1976.

A1.1.6 Under the new Directive, an assessment will have to be made at each bathing site of the likely sources of contamination, and a management plan drawn up to minimise the risks to bathers. Where bathing sites have a history of poor water quality, such as at times of unusually severe weather conditions, preventive measures should be taken to close the bathing site when such weather conditions are predicted.

A1.1.7 National legislation to comply with the new Directive must be introduced by March 2008, with some later deadlines for specific aspects of the Directive. The new Directive revises the quality standards to be used in monitoring the quality of bathing water, and will require only two parameters to be monitored (in contrast to the 19 at present) - as both of these are regarded as excellent indicators of faecal contamination (Intestinal Enterococci and Escherischia Coli (E.Coli)). This will allow resources to be focused on the monitoring of those parameters that constitute a real threat to human health.

- A1.1.8 The new standards will be used to classify each bathing area as either 'poor', 'sufficient', 'good', or 'excellent'. Classification of the water quality at a bathing site will be determined on the basis of a three-year trend, and not on the basis of one year's results as was the case. This means that the classification will be less susceptible to bad weather conditions or 'one-off' incidents.
- A1.1.9 Where bathing water quality standards are consistently 'good' or 'excellent', reduced sampling frequencies apply, implying a reduced administrative burden for local authorities. The new standards are however considered tougher than the previous Directive. Therefore, its introduction is likely to result in some decrease in Ireland's current high level of compliance under the current Bathing Water Directive.
- A1.1.10 The new Directive also introduces new requirements regarding public information about bathing water, stating that information on the status of a bathing site, the monitoring data on water quality, the management plan, and other relevant information must be readily available to the general public (both physically displayed at the site, but also through the media and the Internet).
- A1.1.11 The new directive will complement the water framework directive as well as the directives on urban wastewater treatment and on nitrates pollution from agricultural sources.

A1.2 Planning Policy
Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011

A1.2.1 Portrane is a unique settlement located on the north eastern area of the Donabate Peninsula and thus enjoys many natural amenities. It is composed of three distinct areas: Portrane Village, The Burrow and St. Ita's Hospital.

A1.2.2 Due to the importance of the built and natural heritage of this area the development of this area will be sustainable, according to the development plan.

A1.2.3 Portrane is identified as a rural cluster in the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011 and is zoned RC - to protect residential amenity and the character of rural clusters and provide for small scale infill development to serve local needs. (See page 81 of the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011)

A1.2.4 New retail units in rural clusters will not generally be permitted except where associated with an existing post office or as a home-based economic activity associated with an existing dwelling.

The Coast See page 163 of the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011)

A1.2.5 The single most significant natural resource in Fingal County is the coast. It is an area of high landscape quality, natural heritage and amenity value. The coastline varies from the elevated peninsula of Howth to the low lying estuaries and is characterised by a series of shallow bays between headlands with a variety of inlets, harbours and fine beaches. The coast is an important economic resource, in particular, for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries.

A1.2.6 The coast is home to a variety of important habitats and species. This is reflected in the number of designated sites of national and international importance all along the coast. This includes Baldoyle Bay, Malahide/Broadmeadow Estuary and Rogerstown Estuary which are, among other things, sites of international importance for wintering ducks, geese and wading birds.

A1.2.7 The coast is also an area of high landscape quality and significant portions of the coastline are visually sensitive as evidenced by the many protected views and prospects.

A1.2.8 The coast is increasingly important for a range of recreational activities (e.g. sailing) and for its amenities (e.g. beaches). Public access needs to be provided to the coast, such as walking and cycling routes.

A1.2.9 As the population of the region increases, the demands made on the coastline, its habitats and waters will grow. It is important that the coastal zone is managed and developed in a way which protects and enhances its natural heritage and landscape. In this context, the

development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management initiatives is important.

- A1.2.10 The coast is also a dynamic environment which is constantly changing. In particular, the impacts of predicted sea-level rise due to climate change need to be considered. The predicted increase in the frequency of storm surges and high tides will increase the extent, severity and recurrence of coastal flooding, leading to increased coastal erosion.
- A1.2.11 Development in coastal areas must recognise the need for coastal protection and the role that coastal habitats such as saltmarshes and sand-dunes play in this. Retaining and enhancing these elements provides a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to the provision of hard coastal defences.
- A1.2.12 Portrane Shore is identified as a Designated Site of International and National Importance in the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011.

Table 1.1: Coastal Policies & Objectives from the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011

PolicyGBP16
The principle of Coastal Zone Management is supported by the Council and it is recognised that the Coastal Zone is a vital asset with limited capacity to absorb development. Therefore, certain baseline objectives will apply in the Coastal Zone.
PolicyGBP17
To protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of the coast.
PolicyGBP18
To ensure that there is appropriate public access to the coast including the provision of coastal walkways and cycleways.
PolicyGBP19
To work to protect beaches and coastal areas from motor vehicles in the interest of public safety, quality of amenity and environmental integrity.
PolicyGBP20
To ensure that the County's natural coastal defences, such as beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes, and estuary lands are not compromised by inappropriate works or development
PolicyGBP21
To ensure that coastal wetlands and floodplains, such as mudflats, salt marshes and wet grasslands are protected and enhanced.
ObjectiveGB034
To protect the sensitive nature of the Coastal Zone, new development for which a coastal location is required must be accommodated within existing developed Coastal Zone areas.
ObjectiveGB035
To ensure that permitted development in the Coastal Zone should not detract from the visual amenity of an area and should display the highest standards of design, siting and pollution control.
ObjectiveGB036
To refuse developments that pose a significant or potential threat to the Coastal Zone.
ObjectiveGB037
To plan and develop the Fingal Coastal Way from north of Balbriggan to Howth including, where necessary, land acquisition.
ObjectiveGB038
To require that in the case of new tourism/leisure developments, dedicated public access arrangements to the coastline, suitably landscaped and lit are provided, unless it can be demonstrated that this is damaging to nature conservation or impractical.
ObjectiveGB039
To protect and, where necessary, rehabilitate sand-dune systems in the county.
ObjectiveGB040
To assess all coastal defence plans and projects for their environmental impact.

