

## Monthly Notes from Malahide Community Forum January 2011

- 1. Presentation:** A most informative presentation was given by Fionnuala May, Senior Architect and AnnMarie Farrelly, Senior Executive Officer of Fingal County Council on the proposals for Malahide Castle and Demesne. Work will commence shortly and it is hoped they will be finished by Easter 2012. The park will be kept open throughout.
- 2. Planning/Development Issues:**

Somerton, The Mall: As La Spa Therapie sign was not removed by due date, a prosecution under planning legislation has been initiated by FCC Planning Department.

Casino: FCC intends to issue proceedings against the owners for failure to carry out protective works on Casino. We have received replies from Dublin Tourism, Irish Landmark Trust and The Heritage Council to our correspondence alerting them to the deterioration of the building. It would appear that the proposed action by FCC is the preferred route to take.

Development Plan 2011-2017: The Development Plan sub-committee has considered final amendments to the draft plan. There is nothing to concern the Forum in these amendments.
- 3. Transport Issues:** The 42 bus from Coast Road will be re-routed. It will now go from the Sands Hotel via Portmarnock and The Hill to Malahide village and to the City centre via Seabury. The Transport subcommittee will send in a submission regarding the lack of service remaining on the Coast Road to the village. Dublin Bus has extended the consultation period on these changes to Friday 11 February.

Shuttle Bus - The National Transportation Authority (NTA) took over bus licensing from 1 December. On 2 December they published their final guidelines for bus licensing. On 20 December Malahide Coaches sent in their formal application for a licence, with detailed supporting documentation from the Shuttle Group. This was acknowledged. NTA will aim for decisions within 8 weeks so we expect a decision in February.
- 4. Environment Issues:** The Forum is extremely concerned about the water shortages in Malahide and lack of effective communication from FCC. A reply to various questions posed to FCC Water Services Department by the Chair of our Environment subcommittee has been received. It was agreed that we revert to them advising that these replies will be published in the next edition of The Guardian. It was also agreed we request that a representative from the department attends our AGM.

Last Saturday the Tidy Towns Committee and Malahide Camera Club launched an exhibition in the library on the theme of bio-diversity, which is well worth visiting. It was agreed to contact all political parties to ask that they respect the long-standing agreement that no election posters will be put up in the village centre.

Concern was raised at the wild behaviour of a number of people in the village in the early hours of New Years Day and the broken glass and rubbish they left behind them. We will liaise with Gardaí and Chamber of Commerce. However, it was noted that FCC did excellent and speedy work clearing up this mess and we thank them for this. We also extend our thanks for the extra gritting of the pavements in the village this year during the bad weather.

The Forum is concerned in particular by the rowdy behaviour of groups of young people congregating in various locations in Malahide and at the increase in graffiti. It was agreed that we will include an item in The Guardian in an endeavour to discourage such behaviour.
- 5. Public Relations:** The next edition of the Malahide Guardian is due for issue in the first week of February and this will carry notice of the AGM.
- 6. Non-Sporting Facilities for Youth:** There are now a number of new members from 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the youth club. The youth club members' committee attended a Foróige-led training

session on how to run the club and move it forward.

A number of training sessions have been held for volunteers to run a youth café. The Foróige project leader will talk to 4<sup>th</sup> year students about the youth café and it is hoped that it can commence soon.

7. **AGM Arrangements:** It was agreed to request for the AGM a short presentation by FCC on the proposed developments in the Demesne. We will also request a short presentation on plans for the cricket club. The AGM takes place on Monday 28 February in the Grand Hotel.
8. **Any Other Business:** We have been asked by several people what items should be highlighted to candidates during the forthcoming election. We feel a particular problem that needs to be addressed is antisocial behaviour, especially graffiti, litter and excessive drinking. Also the deterioration of The Casino, a protected structure, is cause for great concern.