

Notes from Malahide Community Forum – July 2020

Ref.	Description
1. Minutes	The minutes of the meeting of 15th June 2020 were approved.
2. COVID-19	The forum chairperson noted that social distancing in the village remains challenging for those trying to observe it. COVID-19 will be with us for some time to come. We all have to learn to live with it.
3. New Street pilot pedestrianisation	<p>The topic of New Street is clearly a sensitive one. We have been advised that the residents of Malahide Marina oppose the current arrangements and we understand that residents on Old Street and New Street/Ross Cottages object, as do many of the non-hospitality businesses owners. Unfortunately neither Old St. nor New St. is currently affiliated to Malahide Community Forum.</p> <p>The forum, together with all attendees at the briefing by the council on Tuesday 19th May agreed with FCC's plan to conduct a 10-week trial. At the time traffic volumes in the village were extremely low. Holding a trial enables residents and businesses to see how pedestrianisation works, or does not work in practice and whether alternative arrangements would be more acceptable.</p> <p>It is the forum's understanding, from the video of the Howth Malahide Local Area Committee meeting that took place on Wednesday 8th July 2020 that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. The 10-week pilot will complete 1.2. The council will present findings from the pilot to councilors at the Howth Malahide Local Area committee. 1.3. Councilors may then decide to terminate the pedestrianisation or recommend continuing in some form. If they recommend continuing, the council will hold a public consultation. <p>FCC launched a public survey about the pilot on 21st July – please complete the survey at: https://consult.fingal.ie/ga/content/walk-bike-fingal-pilot-pedestrianisation-new-street-malahide</p>
4. Priorities for 2019/20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pathway/cycleway development The forum emailed FCC regarding two priority routes to facilitate schools re-opening in September, namely Seapark Hill to Seamount Road and Seabury to St. John Pauls primary school via Caves Marsh. Action: Contact schools and clubs in Malahide seeking their support for asking FCC to invest in improved cycling infrastructure to enable more pupils and club members to cycle to local schools. 2. Step down accommodation. The step-down committee is preparing a follow up letter to the Comptroller & Auditor General setting out the potential financial loss to the State if NAMA proceed with the bulk sale of apartments in the Casino.
3. Finance	Cash balance remains stable. Subscription from Marina RA received with thanks.
4. Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Westbury Club, The Green The Westbury Club planning application was firmly rejected. The five reasons for refusal are at the link: https://malahidecommunity.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/westbury-club-rejection-f20a-0171.pdf 2. Silks The application is to demolish the existing building, rebuild it in the same architectural idiom, with a restaurant on the ground floor with 6 apartments above with a relatively small height increase due to the move from existing two storeys to three storeys. Given that the building is within an architectural conservation area in the village, the planning committee reviewed the application with the advice of a local architect. The conclusion is that the treatment of the front is quite reasonable and consistent with the adjoining houses and that the apartments are architecturally OK – it would therefore not be appropriate for the forum to object.

