

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh,
Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

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Meath County Council

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E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

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Registration No.: 00172770

15th July, 2022

Protect our Dunes

A Chara,

We are aware that the beach is a great destination for training for the many sporting organisations who benefit from running on the soft sand and using the cold water for recovery and fun. Some groups run up and down the sand dunes too in order to increase elevation/challenge to their workout and this is the reason we are getting in touch and asking for your assistance.

Sand dunes provide natural coastal protection against storm surge and high waves and help prevent or reduce coastal flooding and structural damage to properties behind them. The diversity of dune shapes is also ideal for unique plants and animals to thrive creating habitats that are internationally valued as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

The real strength of the dunes comes from the plants that trap and bind the sands together, with marram grass being quite common along the coast in Meath. In dunes the plant roots have to go very deep and wide to get water and this extensive root network is excellent at binding the sand together – like steel in reinforced concrete.

Despite dunes being tough and protecting us from coastal storm events, they are also very fragile. Unlike the grass in gardens and sport fields, the grasses that bind dunes in place are not suited to being walked on. These dune grasses and plants die back very quickly with human trampling, leaving the sand free to be blown away. In these cases what looks like coastal erosion is actually erosion driven by human activity.

We strongly appeal to you to inform your teams and members to avoid the sand dunes in their activity at the beach. The dunes must be preserved and protected, and must not be used as part of an exercise routine. The Meath

County Council Foreshore Byelaws 2010 (as amended) permit individuals to walk through the dunes, on dedicated routes, in order to access and egress the foreshore only - it is not permitted to linger, picnic, play sport, exercise, light fires, camp or undertake any other activities in the dunes.

We hope you will continue to enjoy your training routines on the beach, and we would be much obliged if you would share this message with your teams, coaches, members, families and community.

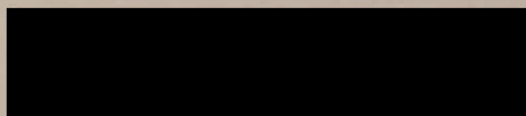
We will install signs in due course indicating the key message and look forward to your support in this matter.

Protect our Fragile Dune Systems

KEEP off the DUNES

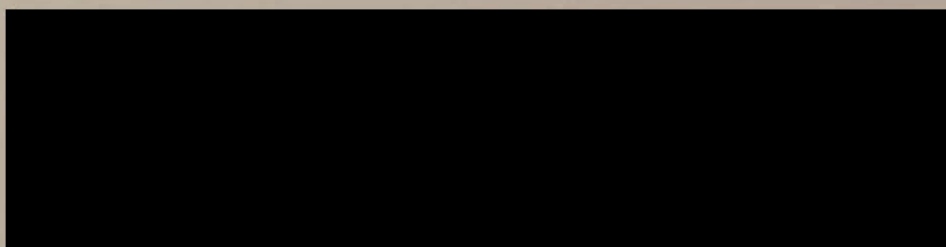
If you have any queries please contact the environment section, Meath County Council environment@meathcoco.ie

Mise le meas



Environment Section

Meath County Council



www.meath.ie