

Notes from Malahide Community Forum – June 2020

Ref.	Description
COVID-19	<p>1. Social distancing facilitation – New Street pilot pedestrian zone MCF attended a consultation meeting on Tues 19th May convened by Fingal county council. Malahide chamber, Malahide Shop Local and Malahide Tidy Towns were also present. It was agreed to pilot New Street as a pedestrian zone for a 10 week trial period. Malahide will be the first area in Fingal to see a new pedestrian zone introduced in the centre of the village which is intended to bring an open air, European-style feel to the heart of the village. The contractor has been appointed and work is expected to get underway on Monday 15th June to allow retailers, café and restaurant owners expand their business onto the street. It is hoped that the work will be completed in time for phase 3 of the Government roadmap for reopening business and society on June 29.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replacement parking is being provided at Bridgefield Car Park - Access will be provided to emergency services and residents (via permit) - Deliveries permitted prior to 5am to 10.30am daily. - Serving and consuming alcohol on the public street will be strictly prohibited, and signage to this effect will be installed. (confirmed by MCF with council on 11th June) - Businesses invited to extend into street. - All street furniture belonging to businesses to be removed at night. - Traffic management plan will be published. - FCC will monitor closely and tweak as necessary. - Meetings will be held with stakeholders during course of the pilot. <p>Updates received from council on Sat 13th June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 32 Bus (One per hour) will go down Old St instead of New Street - Taxis will move to James's terrace - New Street will be closed by cones initially and signage with planters to follow - Traffic light configuration will be amended at the Diamond.
1. Minutes	<p>The minutes of the meeting of 18th May 2020 were approved.</p> <p>The chairperson welcomed Heidi Bedell from The Marina to the forum. Heidi will join Marna Law in representing the Marina residents' association. Heidi is also joining the environment sub-committee.</p>
2. Priorities for 2019/20	<p>1. Pathway/cycleway development</p> <p>1.1. Five priority routes No update this month as FCC focusing on enabling social distancing in village and town centres across Fingal. MCF chair noted the allocation of one million euro per day to walking and cycling infrastructure in the proposed programme for government. Councils with plans in place to facilitate cycling to school etc. will be well positioned to receive funding. Action: MCF to focus on those routes that can be delivered in the short term, such as the Seapark to Seamount Road route. MCF to raise these routes with FCC to facilitate schools re-opening in September.</p> <p>1.2. Safe route from Seabury to St. John Pauls primary school via Caves Marsh MCF chair met councillor Anthony Lavin and Seabury residents' representatives to review the challenge of social distancing at Barrack Bridge, which links Seabury to St. John Pauls school. Barrack bridge has a footpath on one side only, which is just one metre wide for approximately thirty metres. Even if the one metre social distancing requirement is reduced to one metre, it is physically impossible for pedestrians to exercise social distancing if they pass at this point. They have no option but to step into this busy narrow road, putting their lives at risk. It is an intimidating busy road to cycle on, especially for families and young children who might wish to cycle to local schools. Heidi Bedell stated that the Caves Marsh route was previously vetoed on environmental grounds. MCF chair stated that the application for the Broadmeadow Way route addressed similar environmental concerns which may be reused for the Caves Marsh route. MCF chair also stated that in the face of COVID-19, the protection of human life and the safety of children must take precedence. Action: MCF chair to continue researching pontoon bridge / boardwalk via Caves Marsh – with assistance of environment sub-committee.</p>

