

Monthly Notes from Malahide Community Forum April 2015

1. Members: The following was co-opted onto the Forum:
Holly Westwood (Hon. Secretary)

2. Financial Matters:

The Forum discussed the possibility of getting involved with Tidy Towns. It was agreed generally that a contribution from the Forum would be a good idea as it has been 5 or 6 years since anything similar was done. The Forum will approach the Tidy Towns committee to discuss options.

4. Planning / Development:

Fingal Development Plan 2017 – 2023: Submissions on first, pre-draft stage of the Plan are due by 15 May 2015; the P&D Sub-Committee will draft the strategic plan and bring to the next Forum meeting. Information on the Plan is available online and at the Library (LINK: <http://www.fingalcoco.ie/dpdev/>)

5. Transport:

Bus Stop: FCC have decided against moving the bus stop opposite St Sylvester's; it was decided that it would create greater congestion

Bridgefield: FCC think the entrance to the Bridgefield is fine and acts to slow the traffic on entrance

Traffic Lights: FCC are proposing to have pedestrian traffic lights on the Mall, East of the junction with The Rise (opposite the tennis club)

Millview Road: Millview Rd. safety measures will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 programme of works. Millview Rd. residents' association have been communicating with FCC to express their frustration over the time this is taking. The Forum discussed the concern from residents, parents / guardians & teachers re. children crossing Millview Rd. At least 2 pedestrian crossings (pelican) have been requested on this road as there is currently no crossing point available to the children, with limited footpath. Some work has been done on the continuous footpath but very little else.

Also discussed was the number of 'pinch points' throughout the village that should be looked at as a whole, rather than one-by-one (to avoid short-term fixes, and the creation of 'rat runs'). Traffic light timings also seem wrong; and FCC possibly don't know the 'ins and outs' of the traffic light / crossing issues

It was agreed that the safety of the children should come before other considerations (e.g. the Green)

The Forum heard that there is a possibility that something could be done in the 2017 - 2023 plan for the long-term; although something needs to be done in the short-term. The Forum will include the crossings at Millview Road in the 2017 - 2023 Fingal Development Plan and will also speak to FCC regarding a short-term solution for the issues surrounding crossings, timing of lights, etc.

6. Environment Issues:

The following information was passed on to the Forum:

- Hogan's Lodge, once redeveloped, will host the Irish Centre for Cycling
- Public toilets at top of James Terrace are being refurbished and scheduled to re-open this week
- Flooding at the bottom of Townyard Lane is being investigated by FCC
- Current entrance to Bridgefield car park considered adequate (as mentioned above)

The upcoming cricket match at Malahide Castle was discussed by the Forum. Concern was raised over the closure of the paths around the area for this event and the Forum will investigate how long this will last for. As the layout and size of stands has changed since the last match, less impact is expected.

The Forum will be represented at a UCD workshop on 28th April, 1930 - 2130, to participate in a discussion on an assessment of the value of the coastal environment in Fingal.

7. Neighbourhood Watch:

The Forum was represented at the joint police committee meeting. It was a well-attended meeting, covering other areas of Fingal, and a new chief superintendent has started. Sgt. Cox gave statistics as follows: crime is down in public order & criminal damage areas, but up in burglaries & car break-ins. There are now 32 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the Malahide & Portmarnock areas, and 16 text alert schemes. It was reported that Sgt. Cox has zero tolerance for people who go to drink on the beach and cause problems, which was well received by the Forum.

8. PR:

No new issues for PR.

The Forum discussed that it might be a good idea to start encouraging people to create their own residents' associations and link up to the Forum. There is a possibility of the creation of a 'starter pack' which may help with this.