

APPENDIX B

Press Releases



FINGAL CO COUNCIL IDENTIFIES NINE POTENTIAL LAND PARCELS FOR NEW WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND ANNOUNCES FURTHER PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10th October 2011: Fingal County Council has identified nine potential land parcels in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), within which a proposed regional wastewater treatment plant could potentially be located, along with a marine outfall and an orbital drainage system. The ASA Phase One Preliminary Screening Outcomes Report and accompanying maps are published on www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

The new infrastructure is needed to provide sustainable and reliable drainage and wastewater treatment for the GDA to meet current and future economic, industrial and residential demands, to protect the environment and to meet the EU Water Framework Directive standards. Fingal County Council will spend the next six weeks between 10th October and 18th November consulting with the public and will hold Open Days with the Project Team at County Hall, Swords.

The attached map shows the locations of the nine identified land parcels. Maps and details of the land parcels are available to download at: www.greaterdublindrainage.ie. The Report with the maps is also available on display at County libraries in Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Garristown, Howth, Malahide, Rush, Skerries, and Swords, the four mobile libraries and the two planning counters: Fingal County Hall, Swords and Blanchardstown Civic Offices. CDs of the Report can be purchased for €5 and hard copies for €30 from the two planning counters.

The nine land parcels are:

- **Annsbrook**, approximately 2.5km north east of Ballyboghil (Ballyboughal) (62 hectares).
- **Baldurgan**, approximately 1.6km south east of Ballyboghil (57 ha).
- **Cloghran**, approximately 2.2km east of Dublin Airport and 3.3km south of Swords (32 ha).
- **Clonshagh** (Clonshaugh), approximately 2.5km east of Dublin Airport and 1.3km north of Belcamp and Darndale (40 ha).
- **Cookstown**, approximately 2.5km south east of Ballyboghil (80 ha).
- **Newtowncorduff**, approximately 2.2km west of Lusk (43 ha).
- **Rathartan**, approximately 2 km west of Rush and 3km to the east of Lusk (41 ha).
- **Saucerstown**, approximately 3.3km north west of Swords (36 ha).
- **Tyrrelstown Little**, approximately 2.8km north east of Lusk and 3.6km north west of Rush (104 ha).

Each of the nine potential land parcels is bigger than the approximately 20 hectares that will be required for the proposed new regional wastewater treatment plant, which will cater for wastewater for an estimated 700,000 population equivalent, with the majority of the load coming from the Fingal County Council area.



“The Report published today shows how we mapped existing terrestrial and coastal environmental constraints and developed prudent buffer zones from sensitive receptors to identify areas in which a wastewater treatment works can be located”, says Peter O’Reilly, Project Engineer, Fingal Co Council. “We will now assess these nine land parcels as potential locations in which to site the regional wastewater treatment plant. We will also assess the routes for the orbital drainage system and the marine outfall pipe locations. These potential locations and routes will be assessed against a range of criteria that include human issues, environmental impacts, technical and cost considerations as the next step in identifying the optimum sites for this vital new infrastructure.”

“We invite local people and all interested stakeholders to attend at any of four Open Days to be held by the Project Team at Fingal County Hall, Swords during October and November. People can also contact the Project Team by phone and email or in writing. Feedback from the Open Days and from all other stakeholder contacts will inform decisions on the eventual preferred site, which may or may not be one of these nine land parcels”, he said. “We are moving forward with these nine potential land parcels based on our current information. Site specific information, more in-depth desk-top research and site surveys, as well as feedback from the public are needed now to rule out any unsuitable land parcel and to assist in identifying the best location,” he said.

The dates and times for the Open Days in Fingal County Council’s Swords headquarters are:

- Saturday 22nd October from 11am to 4pm,
- Wednesday 26th October from 2pm to 8pm,
- Thursday 3rd November from 2pm to 8pm and
- Saturday 5th November from 11am to 4pm.

Comments and queries can be sent to info@greaterdublindrainage.ie, the Project Team can be contacted at 1890 44 55 67 or people can write to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, C/O RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

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Map Attached: For further information: Mary Murphy : 087 233 6415
Fingal County Council Press Office: 01 890 5998

**FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL EXTENDS DATE FOR RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS ON
GREATER DUBLIN DRAINAGE PROJECT UNTIL 2ND DECEMBER TO FACILITATE
LOCAL COMMUNITIES MAKING SUBMISSIONS**

Friday 11th November 2011: Fingal County Council is to extend the date by which people can make submissions on the potential locations for a regional wastewater treatment plant, an orbital sewer and a marine outfall in north County Dublin, until Friday 2nd December.

