

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF HOWTH/MALAHIDE AREA COMMITTEE
(SERVICES B – STRATEGIC AND GENERAL MATTERS)**

WEDNESDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 2017

GREY SQUIRRELS. AI033855

ITEM NO. 2

Question: Councillor D. Healy

“To ask the Chief Executive what arrangements are in place to respond to reports of grey squirrels in Howth which are made to the email address and phone numbers circulated by the Council in a leaflet to residents asking them to report sightings?”

Reply:

A public awareness meeting in Q2 of 2013 highlighted the importance of Community Involvement in the management of the Squirrel population on the Howth peninsula. To aid this, a project specific email address was created – howthpeninsulasquirrels@gmail.com.

In 2013 one email was sent to the address reporting the sighting of a grey Squirrel and this was responded to by the contract mammalogist on the project at the time – Dr. William Carr.

In 2014 one email was sent to the address reporting the sighting of both greys and reds and this was responded to by the contract mammalogist on the project at the time – Dr. William Carr.

In 2016 a total of 7 emails were sent to address: howthpeninsulasquirrels@gmail.com.

Of these 7 emails 3 were reporting sightings of red Squirrels only, 2 were reporting the sightings of both red & grey Squirrels and 2 were reporting sightings of greys.

All reports of reds were recorded and sent to the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Any locations where greys have been seen throughout 2016 will be dealt with as part of the 2017 Squirrel management programme. Any new sightings in 2017 will be dealt with as part of the Squirrel management programme.