

More beaches are awarded Blue Flags, but some lose theirs

Bacteria blamed for three coastal areas losing the coveted awards

DARRAGH NOLAN

Three more Irish beaches have been awarded the coveted Blue Flag for this year, but three other well-known spots lost theirs due to the presence of bacteria.

The three newcomers of the list of 94 Irish bathing spots recognised by the international standard are Bettystown Beach in Co Meath, Enniscrone Beach in Co Sligo and Traught in Kinvara, Co Galway. It is Bettystown Beach's first Blue Flag since 1996.

Three of the 85 beaches recognised last year have lost out for this year, including Rush South Beach in Fingal, Ballymoney North Beach in Co Wexford and Tramore in Co Waterford.

The list of 94 includes nine marinas awarded a Blue Flag, which is one fewer than last year after Greencastle Marina in Donegal was withdrawn by the county council while construction work was under way at the harbour.

To receive a Blue Flag, beaches must achieve "excellent" bathing water quality. Each of the three beaches that lost their Blue Flag status received "good", the second-highest classification.

Rush and Tramore were knocked for the presence of the intestinal enterococci bacteria. Ballymoney did not comply with the limit for the presence of E. coli.

A record 70 beaches were handed a Green Coast Award in recognition of



People walking their dogs at Bettystown Beach, Co Meath, which was awarded a Blue Flag. Photo: Colin O'Riordan

clean environments, excellent water quality and natural beauty.

Beaches to achieve Green Coast recognition not awarded last year include Quilty Beach in Co Clare, Portacloy Beach and Cross Beach in Co Mayo, Enniscrone Beach and Arklow South Beach in Co Wicklow.

Ten beaches were awarded both the Blue Flag and Green Coast, namely Fountainstown and Inchydoney East Beach in Co Cork; Balcarrick, Donabate in Fin-

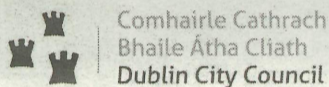
gal; Salthill and Silverstrand in Galway city, Trá Inis Oírr in Co Galway; Baile an Sceilg in Co Kerry; Bettystown Beach; and Enniscrone and Rosses Point Beach in Co Sligo.

Junior Minister Hildegard Naughton presented the awards at a ceremony in the Galway Bay Hotel. "It is my great pleasure to congratulate all of the recipients of International Blue Flags and Green Coast Awards today - and for Ireland to be the home of 94 Blue

Flags across the length and breadth of our beautiful beaches and marinas," she said.

"As a Galway minister, I am particularly proud to see the return of the Blue Flag to one of my own local swimming spots, Traught Beach in Kinvara. I know that this will be of particular note and celebration for many Galway swimmers.

"We all know just how lucky we are to have such beautiful water quality and natural beauty across our shores."



AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ) NA RIALACHÁIN UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ) - CUID 8

Iarratasóir: Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, An Roinn Cultúir, Áineasa agus Seirbhísí Eacnamaíochta.

Láithreán: An raon lúthchleasaíochta atá ann cheana ar chúil Ionad Spóirt Donore Harriers, Bóthar Shéipéal Iosóid, Séipéal Iosóid, Baile Átha Cliath, 20.

Togra: De bhun na riachtanas a bhaineann lena bhfuil thuasluaite, tugtar fógra leis seo i dtaca leis an uasghrádú a bheartaítear ar an tuilsoilsiú a dhéanfaidh Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath ar an raon lúthchleasaíochta atá ann cheana féin ag an suíomh thuas.

Beidh na gnéithe seo a leanas i gceist leis na hoibreacha a bheartaítear:

- An soláthar tuilsoilsiithe reatha a bhaint ar shíúil.
- 5 cinn de cholúin tuilsoilsiithe LED nua a shuiteáil, críochnaíte le fearais solais, 3 cinn ar 2 cholún acu agus 2 cheann ar 3 cholún acu.

Cuirfidh na hoibreacha a dtabharfar fúthu feabhas suntasach ar shábháilteacht agus inúsáideacht an raoin lúthchleasaíochta.

Forbraíodh togra an tionscadail i gcomhar le gach páirtí leasmhar mar chuid de phróiseas deartha rannpháirtíoch oscailte.