	<p>Step down accommodation. A strong letter was written by Dudley Potter to the comptroller & auditor general regarding the proposed NAMA block sale of Casino Apartments. The comptroller & auditor general replied noting the concerns raised. NAMA has not responded to the most recent letter. An individual apartment sold recently in the Casino Apartments at market price, indicating a continued strong demand from individual purchasers. Action: Stepdown committee to keep pressure on NAMA to sell apartments individually.</p>
3. Finance	<p>Cash balance of €10,000. Subscription from Marina has not yet been received. Action: Marina representative will ensure payment is forthcoming.</p>
4. Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning application for the site of The Westbury Club, The Green MCF submitted an objection to FCC on May 20th. 2. Oscar Taylors Oscar Taylors has submitted another amendment to their planning application increasing the scale of the development. It was suggested that this looks like a new entrance lobby. Action: Planning sub-committee chairperson will review the amended application 3. Margaret's Road A house on Margaret's Road that started work before planning permission was granted has applied for retention. Building work is ongoing, ignoring planning laws. Action: Planning sub-committee to write to Fingalcoco.
5. Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broadmeadow Way An Bord Pleanála granted permission on 19th May. FCC published a Broadmeadow Way promotional video on 22nd May, which states that advance work will commence this year, main construction starting in 2021 and the greenway opening for use in 2022. Notwithstanding MCF's support for the safety concerns raised by O'Hanlon's Lane residents, MCF welcome the development of the Broadmeadow Way as it will provide a fantastic health and leisure amenity. However, as currently planned, it will do little to enable residents to more safely walk or cycle to local schools, clubs, or shops. Specifically, it bypasses the train station, bypasses the village, and does nothing to enable children to cycle safely to school. Donal McCarthy (O'Hanlon's lane) stated that residents of the lane will be meeting shortly ahead of meeting with councillors to discuss how the safety issues on the lane can be addressed. Action: Work with FCC to develop safe cycle routes to school, as per our priority items. 2. Redevelopment of The Green Redevelopment restarted on Monday 18th May. Expected to take 26 weeks. Pictures showing what The Green will look like when complete are on display on the hoarding around The Green. Action: Write to FCC asking if work can be expedited to facilitate social distancing. 3. Adjustment of speedbumps in Malahide Demesne to facilitate mobility impaired FCC have re-instated speedbumps spanning the entire carriageway between Avoca and the Back Road entrance. Action: Seek feedback from mobility impaired residents 4. Planned new pathway in Malahide Demesne from Bridgefield carpark to depot A resident posted the following comment on our May notes regarding this FCC plan: "Is FCC going to prepare plans for what is proposed? Did FCC give any justification for the increase in staff? I recall that some years ago when the Avoca project was being developed, that the County Architect stated at a public meeting that she had been trying to get this depot removed from the park, but failed. I would feel that FCC should be trying to minimise traffic on this road, which is the main pedestrian route to the Castle. Perhaps MCF might give more consideration to this." MCF chair pointed out that having the depot in the Demesne ensures that equipment needed to maintain green spaces in Malahide is close at hand. The meeting agreed that a pathway is required. 5. Pathways within Malahide Demesne – need to "Share with care" We published a post on our website on 4th June asking all park users, be they walkers, joggers or people on bikes, to respect other park users and maintain social distancing. 6. Bike Parking facilities in the Malahide area Fingal county council has ordered 400 bike racks and are seeking suggested locations for them. We asked member Resident Associations for suggestions and posted the same question on our website on 6th June. We have forwarded suggested locations to the council.

	<p>Action: Environment sub-committee to review and agree best locations and communicate same to the council.</p> <p>1. Phone boxes Fingal county council has arranged for the removal of the vandalised public phone box on The Dublin Road (scheduled for early July). Action: Write to Fingalcoco requesting the removal of phone boxes from the village.</p>
6. Transport	<p>1. Use of public transport has collapsed. Significant increase in walking and biking with associated rise in conflicting interaction between motorists, pedestrians and people travelling on bikes. Safe practices are required by all, regardless of mode of transport.</p>
7. Neighbourhood Watch	<p>No formal update as no meetings held due to Covid-19. Anecdotal evidence is that local crime in general has been at a reduced level during the pandemic.</p>
8. Forum Planning	<p>We are strengthening our communication and co-operation with the Malahide Tidy Towns committee through the addition of Heidi Bedell to the forum. Heidi is also on the Tidy Towns committee. We will post photos of Tidy Towns initiatives on our website and raise awareness via Enjoy Malahide.</p>
9. AOB	<p>1. Lambay court residents are experiencing problems with rats, caused by the absence of functioning “back-traps” in sewer pipes. Rectification will cost hundreds of euros and the residents are seeking to establish who is responsible for resolving the problem. MCF chair clarified that if the problem is in private property, it’s the responsibility of the house owner. If the problem is outside the property, it’s the responsibility of Irish Water.</p> <p>2. Three issues raised regarding social distancing</p> <p>2.1. Pedestrian gate to Bridgefield car park locked (the gate was re-opened on June 15th)</p> <p>2.2. Renovation of The Green – could this be expedited</p> <p>2.3. Large gatherings at the small green opposite Pappagallino's ice-cream shop</p>
1. Next Meeting	<p>Monday 20th July 2020 -</p>