

## Appendix 1:

Response from Heritage Officer, [REDACTED]

### 1. How much was the amount?

€15,853 was awarded to Meath County Council under the National Biodiversity Action Plan (Local Biodiversity Action Fund) in May 2021 of which €14,760 was drawdown by Meath County Council.

### 2. Which department was it paid to?

Heritage and Conservation Section, Planning Department, Meath County Council

### 3. Why no work has taken place on removal of the sea buckthorn since the awarding of the funding?

The level of grant available covered the consultants to undertaken site visits/meetings, site survey of the entire Meath coast for the presence of sea buckthorn and other invasive alien species, preparation of report and distribution maps and the delivery of training to MCC technical staff on invasive species - (Total cost €12,000 (Ex VAT@ 23%))

### 4. What works are planned and when is work due to start?

A detailed survey of the Meath Coast has been completed which identified the occurrence of 8 eight invasive alien species (two of which are listed in the Third Schedule (Part 1) of S.I. 477/2011 and six that are known to be invasive in the Irish coastal, riparian and terrestrial habitats) were recorded throughout the survey area. Listed species included Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*). Winter heliotrope (*Petasites pyrenaicus*), Buddleja (*Buddleja davidii*), Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Crocosmia/Montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*) and Bamboo (*Pseudosasa cf japonica*) were also recorded. Detailed distribution maps for Sea Buckthorn and other IAPS recorded throughout the survey area were provided.

NPWS have been engaging with landowners, the council and other stakeholders in the context of on-going recreational pressure on the dune system and the development of a visitor access and management plan for the dunes. These discussions are on-going and the NPWS are currently engaged in a procurement process to engage the services of suitably qualified person(s) to prepare a management plan. It is considered that the removal of sea buckthorn (and other invasive species) will be considered as part of an agreed number of conservation measures. The lands in question are in private ownership and the carrying out of any works/implementation of conservation measures (including the removal of invasive species) ideally requires the consent of the landowners (and will be subject to environmental assessment and securing any relevant consents).

### 5. Specific individual and department responsible for carrying out the works.

Heritage Officer, administered the National Biodiversity Plan Fun (Local Biodiversity Action Fund)