Development Strategy

- A1.2.13 The development strategy of the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011 is to protect and retain the distinctive village character of the village of Portrane and to protect and enhance existing natural amenities and built heritage, to strengthen the urban form in the centre of the village and to improve local service facilities. Development in the Burrow Area will be limited.

Table 1.2: Development Objectives for the Portrane area from the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011. (See page 183 of the Fingal County Development Plan 2005-2011)

Objective PORTRANE 1
To undertake a feasibility study of St. Ita's to determine the optimal future sustainable use of this complex, which will ensure the protection of its landscape setting and character, which is a major asset to this area and to the County of Fingal.
Objective PORTRANE 2
To provide recreational facilities for the expanding population on the peninsula.
Objective PORTRANE 3
To prepare a development and design brief for the undeveloped residential zoned land to the south of the village.
Objective PORTRANE 4
To promote the development of a shuttle bus service linking Donabate and Portrane to the mainline commuter services on the N1 and the Metro in Swords.
Objective PORTRANE 5
To ensure that development in the Burrow area protects the existing residential character and the amenities of this sensitive coastal estuarine area.
Objective PORTRANE 6
To prohibit the replacement of chalets/holiday huts by permanent dwellings, which can be resided in on an all year basis within the 'HA' zoned land at the Burrow and encourage the removal of existing chalets and huts at the Burrow.
Objective PORTRANE 7
To provide for pedestrian and cycle routes between Portrane and Donabate.

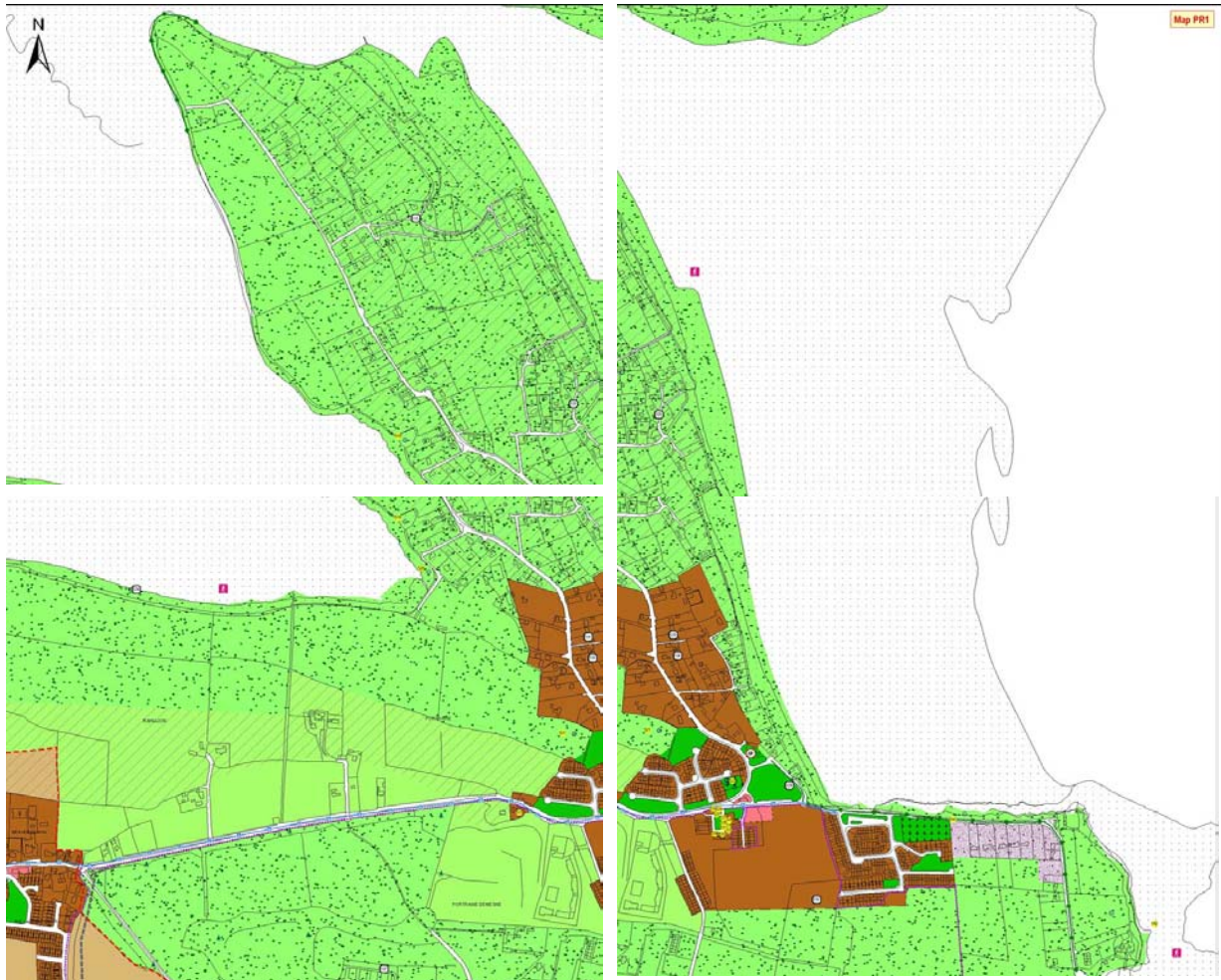
A1.2.14

Local Objectives section of the Fingal Development Plan

There is a specific section in the Fingal County Development Plan relating specifically to the Burrow area in Portrane as outlined in Table 1.3 below. The numbers in the left hand column of the table correspond to the numbers on the map.

