

1.8 Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Landscape

The term Green Infrastructure is used to describe the interconnected networks of land and water all around us that sustain environmental quality and enrich our quality of life. This includes the nature conservation areas, parks, open space, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, farmland and coastal areas which surround and are threaded through our villages, towns and urban areas. The principles of Green Infrastructure planning are central to sustainable land use and development. Green Infrastructure is a 'quality of life' issue as it contributes to the protection of both the urban and rural environments - for people, for biodiversity and for our ecosystems.

The Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010- 2015, both seek to establish wildlife corridors and green networks across the County. The challenges we are now facing is how to balance the development of compact urban areas, through the intensification of mixed-use areas built around the public transport system, with more sustainable forms of development in order to encourage approaches which effectively work with nature.

- **What greening initiatives should be considered for the area and incorporated into any new developments?**
- **How do we make sure that development improves our natural heritage/ landscape, promotes biodiversity and minimise the loss of, or damage to, our natural heritage?**
- **How do we best protect and manage the environmental resources available to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits and services to the local area?**

