

Notes from Malahide Community Forum – September 2020

Ref.	Description
1. Vote of sympathy	The chairperson proposed and the meeting unanimously passed a vote of sympathy at the passing of Roger Greene, the father David Greene who is a past forum chairperson. The chairperson noted the contribution made by Roger to the Malahide community over many years, noting in particular his involvement in the Malahide Historical Society and the Malahide Yacht Club.
2. Minutes	The minutes of the meeting of 17 th August 2020 were approved.
3. New Street update	<p>- The chairperson referred to the findings presented by FCC at an online meeting with Howth Malahide councillors and local stakeholders on 27th August 2020. FCC's analysis was that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The New Street trial had been a technical and social success o Their online survey indicated that a majority of the Malahide residents who responded supported pedestrianisation o The business community was somewhat evenly divided. <p>FCC presented their findings the previous day (Aug 26th) to the Howth Malahide local area councillors, where the councillors agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue pedestrianisation zone to end September. o Adjust pedestrian zone arrangements to provide one-way traffic on New Street from The Diamond to The Green/Marina by Oct 2020. <p>The chairperson noted that the adjustment from full pedestrianisation to one-way reflects the joint submission to FCC (August 7th) from MCF, Tidy Towns, Shop Malahide and Chamber of commerce. FCC's meeting with the Howth Malahide local area councillors' on 26th further decided that the one-way system would be trialled and reviewed with a statutory consultation to follow. The public consultation will consider partial pedestrianisation in winter months and full pedestrianisation during summer months. That is the now the stated position of the council and the councillors.</p> <p>- Concern was raised by many attendees at the way the council imposes decisions without proper consultation – with the council appearing to do what it wishes.</p> <p>- Concern was also raised regarding the lack of detail provided by FCC regarding the form the proposed one-way system will take; the cost; whether loading bays or cycle lanes will be provided, etc..</p> <p>- The following motion was proposed by proposed by the Seapark representative and passed: "That Malahide Community Forum does not accept the decision of the Howth / Malahide Area Committee meeting of August 26th 2020 in relation to New Street Malahide and wish that the matter be resolved at the next full meeting of Fingal County Council". The proposer asked that it be put on record that he personally loves pedestrianisation, but due process and procedure must be followed.</p> <p>Action: Secretary informed FCC council and councillors of the motion passed by the forum.</p>
4. Finance	Cash balance remains stable – EUR9,800 in the bank.
5. Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Green Hard elements (paving etc.) are being done to a high standard. An unsightly electricity line is to be put underground at the bottom of New Street. This will necessitate path closures. 2. Seamount The developer (Ballymore) has started site works. It may be possible to progress the pedestrian / cycle route from Seapark Hill to Seamount Road as part of these site works. It was suggested to meet the developer to progress this. The Seapark residents' representative fully agreed and added that Councillor O'Brien is joining residents on Wednesday 30th Sep to look at the damage and debris resulting from ongoing anti-social behaviour in the green space between Seapark Hill and Seamount Road. Action: Contact developer to request site meeting
6. Active Travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New subcommittee The new Active Travel sub-committee held its first meeting, via Zoom, on Wed 8th Sept 2020. Members are John Shirey (Millview), Turlough O'Brien (Seabury), Roberta Hynes (Inbhir Ide) and Ivan Barrett (Seabury & Sea Scouts).