Table 1.3: Burrow Local Objectives

No. 115:	To carry out a study of The Burrow in order to determine the most appropriate pattern of land use for this sensitive area.
No. 120:	To encourage the removal of existing chalets and huts at the Burrow
No. 125:	To provide for well designed detached housing at maximum densities of 4 houses per acre in the Burrow.



Donabate Local Area Plan (LAP)

Future Management of Beach/Dunes

A1.2.15

The beaches and sand dunes in the vicinity of the LAP lands will be subject to increased recreational pressure as a result of the development of the LAP lands. Fingal County Council shall provide for the careful planning and management of these areas. The main focus shall be on:

- ❑ Management of visitor access and pathways including the designation of areas for different levels of use;
- ❑ Management of future parking areas;
- ❑ Dune repair and restoration, using ecologically sensitive methods, where required.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Donabate Local Area Plan

Coastal Site Condition Monitoring

A1.2.16 Several sections of the designated cSACs adjacent to the LAP lands are currently the subject of site condition monitoring by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Only two areas relevant to the LAP lands are covered. These are Portrane sand dunes and Malahide Island sand dunes. The following habitat attributes are monitored:

- ❑ Habitat extent
- ❑ Vegetation structure
- ❑ Vegetation composition
- ❑ Indicators of negative trends
- ❑ Indicators of local distinctiveness
- ❑ Management of the site
- ❑ Threats and their impacts on the site.

A1.2.17 The monitoring involves the establishment of permanent transects and quadrants which can be revisited at intervals in the future. Fixed-point digital photography is also used to aid description of habitats and to record changes in vegetation.

A1.2.18 The results of this monitoring should be made available to Fingal County Council to inform management decisions relating to beaches and dunes. This information shall be obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Appendix 2: Opinion Survey – Results

Appendix 2 – Opinion survey

A2.1 Introduction

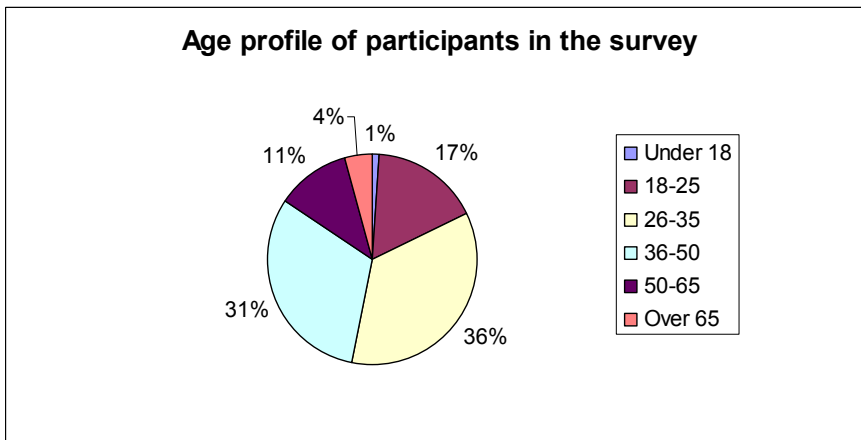
The on-beach survey was a very important element in the consultation process as it allowed access to the views of occasional or long-distance visitors - people that may not be reached by other consultation methods – and also allowed for direct discussion with regular beach users actually on the beach.

The questionnaire was kept short to ensure a high response rate and minimise inconvenience. It concentrated on two topics – who are typical beach users (and what kinds of visits to they make) and what do these users think of the beach? The questionnaire can be found at the end of this section.

A2.2 Who visits the beach?

96 beach visitors (59 female and 37 male) were interviewed across six different dates in August 2006.

The age profile of respondents is as follows:

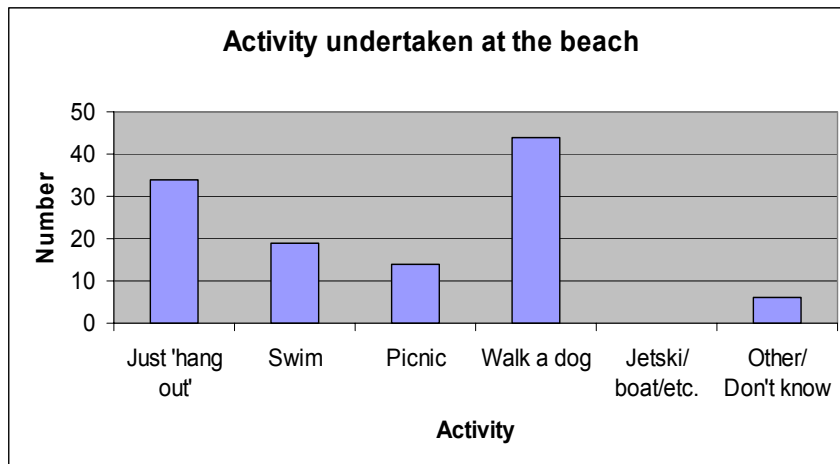


Both age and gender patterns generally reflect the characteristics of beach visitors. It should also be noted, as a further characteristic of users, that visitor numbers, even at weekends and in fine weather, tended to be small, and the number of responses in this data set was determined by the limited numbers of potential respondents.