Rinneadh Scagadh le haghaidh Measúnacht Chúil i gcomhréir le hAirteagal 6(3) de Threoir um Ghnáthóga (92/43/CEE) ar an togra agus scagthástáil maidir le Measúnacht Tionchair Timpeallachta faoi Threoir MTT 2011/92/AE, arna leasú ag Treoir 2014/52/AE.

I gcomhréir le hAirteagal 81 de na Rialacháin um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2001, arna leasú, tá cinneadh déanta ag an Údarás Pleanála agus táthar den tuairim go:

- Ní dócha go mbeidh tionchar suntasach ag an bhforbairt atá beartaíte, ina haonar nó i gcomhar le pleananna nó le tionscadail eile, ar shuíomh Eorpach ná ar shuíomhanna Eorpacha, agus mar sin de, níl gá le Céim 2 de Mheasúnacht Chúil.
- Níl aon dóchúlacht cheart ann go n-imreoidh an fhorbairt atá beartaíte tionchar suntasach ar an timpeallacht agus nach bhfuil an fhorbairt atá beartaíte de chaighdeán atá leagtha amach faoi Sceideal 5 de Rialacháin Pheanála agus Forbartha 2001, arna leasú, agus mar sin níl gá le Tuarascáil ar Mheasúnú Tionchair Timpeallachta (EIAR).

Is féidir le haon duine, laistigh den tréimhse 4 seachtaine ó dháta foilsithe an fhógra seo, iarratas a dhéanamh ar an mBord Pleanála deimhniú scagthástála a dhéanamh maidir leis an dóchúlacht atá ann go n-imreoidh an fhorbairt tionchar suntasach ar an timpeallacht.

Féadfar Pleananna agus Mionsonraí na forbartha a bheartaítear a iniúchadh nó a cheannach ar tháille nach mó ná an costas réasúnach a bhaineann le cóip a dhéanamh, ar feadh tréimhse 4 seachtaine ón 21ú Bealtaine 2024, le linn uaireanta oscailte poiblí ag oifigí Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, An Cuntar Poiblí, An Roinn Pleanála agus Forbartha Maoine, Bloc 4, Uirlár na Talún, Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Luan go hAoine, 9.00 go 16.30. Beifear in ann breathnú ar na Pleananna agus Mionsonraí ar thaispeántas feistithe ar an suíomh le linn na ndátaí thuasluaite agus lena n-iniúchadh ar líne: <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> nó ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle Cathrach www.dublincity.ie

Is féidir aighneacht nó tuairim maidir leis an bhforbairt a bheartaítear, a bhaineann le pleanáil cheart agus forbairt inbhuanaithe an cheantair ina mbeadh an fhorbairt suite, a dhéanamh i scríbhinn le: An Bainisteoir Feidhmiúcháin, An Roinn Pleanála agus Forbartha Maoine, Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, faoi 16.30 ar an 3 Iúil 2024.

Is féidir aighneachtaí nó tuairimí a chur isteach ar líne <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle Cathrach www.dublincity.ie roimh 23.59 a chlog ar an 3 Iúil.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) - PART 8

Applicant: Dublin City Council, Culture, Recreation and Economic Services.

Location: The existing athletic track to the rear of Donore Harriers Sports Centre, Chapelizod Rd, Chapelizod, Dublin, 20.

Proposal: Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given of the proposed upgrade to the floodlighting by Dublin City Council of the existing athletics track at the above location.

The proposed works will comprise the following:

- The removal of existing floodlighting provision.
- The installation of 5 No. new LED floodlight columns complete with luminaires, 3 No. on 2 of the columns and 2 No. on 3 of the columns.

The works undertaken will significantly improve the safety and usability of the athletics track.

The project proposal was developed in collaboration with all stakeholders as part of an open participative design process.

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and screening for Environmental Impact Assessment under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the Planning Authority has made a determination and concluded that:

- The proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s) and therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that the proposed development is not of a class set out under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and therefore does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of 4 weeks from 21st May 2024 during public opening hours at the offices of Dublin City Council, Public Counter, Planning and Property Development Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Monday - Friday 9.00hrs to 16.30hrs. The Plans and Particulars will also be available to view at a mounted display on site during the dates stated above and also available for inspection online: <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> on the City Council's website www.dublincity.ie

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made, in writing, to the Executive Manager, Planning and Property Development Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, before 16.30hrs on 3rd July 2024.

Submissions or observations may also be made online <https://consultation.dublincity.ie> on the City Council's website www.dublincity.ie before 23.59hrs on 3rd July 2024.

Part 8