	<p>3. Oscar Taylors FCC has refused permission for the amendments to the original application. The Moorings residents' association engaged a planning consultant to prepare their successful objection. The developer has since submitted a revised planning application, which is very much on the lines of that refused, but larger.</p> <p>4. Margaret's Road The planning committee reviewed the approval by FCC of the application for retention and planning permission. The Margaret's Road residents' association representative asked why the forum had not objected in support of the Margaret's Road objection. The planning committee chair said he had reviewed the points raised in the comprehensive objection lodged by Mr Jonathan Law and could add nothing. It was suggested that MCF should draw up architectural guidelines for what would be acceptable where existing houses are extended or demolished and replaced. The Chairman said we did not have the expertise to undertake such a task or the resources to engage consultants to do so.</p> <p>5. Dublin Airport capacity expansion The Dublin Airport Authority has withdrawn its application for the expansion of passenger capacity at Dublin Airport.</p>
<p>5. Environment</p>	<p>1. Broadmeadow Way No update.</p> <p>2. Redevelopment of The Green Much of the solid hoarding has been replaced with fence. Action: Continue to lobby FCC to expedite completion of the redevelopment</p> <p>3. Planned new pathway in Malahide Demesne from Bridgefield carpark to depot No update.</p> <p>4. Works at the dogs off lead area in Malahide Demesne Works commenced on Monday 20th July. The forum emailed FCC to find out what is being done. A "dust path" is being laid – work expected to complete by Friday 31st July.</p> <p>5. Bike Parking facilities in the Malahide area Two Sheffield bike parking racks have been installed on New Street, two outside the scouts' den and two in Bridgefield car park. The forum continues to forward suggestions we receive to FCC. FCC has received over 200 suggestions throughout the county so far from a priority list has been prepared for installation. Bleeper (rental) bikes may be locked at any Sheffield bike rack.</p> <p>6. Phone boxes The phone box on The Dublin Road scheduled for removal on 10th July has not yet been removed. The forum has contacted FCC requesting the removal of the 4 phone boxes from Main Street. Eircom has recently lodged planning applications to upgrade two of the phone kiosk on the public footpath. The development will consist of the replacement of a previous telephone kiosk with a new telephone kiosk with integral Communication Unit and a 1.53 sq. metre digital advertising display. The proposed structure has an overall height 2.43m, a depth of 0.762m and a width 1.096m</p> <p>7. Pedestrian lights – Ashwood Hall on Back Road – not yet activated On 30th March, the forum published an article thanking FCC for "Connecting communities to amenities", via the new footpath from Ashwood Hall to the Playground car park at Malahide Demesne. However, three months later, the new pedestrian lights have still not been turned on. With traffic returning to pre-pandemic levels, it's extremely difficult for families with young children from Ashwood Hall to cross the Back Road, where some drivers exceed the 60km per hour limit. The forum has repeatedly contacted FCC about this matter. FCC say it's up to the ESB to connect electricity to the lights.</p> <p>8. Dublin Road – installation of street furniture to control parking FCC are installing bollards and planters on the Dublin Road to address the safety concerns raised over many years by St. Sylvester's Infant school and Dublin Road residents regarding people parking cars on footpaths, especially during school drop-off and collection times. Parents / guardians who must drive their children to school may avail of free car parking in The Bridgefield car park, located 350 metres from the school. Works are expected to complete before the end of August.</p>

6. Transport	<p>1. An attendee from the east of the village raised the difficulty of trying to access the Marina for traffic travelling west along Strand Street from the bottom of Townyard Lane. Action: Contact FCC requesting a right filter light be added to the traffic lights.</p>
2. Neighbourhood Watch	<p>No formal update. Anecdotal evidence from conversation with a local guard is that crime levels are creeping up again having dropped substantially in the early days of COVID-19. It was reported that two youths were found in a house along Seamount Rd as part of an attempt to steal a car from the premises.</p>
9. AOB	<p>1. Castle Terrace flooding. Recent heavy rains once again led to flooding at Castle Terrace. Action: MCF to write to FCC to request permanent resolution of this on-going issue.</p> <p>2. Traffic flow through Malahide Village It was noted that previous problems raised regarding traffic flow through The Diamond from the East of the village appear to have eased and may be due to adjustments made to the Traffic lights at The Diamond. The forum will continue to monitor.</p> <p>3. Unofficial taxi rank forming at top of New Street It was noted that some taxis are waiting in the loading area at the top of New Street which was put in place to facilitate businesses and the medical centre on New Street. At times, the queue of taxis has extended back along Main Street, blocking the “straight only” lane. Action: Contact FCC to resolve this issue.</p> <p>4. Cars parking on grass in Malahide Demesne – Sat 22nd July An attendee queried why large numbers of cars were being directed to park on the grass in the area in front of the castle where concerts are often held. This was due to a “Drive in Movie” being screened on Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd July.</p>
10. Next Meeting	<p>Next meeting Monday 17th August 2020</p>