About one-fifth of respondents were at the beach on their own, about a quarter with a partner, and about half with friends, children or other family:

On own	With Partner/spouse	With friends	With children	With other family
21	24	10	30	11
22%	25%	10%	31%	11%

Typical activities at the beach were¹:

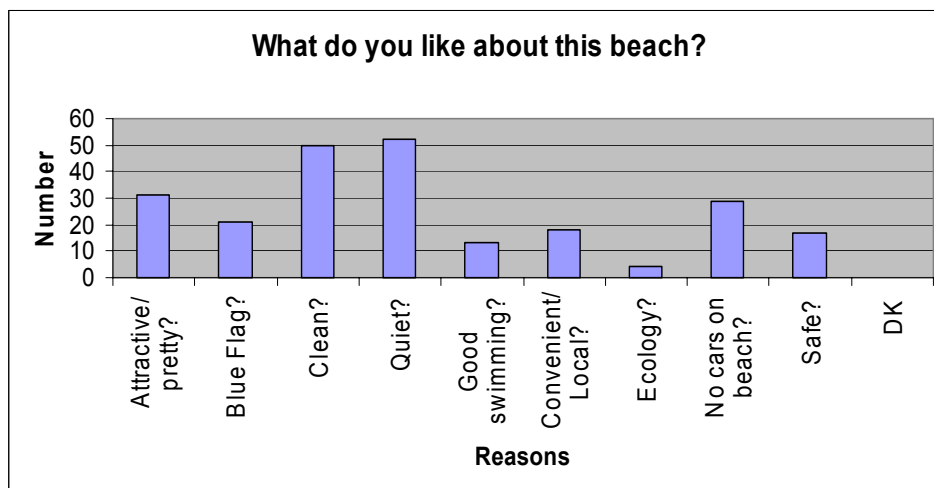


As can be seen, walking a dog or simply 'hanging out' are by far the most common activities. No respondents indicated they were using equipment such as boats or jet-skis. When asked what prompted the visit, half of respondents mentioned the good weather (often prompted). Only 6% indicated they were holidaying in the area.

Two-thirds of all respondents had been to the beach many times, with 29% habitual (daily or weekly) visitors. 76% of visitors lived in Fingal, only 4% lived outside Ireland.

A2.3 What do visitors think of the beach?

Respondents were asked what they liked about the beach – responses were not prompted and several reasons could be given:



¹ Responses unprompted but pre-coded

As can be seen, the most common positive attributes cited were (in order) quietness; cleanliness; attractiveness; a lack of cars on the beach; and its Blue Flag status.

When asked what they didn't like about the beach, 60% said there was nothing they could think of. Some of the issues people raised (often when pushed) included concerns about anti-social behaviour (6%) poor facilities (11%) and the presence of too many dogs (11%).

Only 2% of respondents felt that the beach was not clean. 67% found it very clean, 27% found it acceptably clean. When prompted to comment on any cleanliness issues, 11% mentioned dog fouling and 8% mentioned the presence of some litter.

Respondents were asked about beach facilities and responded as follows:

Very good	Adequate	Poor	Very poor
34%	55%	10%	1%

When asked to elaborate, the most common concerns were about the adequacy of the toilet facilities (in some cases people had not seen the toilet facilities present) or the lack of local shops and cafes.

63% of respondents said it was important to them that the beach was a Blue Flag beach. Only 13% were not aware of the Blue Flag status.

The final question asked respondents about information signage at the beach:

Good/enough	Poor/not enough	Poor direction signs	Didn't notice them	Don't know
20	16	16	38	6

There did seem to be a general view that more signage would be helpful, such as direction signs to the beach car park, and more signs about the flora and fauna of the beach.

A2.4 Conclusions

The Burrow Beach is characterised by its pattern of usage by mostly local people – walkers, mothers with children, people walking dogs. It has fewer holiday makers on the main part of the Burrow (in August at least) than many other beaches in the region.

The vast majority of Burrow visitors have a high opinion of the beach. They think of it as clean and attractive and they like the fact that it is relatively quiet and car-free. Many people choose to visit The Burrow for these attributes.

Minor complaints about The Burrow relate to facilities, signage and some comments about cleanliness and dogs.

The opinion survey data is valuable for its access to opinions that may not have been heard in other parts of the consultation process. It has shown a very positive picture of many loyal beach users who value highly the beach's positive characteristics.

Appendix 3: Public Meeting – Discussions Summary

Appendix 3: Summary of Public meeting Discussion

Sand Dune Erosion

One of the most pressing issues seems to be sand dune erosion. The perception is that a lot of land has been lost since 1940, 70 acres was mentioned. Remedial action is now urgently needed and should be a priority. The following were all suggested as remedial measures that could be considered:

- Manage all visitor traffic, pedestrian, vehicular, horses and dogs to protect the dunes and enhance peoples enjoyment of walking on the beach, allowing access for pedestrians and prams/buggies.
- Fence off parts of the dunes and plant Marram grass, clear explanations for the reason should be provided on signage, so that people understand why this is being done.
- Build a boardwalk, this should be done before the coastal Fingal walk from Portmarnock to Balbriggan is complete so that it is in place before the level of traffic increases.
- Close-off the gate at the saltmarsh and prohibit vehicle access as it facilitates dumping. It provides access to the slipway but it was felt that Rush is a suitable alternative or the quay at Portrane could be developed as a slipway (there is parking and deep water available). When keys were given to restrict access the gate was always left open, the path is not suitable for boats being towed and the slip may be structurally unsound. There is plenty of parking at the Brook for people driving to the beach, walkers at the North end are attracted by the peace and quiet.
- Address the problem of Quad bikes being driven over the dunes, the feeling is that the Gardai know about this but have not or cannot do anything. This poses a safety issue for other users as well as destroying the dunes. There would appear to be a small number of people involved in this activity.
- There is a perception among some that hard engineering solutions such as building walls, using upright sleepers or building groins could solve the

problem at the southern end of the beach where the erosion is worst. Other people wondered if there were other options that could be proposed.

