 

**Accompanying information**

An Taisce’s [Legacy4LIFE Ponds for Biodiversity](https://www.antaisce.org/news/legacy4life-project-launch) Team wishes to submit the following text for use wherever relevant within the ‘Material Alterations’ of the draft Fingal County Development Plan:

**Why Ponds are important?**

Ponds are water bodies with high biodiversity value and are therefore crucial in providing measures to assist local habitat and wildlife conservation. They provide a range of ecosystem services that include water provisioning, flood control, groundwater recharge, and pollution amelioration. Ponds act as major carbon sinks with the potential to sequester up to 20- 30 times more carbon than other natural habitats such as woodlands and grassland etc., therefore playing a key role in local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts (Taylor *et al*., 2019).

* ***Please incorporate ponds into the definition of wetland in the Draft CDP****.*

**Why Ponds are important in Fingal?**

The establishment of a pond network across County Dublin will incur ecological and landscape benefits, providing high-value wildlife refuges for biodiversity. They are quick and viable low-resource and investment actions that can be easily applied and utilised at local level, due to the small size of their catchment areas, compared to their impressively high ability to increase local biota in a relatively small amount of time. Once more, they provide a host of community benefits, including opportunities for recreation, education, improved health and wellbeing, and community participation.

**Ponds and Planning Permission**

Where pond depth exceeds more than 1 metre below ground level, planning permission will need to be retained. Local Authorities are advised to liaise with ecological consultants specialised in wetlands to gain maximum benefits for biodiversity during pond construction phase so that technical advice can be given for case-specific actions as they pertain to topography conditions i.e. land type, adjacent water features and climate etc.

**Wetland recommendations:**

1. Incorporate the creation of new ponds, the resurrection of ghost ponds and the maintenance of existing ponds, including currently unmanaged ponds as an objective within the CDP.
2. Incorporation of clean, freshwater ponds into public amenity and green space areas as biodiversity enhancement and climate change mitigation measures.
3. Incorporate the use of ponds as nature-based drainage solutions.
4. Incorporate ponds in Local Authority Climate Actions Plans as key measures for carbon sequestration.
5. Establish a network of ponds that are diverse in nature to encompass best practice examples for wildlife restoration under case specific habitat types e.g. ephemeral ponds, meadow stream ponds etc.
6. Promote community group engagement in pond creation/management and monitoring of local ponds on public land.