

Monthly Notes from Malahide Community Forum May 2015

1. Financial Matters:

The Forum's contribution to Tidy Towns was further discussed. Tidy Towns are discussing an appropriate project. Members of the Forum were encouraged to attend the Tidy Towns AGM, which will be held on 10th June. Judging for the competition will take place in June.

2. Planning / Development:

A detailed submission on the first, pre-draft stage of the Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023 has been lodged by the Forum.

3. Transport:

Traffic Light Sequencing: The Forum heard that there are no plans to change the sequencing at present. FCC are looking at the possibility of pedestrian lights between the stretch of road from the top of James terrace to the entrance to the Grand Hotel, with the preferred location being at the bottom of the Rise.

Bus Stop on Main St.: The Forum learnt that it was decided the bus stop would not be moved. Tidy Towns have recently discussed a widening of the footpath at this place, which prompted a discussion as it may increase traffic due to cars being unable to overtake buses.

4. Environment Issues:

Malahide Garda Station: There is mounting concern regarding the full closure of the Malahide station. One Residents' Association has already written to their TD regarding this issue and Guardí are encouraging others to do likewise. It was reported that over 36,000 people live in the area covered by Malahide Garda Station, but Guardí are being taken from Malahide and assigned to other areas (such as Coolock). There will be a letter sent to the TDs from the Forum regarding this issue.

Bridgefield Car Park: The bank in the car park is currently completely overgrown with weeds. The Forum will contact FCC regarding this, as it is FCC's duty to ensure the area is maintained.

St. Margaret's Road: The Forum discussed the current parking situation on this road (from Margaret's Ave downwards), which is particularly bad around Mass time. This is forcing drivers to park on the pavements, thereby forcing buggys, wheelchair users etc. onto the road. This area has double yellow lines which are largely disregarded. The Guardí have been contacted re. this but do not have the resources to act. The Church have also made announcements to discourage people from the practice but have so far been ineffective. This issue has been exacerbated since there is no longer free parking at the station car park on Sundays; the Forum will contact Iarnród Éireann to ask if they can suspend paid parking during these periods.

5. PR:

There were no PR issues to report.

6. Text Alert Schemes:

The cost of the scheme is €10 per phone number registered; the registration forms are available from Neighbourhood Watch. It was reported that there are approximately 14 communities participating in the scheme at present and it's considered to be well worth signing up for. Forum members were assured that the data obtained is only used for the purpose for which it was collected and Neighbourhood Watch do not require any personally identifiable information

7. Final Community Network Plenary:

This group met recently and the minutes were discussed by the Forum. An implementation group is being formed by the Plenary and there remains vacancies on the environment and housing committees. The Forum are registered with the plenary as the network will be used as the main route of communication from FCC.