- The drop from the blown out dunes is quite high and poses a hazard.
- Regulate access and pathways from houses/ holiday homes through the dunes to prevent breaching.
- Ensure when Fingal County Council JCBs clean the dunes coming up to the Summer period, that they stay a distance from the foot of the dunes. Otherwise, they will damage emerging dune grass.
- Residents worked with a Portuguese geographer to study sand movement and found that the sand moving around the peninsula remains within the limbs of the bay, which is good.
- Some residents feel the dump affected tidal movement.
- People are afraid of flooding on the west of the peninsula and were concerned that some planning permissions had conditions attached, which required residents to remove banks and erect walls instead. This was not seen as good protection from flooding.

Awareness

- Provide good directional signage and information on length of various walking routes so people can walk the distance they wish in the places that are suitable and not sensitive ecologically.
- Provide information (on-site and through other channels) about conservation measures and the reasoning behind them, if it is explained people will support it. If people know the birds roosting are disturbed by dogs, most will respond and keep them on a leash.
- Involve local schools in conservation such as planting of Marram grass and bird watching. If we keep children informed and involved, this awareness will

permeate the entire community and they will develop a sense of ownership of protection measures.

- Raised awareness will help to establish good behaviour and to some extent residents will be guardians and users of the beach will become self regulating.
- Pushing seaweed and sand collected on the beach up to the dunes to bolster them was a welcome intervention from the council.

Saltmarsh

- This area needs to be protected and restored.
- The breaches of the dunes on the seaward side are allowing too much water in at high tide. The water should only come in through the naturally occurring channels.
- The work the council has done is being counteracted by vehicular traffic.

Birds

- Dogs should be on leads near the roosting site at the southern end.
- More information should be available on site about the birds.
- People wondered about what actual protection the designations of the site offer.

Plants

- There is a good level of awareness that there are rare plants on the peninsula. Information signs could raise awareness of these without providing specific locations, so that visitors would appreciate them if they encounter them.
- One resident, since becoming aware of their presence, has stopped mowing part of their grass to facilitate the protection of the green winged orchid and they are flourishing.

- Development in the centre of the peninsula is a threat to nature.

Dogs and Horses

- Horses are not allowed on the beach at certain times but this is not enforced.
- Bridle paths should be marked to protect the dunes, again, if people know the damage it causes and where the paths are they will co-operate.
- Dogs should be on leads near the roosting site at the southern end.

Other Issues

- Perhaps consider the option of opening the toilet in wintertime at weekends
- Signage is a huge issue, with signs required for the car-park, toilets and other informational signage in relation to the sand dunes and saltmarsh area, and the dangerous swimming areas up towards the northern end.

Appendix 4: Minutes of Meeting with Burrow Residents' Association

Date:	18 th August 2006	Time (from-to):	11am-1pm
Project code:	FC0106		
Location:	Frank McManus House, The Burrow, Portrane		
Subject:	The Burrow Beach Management Plan		

In attendance:

Name
Frank Mc Manus – Burrow Residents Association
Raymond Brett - Burrow Residents Association
Ann Lawlor - Burrow Residents Association
Pat O'Brien - Burrow Residents Association
Brian Motherway – Motherway Begley
Carla McKenna – Patel Tonra Ltd.

The main points to come out of Fridays meeting with the Burrow Residents Association are as follows:
1. The action plan needs to start now – the residents realise that this area will be receiving a lot more “traffic” as a result of the proposals outlined in the Donabate LAP.
2. Proper signage is required to delineate the parking area, toilets, main beach entrance etc. Signs could also be erected to show how long a walk will take, if it is good for people with walking difficulties etc – these walks could be given different names and a feature made out of them.
3. The areas around the dunes need to be fenced off in order to try to control the erosion process – the dunes need to be traffic free.
4. Perhaps review the location of the slipway
5. An agreement could be made with Porters Caravan Park regarding access
6. The new Fingal CoCo by-laws need to be properly enforced
7. There is not so much a litter issue on the beach rather than a dumping issue towards the northern end
8. A DVD/Video could be made showing examples of good practice of beach development –if people see the actual damage to the dunes, saltmarsh areas and how this can be prevented it may hit home rather than just talking about it.
9. Walkways (such as the Fingal Way recommended in the Fingal County Development Plan) could be incorporated into the back of the dunes so that people will not walk on the dunes themselves. This could link in with the proposed signage for walks as listed in Point 2 above. A walkway would also be good for people with buggies/prams, disabled people and cyclists.

10. It would be helpful to check out the official rights of way and which land is private/council
11. Blue flag area should be maintained to that standard.
12. Try to find out where does the SAC finish

Appendix 5: Fingal County Council Beach and Foreshore Bye-Laws, 2006

Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall
Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council Beach/Foreshore
Bye-Laws 2006

**BYE-LAWS GOVERNING
BEACH & FORESHORE
IN THE COUNTY OF FINGAL**

AT

**BLACKROCK (BALBRIGGAN), BALBRIGGAN,
BARNAGEERA, SKERRIES NORTH, SKERRIES
SOUTH, LOUGHSHINNY, RUSH NORTH, RUSH
SOUTH, PORTRANE, TOWER BAY, DONABATE,
MALAHIDE, PORTMARNOCK, SUTTON (BURROW
BEACH) AND HOWTH (CLAREMONT)**

**These Bye-Laws were adopted by Fingal County Council at the Council meeting
on 13th February 2006 and came into force on the 15th March 2006.**

BYE LAWS

MADE BY

Fingal County Council in exercise of the power conferred on the Council by Part VII of the Local Government Act, 1994 and in the interest of the common good of the local community make the following Bye-Laws for the purpose of regulating the use of the beach/foreshore adjoining the functional area of the County of Fingal. The ByeLaws will allow for the enforcement of relevant sections of the following legislation:

- The Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977
- The Litter Pollution Act, 1997
- The Waste Management Act, 1996
- The Maritime Safety Act, 2005
- Control of Dogs Act, 1986 and the 1992 Control of Dogs (Amendment) Act and the Statutory Instruments S.I. No 442 of 1998 Control of Dogs Regulations
- Fingal County Council Prohibition of Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor on Roads and in Public Places Bye-Laws 2002

1. TITLE

These Bye-Laws may be cited as the Fingal County Council Beach & Foreshore Bye-Laws 2006. These Bye-Laws supersede Fingal County Council Beach Bye-Laws 1999.