“We want to give more time to people who are in the process of putting together a detailed submission and who are concerned that they won’t be ready by the non statutory public consultation closing date of 18th November”, says Peter O’Reilly, Project Engineer, Fingal Co Council. “Some communities have told us that they only became aware of the new wastewater infrastructure project following the announcement on 10th October that we have identified nine potential land parcels for further studies. From the start of this project earlier this year we have been consulting widely with as many people as possible in the local communities and with all interested stakeholders to make sure we gather all relevant information about the potential suitability of any of these land parcels as a location for the new regional wastewater treatment plant that will be needed by 2020.”

The Greater Dublin Drainage Project Team will continue to accept submissions for ten working days after the original 18th November closing date for this period of non statutory public consultation.

“Even if a submission reaches the Project Team after the new date of Friday 2nd December 2011, submissions can be accepted and the issues raised can be reviewed at any time throughout the Project’s development. However, individual submissions that are received after the extended submission date may not be included in the final Consultation Report on this stage of the Project”, says Peter O’Reilly. “We are holding very early stage, non-statutory public consultation on this project, so that people can give their views and have them taken into account before any decisions are made on the locations for the regional wastewater treatment works, the marine outfall for the treated wastewater and an orbital sewer.”

ENDS

For further information: Mary Murphy: 087 233 6415/Fingal Co Co Press Office:
01 890 5998

The Myths and Facts about Greater Dublin Drainage Project

Friday 18th November 2011: Fingal County Council has posted new information about the Greater Dublin Drainage project on the www.greaterdublindrainage.ie site to counteract misinformed facts circulating about the Project.

“We want to scotch a few myths and confirm the facts relating to the need for a new regional wastewater treatment plant in north Dublin, a marine outfall and a new orbital sewer, that will be needed after 2020, to augment the Ringsend wastewater Treatment Works”, said Peter O’Reilly, Project Engineer of the The Greater Dublin Drainage project. The Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) is expected to be operating at full capacity by 2020, following current plans to expand the Ringsend WWTP to its maximum capacity.

The new information includes the following information:

- The proposed new regional WwTP in North Dublin will not be the largest plant in the Country. By 2040 it will deal with approximately one third of the wastewater that will be treated at the expanded Ringsend WWTP.
- Ringsend WwTP currently treats 1.8 million population equivalents (population equivalent is determined based on current population figures and an equivalent of population that is attributed to the industries that will also send wastewater to the new regional wastewater treatment plant). When extended to its full extent, the Ringsend WWTP will treat the equivalent of 2.1 million population equivalents.
- The Ringsend WwTP will reach its maximum treatment capacity of 2.1 million PE by 2020. To ensure that the Ringsend WwTP does not become overloaded post 2020 it will be necessary to divert part of its contributing catchment to another treatment facility. In order to achieve this, a new WWTP in north county Dublin will need to be commissioned by 2020.
- When it is initially commissioned the new WwTP will treat wastewater from approximately 350,000 population equivalents. By 2040, it is estimated that the treatment capacity provided by this new plant will have risen to 700,000 population equivalents.
- Although the proposed regional WwTP will treat some wastewater from other Local Authorities (Meath, Kildare, and eventually South Dublin), the majority of the wastewater that will be diverted to this new plant is currently discharging to Ringsend WWTP and a majority of the flows to the plant will come from the Fingal County Council area
- The new regional WwTP will require a site area of approximately 20 ha. Within this site, approximately 16 ha will be required for the plant and 4ha (approx 10 acres) for a buffer zone/screening.
- All of the nine land parcels identified are larger than the required 20 ha. The Project Team are currently undertaking further studies, which will continue over

the winter, to identify the most suitable 20 ha within each of the nine land parcels and ultimately a single preferred 20ha site.

