

# Active Travel, Safe Routes to School and Proposed Caves Marsh Boardwalk – Feb 2021

Dear Milford Resident,

The Active Travel Sub-Committee of the Malahide Community Forum has been set-up to examine how Government Policy on Active Travel\* can best be applied for the benefit of everyone who live and work in Malahide. For more details, see: <https://malahidecommunityforum.ie/2021/02/22/active-travel-malahide/>



One of four “safe routes to school” we’re progressing is from Seabury to Pope John Paul II School, which we’ve chosen based on feedback from parents and a recent survey showing 92% of parents felt Barrack Bridge is unsafe for children. There are numerous anecdotal accounts of accidents and a worry that the road is dangerous for pedestrians particularly when buses pass.

One option we are researching is a boardwalk over Caves Marsh to enable children to safely walk or bike to and from school. As many of you know, this has been discussed for more than 20 years. Now, with increased Government funding and support, we believe there’s a real opportunity to progress this.

As residents of Milford, your homes are close to this proposed new pedestrian / cycle route and we are therefore contacting you to inform you and to seek your input regarding this proposal and how best to proceed. Please email [secretary.malahideforum@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.malahideforum@gmail.com) if you have any comments.

## What benefit would a boardwalk over Caves Marsh be to Milford residents?

- Safe access to Seabury Park/Estuary Park for children from Milford and beyond
- A reduction in the number of cars using Barrack Bridge, as walking / cycling to school via the boardwalk would be both safer and shorter than the existing route over Barrack Bridge
- A birdlife / wildlife sanctuary on your doorstep
- Protection for the Caves Marsh bird and animal population which is under pressure as people currently access the marsh at different points
- Reduced anti-social behaviour provided by controlled access
- Direct access to an Active Travel network connecting Swords, Malahide & Donabate
- Approx. 6 minute bike ride to Malahide Train Station
- Approx. 12 minute bike ride to the Estuary and Seatown Metro Stations in Swords
- A potential increase in property values, as indicated in the following

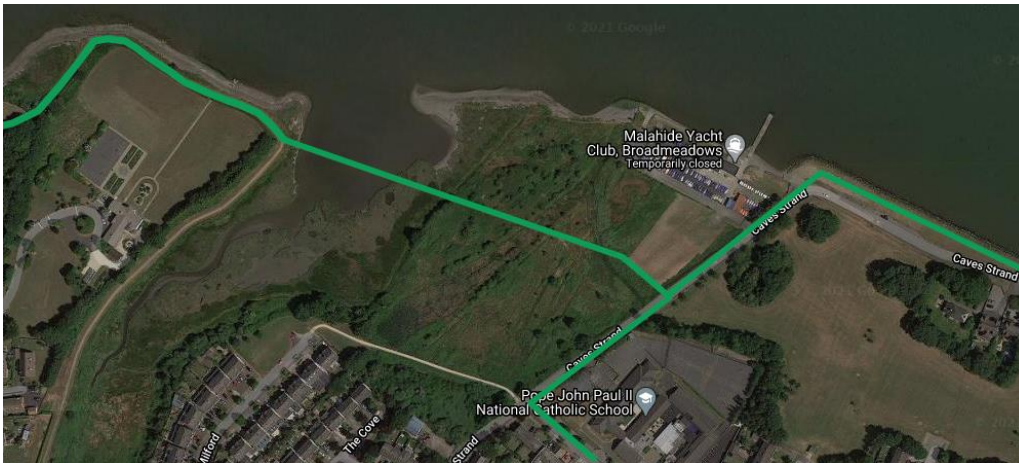
**J**anet Carroll, a south Dublin estate agent, has a new tool in her sales kit when selling properties. In recent months, she has added cycle lanes to the list of desirable features in brochures for houses on her books. She says that, ever since Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown county council installed segregated cycle lanes along its coast last year, interest from buyers has risen. “The effect has been immediate. The cycle lanes tick the box for many families,” says Carroll.

Extract from Sunday Times article (31 Jan 2021) – See:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/will-cycle-lanes-be-the-fast-track-to-house-price-rises-73h98rpr7>