2. INTERPRETATION

Throughout the Bye-Laws, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions have the meaning hereafter respectively assigned to them, that is to say:

- (a) “The Local Authority” means the Council of the County of Fingal.
- (b) “The Act” means the Local Government Act, 1994.
- (c) “Council” means the Council of County of Fingal
- (d) ” The Foreshore” is defined for the purpose of these Bye-Laws as the seabed and shore below the line of high water of ordinary or medium tides of the sea (shown HWM on OS Map), and extending for a distance of 200 metres seaward from the low water mark or 400 metres seaward of the HWM mark whichever is the lesser, and every tidal river and tidal estuary and every channel, creek and bed of the sea or any such river or estuary and shall include any and all properties of the Council as defined in (e) below.

- (e) “Beach” refers to that area of the seashore and the foreshore as shown shaded in yellow on the attached maps for the beaches of Blackrock (Balbriggan), Balbriggan, Barnageera, Skerries North, Skerries South, Loughshinny, Rush North, Rush South, Portrane, Tower Bay, Donabate, Malahide, Portmarnock, Sutton (Burrow Road) and Howth (Claremont). The words “seashore” and “foreshore” have the same meanings as defined in the Foreshore Act, 1933. For the purpose of the bye-laws a beach shall include:-
- (i) any strand, and/or dunes;
 - (ii) any sea for a distance from the strand to 200 metres (seaward) from the low water mark;
 - (iii) any walls, railings, barriers, fence, roadway, seats, footpath, ramps alleyways, access, walkways, step, sewer, drain or gully thereon;
 - (iv) any post, sign, notice, sign board, life saving apparatus or equipment, toilet, litter receptacle, lamp, lamp post, appliance, flag pole, flag, water pipe, gas pipe, hut, shelter, ornament, building or other structure forming part thereof or erected by the Council or by the authority of the Council either on the beach or for the benefit of users on the beach;
 - (v) Any tree, shrub, bush hedge, flower, flower bed, turf, grass or other plant growing thereon or place thereon by the authority of the Council;
 - (vi) Any implement, barrow, article, tractor, trailer or thing thereon belonging to the Council or placed thereon by the authority of the Council.
- (f) “Special Areas of Conservation” (SAC’s) are prime wildlife conservation sites designated under the EU Habitat’s Directive (1992/43/EEC) for the conservation and protection of habitats and species of importance in a European context.
- (g) “Special Protected Areas” (SPA’s) are designated under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) to protect migratory species such as ducks, geese and waders and species which are rare, in danger of extinction or which are vulnerable to habitat change in Europe.
- (h) “Employee of the Council” shall include every Superintendent, Supervising Official, Litter Warden, Dog Warden, Lifeguard or other person employed by and duly authorised by the Council to administer and enforce these bye-laws.
- (i) “Authorised Person” means any employee of the Council, members of the Garda Síochána or any person designated by the Council for the purposes of these bye-laws.

- (j) “Controlled drug” means any substance, product or preparation which is specified in the schedule to the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977 or any amending act or regulations.
- (k) Horse includes pony, donkey, mule and ass.
- (l) “Quad” means a four-wheeled mechanically propelled vehicle capable of travelling at high speeds.
- (m) “Land Yachting” means a wind operated craft which requires a small land yacht and vertical wing sail.
- (n) “Kite Karting” means a wind operated craft requiring a small cart and single handed or two handed kite.
- (o) “Kite Surfing” means a wind operated craft and single handed or two handed kite.
- (p) “Consent of the Council” means the permission in writing of an authorised person.
- (q) “Swimming” includes floating, paddling, fishing or otherwise being in the sea for leisure purposes.
- (r) “Designated Area” means an area designated pursuant to Bye-Law No. 3 (l).
- (s) “Duchas” means the National Parks & Wildlife Services of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

3. PROHIBITED ACTS

No person shall carry out any of the following acts on the beach:-

(a) NUISANCE

Cause a nuisance or do any of the following acts that would be likely to cause a nuisance:

Litter: Bring, deposit or discharge soil, filth, refuse, rubbish, stones, earth, or throw deposits or leave any item of litter as defined in the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 or dump/abandon/vandalise vehicles on the beach, foreshore or estuary area.

Motor Vehicles: Drive, propel or park any motor car, or other mechanically propelled vehicle (including quads) or motor cycle on the beach, dunes or salt-marshes (other than in an area designated for these purposes) save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission. Drive in a threatening manner as to cause annoyance/ disturbance or to show disregard to other users of the beach, dunes or salt-marshes.

This restriction does not apply to Local Authority staff engaged in their duties, Garda patrol cars/motorcycles when being used by a member of An Garda Síochána while on duty or emergency service vehicles.

Firearms: Bring onto the beach/foreshore any firearm, airgun, catapult or any other weapon.

Fires: The lighting of bonfires and burning of materials on the beach or foreshore is prohibited.

Golf: Play the game of golf or practise any aspect of the game in any part of the beach/foreshore.

Disorder: Act in a disorderly, menacing, threatening, or offensive manner.

Beg, gamble: Beg, gamble or importune or otherwise cause annoyance:

Noise: Play musical instruments, radio, stereos, etc., at such noise level as to cause annoyance to others.

**Obscene Behaviour/
Language:** Behave indecently or use obscene or profane language.

Graffiti: Injure, disfigure, write graffiti on or mark any structure, seat, chair, sculpture, notice or notice board.

