

CEO, Councillors & members of Active Travel Section of FCC

I am writing to you as part of the Malahide Community Forum Active Travel Subcommittee to give you an update on our discussions on Caves Marsh and to seek assistance in regards to the next steps. We would hope that FCC would now:

- Implement the environmental aspects of the [2007 Environmental report](#)
- Do a study of the impact of a Boardwalk on Wildlife in the Area
- Progress a safe route to school for children from Seabury to Pope John Paul II primary school

Background

The Malahide Community Forum has proposed this as one of our four priority routes for Schoolchildren to have safe access to School regarding walking and Cycling in Malahide.

We did this as we feel that Barrack Bridge is a pinch point on the way to School for walking due to the footpath's width, and we think it is unsafe for cycling. Our views were backed up by a survey of 500 residents, where 78% also believed it as dangerous.

Additionally, we feel that Caves Marsh is the jigsaw's missing piece for connecting Swords to Malahide via the Broadmeadow Greenway. Its development was included in the current Fingal County Development Plan. In 2020 we emailed the councillors about our four priority routes and very much welcomed their positive feedback & the fact that our local Councillors raised these issues at recent Council Meetings

New Information 2021

Please find the following information, which we have located in 2021

- Environmental Survey of Caves Marsh showing where the best place to build a bridge over Caves Marsh
- http://www.fingalbiodiversity.ie/resources/fingal_coast/2007%20Caves%20Marsh%20Study.pdf
- Previous FCC Proposal & discussions from 2007
https://issuu.com/sjwogan/docs/eis_caves_marsh_report_2006_ow
https://issuu.com/sjwogan/docs/eis_caves_marsh_report_2006_ow_2

Based on the recent findings, we believe that there are two potential options that FCC should investigate. Under both options, additional safe access onto Seabury/Estuary Park should be provided which address the safety concerns raised in 2007 that resulted in the boardwalk not being built at that time

Option 1 - Boardwalk over Malahide Estuary as per the map below



Please see a link to a similar bridge in Leitrim
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duYwGGR_q9U

Advantages

1. Our survey of 2021 showed this had widespread support (85%)
2. It will be a signature piece of infrastructure for Fingal
3. Will Connect Swords to Malahide via the Broadmeadow Way
4. Could be used for schoolkids cycling or walking to PJPII School
5. Provides a traffic free, fume free alternative route to school
- 6 Will be used to cycle & walk to the village reducing journey time and use of Barrack Bridge

Disadvantages

1. We have no evidence to prove that it won't harm wildlife
2. This route may be of limited benefit to school children walking to School as it is a longer route than the current route. Some children will still walk on Barrack Bridge, and additional safety measures will be required - signage, rumble strips, bollards, lights etc



Feedback from Estates

There is some support from Milford for this route, but there are also some residents against this idea, and some did not provide feedback; there isn't one shared view across the estate.

Inbhir Ide Drive and Close do not support this option. This is mainly due to environmental concerns as they believe that a boardwalk through the areas identified as R & R1 in the environmental report is a better route for the protection of wildlife – although areas R and R1 are identified in the report as the most sensitive and the areas that most need to be protected from human activities.

Our Ask

Based on the information provided above & based on our firm belief that Children attending PJPII School have the right to cycle & walk to school safely, we now ask the following of FCC:

- That FCC implements the actions from the 2007 environmental report in regards to protecting the wildlife in the Marsh
- That FCC undertakes a wildlife study in regards to a floating boardwalk over Malahide Estuary? Even if this is not your preferred route, if the report states that it cannot be built due to wildlife concerns, I believe residents should be made aware of this
- That this email and our previous email (below) be sent to the consultants tasked with safe routes to PJPII School
- That FCC make the safety of schoolchildren from Seabury walking & cycling to PJPII a priority, and please progress one of the options above as a matter of urgency

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