	<p>If anyone else wishes to join – please email the forum secretary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Safe route from Seabury to JPS, St. Sylvester’s and into Malahide Demesne. Turlough O’Brien is leading this initiative, as a Seabury resident with children attending JPS. Turlough provided an update on the recent Barrack Bridge safety survey: There have been almost 500 responses and the survey will close shortly. The consensus is that Barrack Bridge is unsafe and that the council need to provide a safer route. Turlough met with and will remain in contact with the representative of Milford residents as Milford may be most directly affected by any proposed changes. Turlough will be closing the survey shortly and providing results to the forum. 3. Broadmeadow Way Hanlon’s Lane update. The residents wrote to seven local area councillors and expect to meet with them shortly. 4. Deputation meeting with Howth Malahide local area committee to progress priority walking / cycling paths The council plan to resume Deputation meetings online. We are top of the list when they resume. 5. Works at the dogs off lead area in Malahide Demesne New path completed – Watering fonts added – See website post. 6. Bike Parking facilities in the Malahide area New bike parking rack has been installed at Low Rock. 7. Pedestrian lights – Ashwood Hall on Back Road – still not activated. The council says the issue is with the ESB. Action: Continue to raise with council.
<p>7. Transport</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revised Bus Timetable Proposals Update given on the NTA’s “final proposal for Bus Connects in Dublin”. It’s a substantial improvement from the previous proposal for the Malahide area. The only issues are: The removal of direct services to the city from The Hill, Seamount and Church Road. There’s also a proposed terminus at McAllisters garage, which does not appear to make sense as there’s no opportunity to turn there and there’s nowhere to park a bus. There was considerable opposition from Seabury residents to the previous proposal which left them underserved – this appears to have been addressed but may lead to issues on Barrack Bridge due to a significant increase in planned services. See map at: https://malahidecommunity.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/malahide-bus-connects-proposed-local-bus-routes-sept-2020.pdf See timetable at: https://malahidecommunity.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/bus-timetableb-bus-connects-proposal-malahide-sep2020.pdf
<p>8. Reimagining Malahide</p>	<p>The chairperson cited two issues facing Malahide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The amount of traffic going through Malahide is excessive, damaging the village and reducing the quality of life for residents along the radial routes. 2. It is not possible at this stage to bypass Malahide. <p>The only viable solution is to reduce the volume of traffic. Internationally, there’s a move to what’s called “The 15 minute city / suburb” – which looks at how urban areas can be configured to minimise the dependence on motor traffic by enabling residents to meet most, if not all, of their needs (work / health / retail) within a short walk or bike ride of their home. It involves reconnecting people with their local areas and decentralising city life and services.</p> <p>Covid-19 is accelerating this movement. With so many people working from home, city centres are being devastated while suburbs are benefiting from the “shop local” effect. For some people, working from home is OK, others may not have the space or may prefer to separate work from home. This is expected to lead to a demand for working “near home”. At the same time, E-commerce is adversely impacting retailers, which could result in significant numbers of shuttered businesses, which could be used as hubs for “near home” working.</p> <p>In the light of the above, the chairperson is recommending that the forum, in conjunction with Malahide Chamber and other stakeholders, commission a study to present to Fingal</p>

	<p>County Council that examines these issues and proposes possible solutions. He cited precedence for producing such a report. In 1985, the forum commissioned an environmental study known as “The Shaffrey report”, which, while non-statutory, significantly influenced the subsequent development within Malahide village. The opportunity has arisen to get significant professional input (from TU Dublin) at a reasonable cost (approx. EUR5,000), which should be spread across local stakeholders and possibly the council.</p> <p>A key component of the study would be the Auburn House site in the South West corner of Malahide, bought recently for EUR20million. A local area plan is under development for Auburn – the forum needs to ensure the plan includes small neighbourhood retail facilities and permeability for walking and cycling to local schools, parks, shops etc.. There are neighbourhood retail facilities to the West of Malahide, in Seabury and Ard na Mara, but none to the East or South. Currently, anyone living in Robswall, Biscayne, Seapark, Old Golf Links etc. must travel into the village, typically by car, for basics like a pint of milk or loaf of bread. We need to look at how we can minimise the need for residents to drive to the village for milk, bread etc..</p> <p>The attendees welcomed the chairperson’s proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tidy Towns rep added it was an opportunity to explore the creation and connection of small new parks from existing underutilised green spaces. This could take the pressure off some of our existing parks, and ease social distancing. • The Old Golf Links rep welcomed the idea but expressed concern that the timing is not right as it could be confused with the ongoing New Street issue. He also suggested that we should first get Fingal County Council’s agreement and financial contribution to this study. • It was agreed that a representative from Robswall should be sought as Robswall residents are effectively forced to drive to the village and a neighbourhood shopping facility in that area would appear to be a good idea. <p>For further detail on this concept, see article published on 6th Oct in Irish Examiner: The '10-minute' concept that could revolutionise regional towns like Tralee</p> <p>Action: Chairperson to prepare a formal written proposal for consideration by the forum ahead of next month’s meeting.</p>
<p>9. AOB</p>	<p>1. New members One new member has joined: Paul Egan from Inbhir Ide. Joan Donnelly from Seabury has been a member for some time but was unaware that individual members may attend our monthly meetings.</p>
<p>10. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting Monday 19th October 2020.</p>