Games: Play football, handball, golf, hurling, cricket, tennis or any other game or activity which for the prevention of damage, danger, obstruction, or discomfort to any other person may necessitate at any time during the continuance of the game the exclusive use by the player or players of any part of the seashores save with the consent of the Council.

Public Swimming Events: Organise swimming events including, triathlons or gala swimming days without the written consent of the Council.

Alcoholic Beverages: Sell or consume any alcoholic beverages on the beach/foreshore as defined in the Fingal County Council Prohibition of Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor on Roads and in Public Places Bye-Laws 2002 .

(b) **DOGS**

During the period 1st June to 31st August in any year persons shall be allowed bring a dog onto, or allow a dog under his or her control to remain on the beach/foreshore

- (i) under adequate personal control, before the hours of 11.00am and after the hours of 6.00pm
- (ii) to be on a leash in all Reserved Bathing Areas (as defined in Schedule 2) between the hours of 11.00am and 6.00pm.

Persons are permitted to bring dogs on a beach/foreshore all other days any time of the day during the months of:

January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November, & December.

Persons in charge of a dog on the beach/foreshore shall ensure the following:-

- It is on a leash or under adequate control;
- It is on leash at all times in SAC and SPA's – see Schedule 1;
- It is not causing annoyance to any person using the beach or worrying, chasing, injuring or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures on the beach/foreshore;
- Removal of its faeces and depositing it in a litter bin or other receptacle which may be designated for this purpose as obligated under Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

(Guide dogs for the blind are exempt from this bye-law as also are dogs kept by An Garda Síochána and wholly used by a member of An Garda Síochána in the execution of his/her duty).

Every person bringing a dog onto the beach/foreshore area shall be responsible and liable for any damage or injury to property or persons which may be caused by it.

Persons in charge of specified classes of dogs must ensure that they comply with the 1986 Control of Dogs Act and the 1992 Control of Dogs (Amendment) Act and the Statutory Instruments S.I. No 442 of 1998 Control of Dogs Regulations

(c) **HORSES**

A Person/s shall be allowed to have, keep, ride or drive a horse/pony on a beach/foreshore during the period 1st of June to 31st August in any year before the hours of 11.00am and after the hours of 8.00pm.

Persons are permitted to bring horses on a beach/foreshore all other days any time of the day during the months of :

January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November, & December, Except on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays – between the hours of 11.00am and 8.00pm. (See Schedule 1 Attached)

Persons in charge of a horse/pony on a beach/foreshore shall ensure the following:-

- It is under adequate control;
- It is not causing annoyance to any person using the beach/foreshore or worrying, chasing, injuring or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures on the beach;
- Removal of its faeces and depositing it in a litter bin or other receptacle which may be designated for this purpose.
- Horse-riding takes place below mean high water mark, except for the purposes of obtaining access to or egress from the beach/foreshore.
- Horses are prohibited in SAC and SPA's except where bridle paths are provided.
- Horse Polo Practice is not permitted without the consent of the Council.

(This bye-law does not apply to horses kept by An Garda Síochána and wholly used by an employee or member of An Garda Síochána while on duty).

A person shall not have, keep, ride or drive a horse/pony on a beach/foreshore at any time if having regard to the number of persons using the beach/foreshore at that time, it could endanger or be construed to endanger the safety of those persons.

Every person bringing a horse or pony onto the beach/foreshore area shall be responsible and liable for any damage or injury to property or persons which may be caused by it.

(d) **TRADE, ADVERTISING, ETC.:**

Sell: No Person shall sell, hire, expose, offer for sale any vehicle, boat conveyance, chair, article, animal, commodity or thing whatsoever, save with the written permission of an authorised officer and in accordance with the Casual Trading Act, 1995 and any bye laws made thereunder.

Exhibit: No Person shall exhibit any advertising board, placard, wares, merchandise or play any musical instrument or sing for gain on the beach/foreshore, save with the permission of an authorised officer and in accordance with the Casual Trading Act, 1995 and any bye laws made thereunder.

(e) **DUNES**

No person shall wilfully cause damage to the dune system on any beach or foreshore and should take due care when walking/sitting in the dune areas.

(f) **OBSTRUCTION, ETC.**

No person shall wilfully cause danger, obstruction or annoyance to persons using the beach/foreshore or wilfully obstruct any officer of the Council in the execution of his duty or in the proper execution of any work in connection with the enforcement of these bye-laws.

(g) **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Drinking on beaches/foreshore and estuaries is prohibited under Fingal County Council's Prohibition of Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor on Roads and in Public Places Bye-Laws 2002.

(h) **CONTROLLED DRUGS**

No person shall sell, consume, inject, inhale or otherwise absorb controlled drugs or solvents on the beach/foreshore.

(i) **CARAVANS, ETC.**

No person shall sleep on the beach/foreshore or sleep in vehicles, (between the hours 10.00pm-6.00 am), nor shall they place or keep any caravan, dormobile or tent on any part of the beach/foreshore at any hour without the permission in writing of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission.

(j) **FILMING**

No person shall make any movie or film on a commercial/ basis on a beach/foreshore except with the consent of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such consent.

(k) **SPORTS TRAINING**

No person shall engage in sports training (including football training) on any part of the beach/foreshore, and in particular shall refrain from using for such training any portion of the beach/ foreshore which comprises sand dunes, save with the consent of the Council.

(l) **FISHING**

Fishing for pleasure shall be permitted, however no person shall spread, fix or leave any nets, bait, lines, boxes, fishing gear, fish or shells. The Council may designate areas of the beach/ foreshore and periods of time with respect to the beach/ foreshore where and during which fishing will be prohibited. No person shall fish in an area, or during a period, so designated.

No fishing shall be allowed in SAC/SPA areas – see Schedule 2.