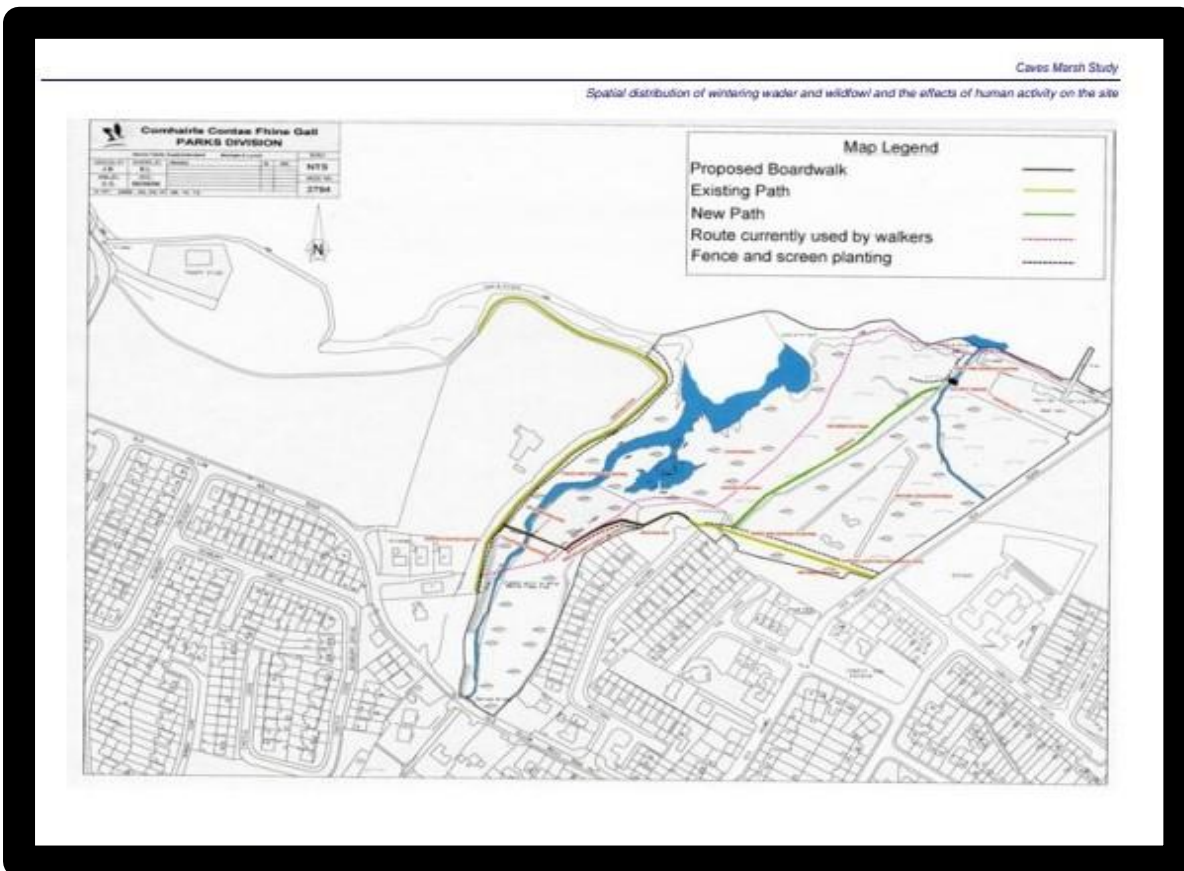
## Where would the boardwalk be located?

Last year (2020) the Malahide forum proposed this location – exiting close to the Malahide Yacht club, with the main route continuing to the village and a spur to St. John Paul’s school.



Last month (January 2021), we became aware of a [Caves Marsh wildlife report](#) conducted in 2007 for Fingal County Council which dictated the boardwalk location proposed by the council back in 2007. The map below is from page 40 of the report – the boardwalk location is shown in black. It connects to the Gravel path at Milford. We ask that you please read this report.

All seven members of the Active Travel sub-committee read the wildlife report, and all concluded that the location we proposed last year would not be permitted, due to the impact it would have on wildlife (as set out in the report).

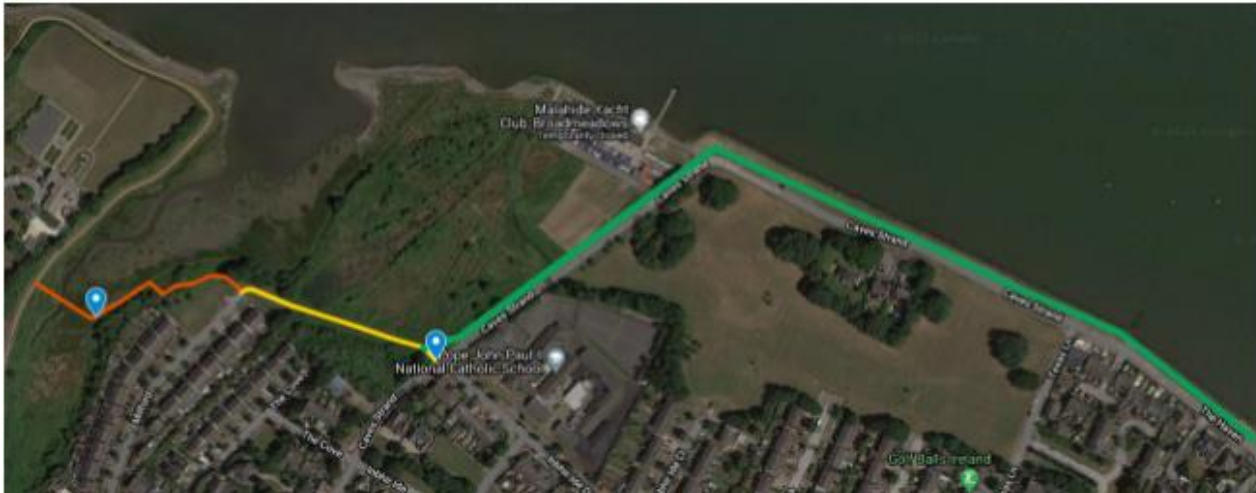


The location proposed by the council in 2007 did not progress at the time – with a prime reason being children’s safety and the risk that, when heading home to Seabury from St. John Paul’s school, children would turn left at the end of the boardwalk and exit onto Barrack Bridge where there was no footpath then, and still no footpath now.