- Why one regional plant and not a lot of small ones? The option of having a large number of smaller wastewater treatment plants rather than one regional plant was given a lot of consideration as far back as 2005, as part of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS) . The issue was considered again in 2008 when the strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) report was published. Both the GDSDS and the SEA reports confirm that one large regional plant will have a lesser impact on the environment than would a large number of smaller plants discharging to ground/surface waters across the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and the decision was made to build one regional WwTP. The local rivers and streams across the GDA are too small to be able to absorb the cumulative impacts of treated effluent from a large number of smaller plants. The predicted impacts of climate change and the possibility of stricter surface/ground water legislation in the future, also rule out a number of small local plants and confirm the need for the one regional plant, capable of treating wastewater from 700,000 population equivalent.
- The cost of the project has not been determined to date. The full cost of the project will not be determined until the location of all three elements of the project are confirmed, along with the technology that will be used at the wastewater treatment works. The cost is likely to be in the hundreds of millions of euros and is likely to be less than €500 million.
- The €2.5billion figure that has been attributed to the Project, refers to all the wastewater projects in the Greater Dublin Area identified by the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS) in 2005. It includes for the upgrading of all wastewater treatment plants in the GDA to their ultimate capacity including the upgrading of the Ringsend WwTP and the Shanganagh Bray WwTP; it also includes for significant upgrading of the existing drainage networks across the entire GDSDS study area and Operational & Maintenance costs for a 30 year period.
- The Public Consultation that was carried out by Fingal County Council in May and June this summer and now, during October and November, is non-statutory consultation and does not affect your rights to object to the project when the final preferred site is identified and a planning application is submitted to An Bord Pleanála. This will not happen before 2013, at which stage An Bord Pleanála will carry out its own statutory public consultation on the project. Fingal County Council are committed to consulting with all interested parties at the very earliest stage of the Greater Dublin Drainage Project and to give all parties the opportunity to have their say on the project before any decisions are made. There will be further opportunities for non-statutory public consultation in 2012, when the nine land parcels are reduced to a shortlist of potential sites.
- Fingal County Council has extended the date for receiving submissions on the Greater Dublin Drainage project until 2nd December to facilitate people who still

want to make a submission on the project. Although the advertised date for end of this non-statutory public consultation was 18th November (10th October – 18th November), submissions will be accepted and considered after the date, though they may not be included in the Consultation Report on this stage of the project.

- The preferred site for the proposed regional WwTP is unlikely to be known until late next year.
- People are welcome to contact the Project Team at any time by email at info@greaterdublindrainage.ie, by phone at 1890 44 55 67 or in writing to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, C/O RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

ALL ISSUES RAISED IN OVER 10,000 SUBMISSIONS TO THE GREATER DUBLIN DRAINAGE PROJECT WILL BE EXAMINED BY EXPERTS AND CONSIDERED BY THE PROJECT TEAM, BEFORE SITE SHORTLIST IS ANNOUNCED NEXT YEAR

12th December 2011: The Greater Dublin Drainage Project Team has received over 10,000 submissions from members of the public and other stakeholders, since October 10th, when the identification of nine land parcels in north Dublin, within which the new regional wastewater treatment plant could potentially be located, marked the start of the second round of non statutory public consultation on the project.

Speaking to the Elected Members of Fingal County Council today, Peter O'Reilly, Project Engineer, said the Project Team welcome the significant interest in the project and he thanked people for making the Project Team aware of issues and constraints that need to be considered, before the Project Team make a decision on the most suitable location for the new waste infrastructure.

“The high level of engagement from local people and stakeholders this early in the project’s development is an endorsement of the early and detailed public consultation we have undertaken since the start of this project”, said Peter O Reilly. “All the issues contained in the submissions we have received will be examined by experts and considered by the Project Team”, he confirmed, “before a shortlist of potential sites is identified next year. Among the issues raised are : risk of odours, risks to agri- and horticulture, fishing and shellfish, ecology concerns, impact on local communities, traffic and access, over-burdening of communities, ecology, pollution, heritage, distance from load centres and cost.”

The majority of Fingal’s wastewater is currently treated at Ringsend WWTP. A new regional wastewater treatment works will be needed by 2020, to meet Dublin’s current and future economic, industrial and residential demands, as well as to protect the environment and meet the EU Water Framework Directive standards, avoiding huge financial fines and penalties.

The cost of the project will be known when locations for all three elements – the wastewater treatment works, the marine outfall and the orbital sewer - are identified. The estimated costs are likely to be less than €500million. Approximately 16 hectares of land will be required for the treatment works, with an additional 4 hectares of a buffer or screening zone. One large plant will have less impact on the environment than a number of smaller plants. Local rivers and streams are already at capacity and are too small to absorb treated water from a number of smaller plants.

“The new regional plant is needed as an add-on to the existing regional wastewater treatment works in Dublin at Ringsend, currently being extended to its maximum extent”, Peter O’Reilly said. “It will be two thirds smaller than Ringsend and capable of treating up to 700,000 Population Equivalent at full capacity by 2040, starting with treating 350,000 Population Equivalent in 2020. Most of the waste to be treated at the new regional plant will come from Fingal. “Population Equivalent” includes wastewater from industries, hospitals, offices etc as well as homes. “

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The Greater Dublin Drainage project includes a marine outfall and a new orbital drainage system, linking into the existing drainage system which brings wastewater from Final to Ringsend wastewater treatment works for treatment.

In the last five years the population of Fingal increased by 13.8%, almost double the national growth rate (from 239,992 to 273,051).

ENDS

For further information : Mary Murphy 087 233 6415 or Fingal Co Council Press
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