(m) **SURFING, SAILING, JET SKIS, FAST POWER BOATS, ETC.**

The Council may designate areas of the beach/ foreshore and periods of time outside of the reserved bathing areas (see Schedule 2), where persons shall be allowed to surf, windsurf, kite-surf, sail, canoe and kayak. The following beaches may be used for the above activities - Portmarnock, Donabate, Portrane, Rush (N & S), Skerries (S), Balbriggan and Loughshinny beaches. Claremont, Howth and Burrow Road, Sutton may only be used for canoeing and kayaking

The Council may also designate beach/beaches, outside of the reserved bathing areas (see Schedule 2), and periods of time, outside of the bathing season, which are suitable, for kite-karting.

These bye-laws do not apply to any of the aforesaid activities engaged in more than 200 metres off shore from the nearest point of the waters edge at any particular time.

Every person surfing, windsurfing, kite-surfing, kite-karting or land-yachting on the beach/ foreshore area shall be responsible and liable for any damage or injury to property or persons which may be caused by it.

No person shall bring a jet-ski or fast power boat into the Reserved Bathing Areas or SAC/SPA (See Schedule 2).

(It should be noted that under the Maritime Safety Act, 2005 Fingal County Council has the powers to make bye-laws in relation to Jet Skis & Fast Power Boats and to prosecute anyone found in breach of the Maritime Safety Act, 2005.)

4. **OFFENCES**

- a) It shall be lawful for any Authorised Person or member of the Garda Síochána to enforce these bye-laws, and to exclude or remove from any part of the beach/foreshore or adjacent dune system in public ownership, any person committing any breach of the above bye-laws and to take such other steps as authorised by law.

- b) Any person who contravenes these bye-laws shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €1,250.
- c) If the contravention of a provision of these bye-laws is continued after conviction, the person causing the contravention shall be guilty of a further offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €125 per day.
- d) A person who obstructs or impedes or refuses to comply with the request of an Authorised Person acting in the exercise of the functions conferred on an Authorised Person by these bye-laws shall be guilty of an offence.
- e) Where an Authorised Person or member of the Garda Síochána is of the opinion that a person is committing or has committed an offence to which the bye-laws relate, the authorised person or the Garda, as the case may be, may demand the name and address of such person and if this demand is refused or the person gives a name or address which is false or misleading, the person shall be guilty of an offence.
- f) Where a member of the Garda Síochána is of the opinion that a person is committing or has committed an offence to which these bye-laws relate, the members may arrest the person without a warrant.
- g) An offence under these bye-laws may be prosecuted by the Council, by any other Local Authority acting on its behalf or by a member of the Garda Síochána.
- h) A person may be served with a notice specifying a fixed payment, not exceeding €125 in respect of a contravention of a bye-law as an alternative to prosecution for the contravention. Notice of the fixed payment shall be in the general form of the notice set out in the Schedule to the bye-laws. (See Schedule 2 attached).
- i) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent fishermen or boatmen or those engaged in aquaculture exercising their respective callings subject to such statutory or other lawful regulations as now are in place.
- j) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the lawful operation by authorised port and harbour authorities of their statutory functions.
- k) Nothing in or done under any of the provisions of the foregoing bye-laws shall, or shall be deemed to operate as a grant by or on behalf of the state of any estate or interest in or right over the foreshore below high water mark or any part thereof nor shall anything contained in or done under any of the provisions of the foregoing bye-laws prejudice or injuriously affect the rights and interests of the State in such foreshores.

These Bye-Laws come into effect on 15th March 2006.

SCHEDULE 1

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES FOR KEEPING, RIDING OR DRIVING A HORSE ON THE FORESHORE.

The horse must be and continue to be under proper control and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance or danger to any person.

Horses are permitted on a beach only during the months, days and times (periods of the day) stipulated below:-

In June, July and August only
Before 11.00am and after 8.00pm.

All other days any time of the day during the months of:
January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November, December,
Except on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays – between the hours 11.00am to 8.00pm

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES FOR KEEPING, OR RETAINING A DOG ON THE FORESHORE.

The dog/s must be and continue to be under proper control and be effectively restrained from causing annoyance or danger to any person.

The dog/s are permitted on the beach/foreshore only **without a leash** during the months, days and times (periods of the day) stipulated below:

June, July, August 6.00pm to 11.00am
(i.e. after 6.00pm in the evening and before 1.00am in the morning)

Between 11.00am and 6.00pm during these months dogs must be on a leash in Reserved Bathing Areas.

All other days any time of the day during the months of :
January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November, & December.

SCHEDULE 2

2.1 RESERVED BATHING AREAS

(Reserved Bathing Areas on the following beaches refers to 200m to left & right of Lifeguard Station)

RESERVED BATHING AREAS
Howth – Claremont
Sutton - Burrow Road
Portmarnock – 1 & 2
Donabate – Balcarrick
Portrane – Tower Bay
Portrane – The Brook
Rush – North & South
Skerries - South
Loughshinny
Balbriggan

2.2 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) & SPECIAL AREA of CONSERVATION (SAC)

SPA's / SAC's
Baldoyle Bay
Howth Head
Malahide Estuary
Rogerstown Estuary
Ireland's Eye
Lambay Island
Rockabill Island
Skerries Islands

2.3 NOTICE SPECIFYING A FIXED PAYMENT (ON-THE-SPOT FINE) SHALL SPECIFY AS BELOW:-

- The amount of the fixed payment;
- The period in which it must be paid – 21days;
- The name and address of alleged offender;
- In general terms the nature of the contravention alleged to have been committed;
- The date in place of the alleged contravention;
- The alleged offender is entitled to disregard the notice and defend a prosecution of the alleged contravention in court;
- Authorised Person

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

FORESHORE BYE-LAWS

MADE UNDER

PART VII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1994

PRESENT when the Common Seal of THE FINGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL was affixed hereto:

Cathaoirleach/Nominated Member
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall

SEAL

County Manager/Director of Services

Dated: _____