## Where does that leave us – in Feb 2021?

1. Funding is becoming available and we expect that FCC will build a Greenway route connecting Swords to Malahide Village along the estuary. (See map from the NTA and the Fingal County Development plan at the foot of this document).
2. The pinch point will be Barrack Bridge / Caves Marsh and we would like to work with local residents to influence the location of the route, for the benefit of all – including wildlife, but especially for children travelling to school.
3. We believe the original proposed location of the boardwalk can be made attractive to local residents - if we all co-operate
4. We need to list and address all concerns (provision of screening / environmentally sensitive lighting / universal access for wheelchair users / measures to minimise the risk of anti-social behaviour (CCTV if considered acceptable / desirable) etc.

Please see below the essence of our latest thinking on the Active Travel sub-committee. We welcome your feedback.

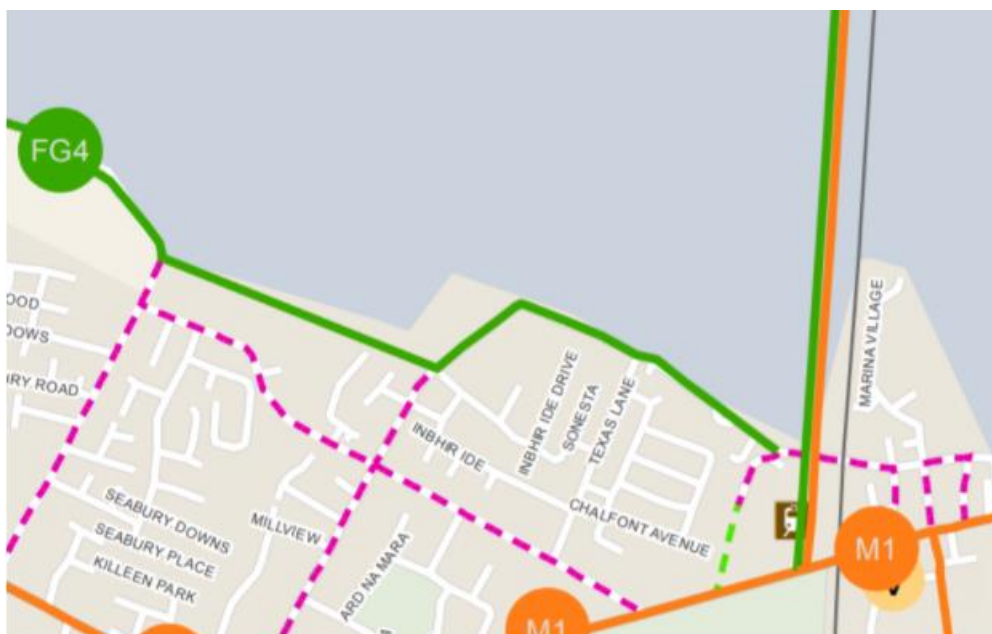


- Boardwalk as per original FCC location - connecting to Milford gravel path
- The main "greenway" route to run along the inside (Marsh side) of the wall along Caves Strand to the estuary and on to Malahide Village.
- Retain existing access to/from St. John Paul's school.
- The safety issues identified in 2007 at the Seabury end of the boardwalk still needs to be addressed.

## National Transport Authority (NTA) and Fingal County Development plan maps

The NTA published a "Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan" in 2013. Route "FG4" is the proposed route for the Greenway from Swords to Malahide. The zoomed in image below is from page 3 of the plan.

[https://www.nationaltransport.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/English\\_04c\\_Proposed\\_Network\\_Towns.pdf](https://www.nationaltransport.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/English_04c_Proposed_Network_Towns.pdf)





The equivalent map from the current (2017 to 2023) Fingal County Development plan incorporates the NTA proposal from 2013 and indicates a boardwalk location and route similar to that proposed by FCC in 2007.



<https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-03/Fingal%20Development%20Plan%202017-2023%20-%20Sheet%209%20Malahide%20-%20Portmarnock.pdf>

\*Active Travel is travelling with purpose using your own energy to get to work, shop or school.

\*<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/d96bd-active-travel>

Caves Marsh Wildlife Study can be read here:

[http://www.fingalbiodiversity.ie/resources/fingal\\_coast/2007%20Caves%20Marsh%20Study.pdf](http://www.fingalbiodiversity.ie/resources/fingal_coast/2007%20Caves%20Marsh%20Study.pdf)

Link to Malahide Community Forum Active Travel <https://malahidecommunityforum.ie/2021/01/13/would-you-like-your-kids-to-be-able-to-cycle-safely-to-school/>

2006 Fingal Coastal Walkway Report

[https://issuu.com/sjwogan/docs/eis\\_caves\\_marsh\\_report\\_2006\\_ow](https://issuu.com/sjwogan/docs/eis_caves_marsh_report_2006_ow)