

Notes from Malahide Community Forum – Mar 2021

Message of Sympathy:	<p>It is with deep regret we note the passing of Brian Cannon, who for 22 years, to 2009, was the Principal of Malahide Community School. During that time, the school expanded substantially. Many thousands of secondary school pupils in Malahide benefited from Brian's astute leadership of the school and the contribution that made to their future development and career progression.</p> <p>The Malahide community thus owes a huge debt to Brian.</p> <p>We extend our sympathy to Brian's wife and family</p>
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Ref.	Description
1. Minutes	<p>The minutes of the meeting of 15th February 2021 were approved.</p> <p>The St. Margaret's Road representative referred to an item regarding "Planning Enforcement". He reminded members that everyone has the right to contact the FCC planning enforcement section to ask whether planning permission was required for any development. This was done in November regarding the canopy outside McGoverns, which led to it being removed.</p> <p>We welcomed one new member to the forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephen MacDonagh: Sonesta Residents Association (Re-joined – welcome back)
2. Active Travel Initiatives	<p>The active travel sub-committee chair gave the following update:</p> <p>Updates from Howth Malahide Local Area Committee Meeting on 8th March:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timelines for Major Active Travel routes in the Howth Malahide area: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Broadmeadow way: Completion 2023 (Currently in detailed design phase) 1.2. Sutton to Malahide: Completion 2023 (Public consultation imminent) 1.3. Kinsealy Lane Upgrade (2024) 1.4. Design for Kinsealy to Portmarnock: (2024) 2. Safe Routes to School FCC appointed consultants to progress safe walking/cycling routes to School across Fingal <p>Our 4 priority routes (Safe routes to school):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seapark Hill to Seamount Road (footpath) – (In FCC County Development plan) Access at the Northern end of the route (Seapark Hill) was closed off by the FCC Property section on Thursday 11th March, without consulting other sections in FCC who are working on providing safe routes to school. The FCC property section issued an apology and restored access on Monday 15th March. A temporary solution is currently being designed by the developer (Ballymore) for the Southern section of this route (to replace the hoarding from Seamount Road as far as the site of the Old Golf course). As soon as the developer has the drawings prepared, the council will meet local residents' representatives to discuss them. The forum is setting up a sub-committee (Seapark-Seamount New Park sub-committee) to address anti-social behaviour in the area and progress the development of a new park using the existing green space (as contained in the current Fingal County Development plan). Danny O'Connor (Seapark Residents Association) will chair this sub-committee. Residents Associations in the vicinity of the new park will be invited to participate. 2. Caves Marsh Boardwalk - Safe route from Seabury to Pope John Paul II school - (In FCC County Development plan) There is a difference of opinion as to where the Boardwalk should run - behind Milford (most direct, environmental report says it can be done) vs a floating boardwalk extending approx. 50 metres into the estuary. (No CPO required, favoured by residents of Inbhir Ide Drive & Close). We're awaiting feedback from one estate & trying to see if a floating boardwalk is possible and won't harm the birds. The chair wrote to the Council with details of the information we found. See details and email to council at: https://malahidecommunityforum.ie/2021/03/22/caves-marsh/. Caves Marsh will be discussed at the next Howth Malahide Local Area Council meeting on Wed 7th April 2021 at 3pm. The motion put forward is: "That the Chief Executive commissions a feasibility study to identify the best option(s) available to the Council to provide an off-road footpath and cycle link between Seabury Park and John Paul's School." You may watch at: https://fingalcoco.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/555606 3. New bridge over the railway into the back of MCS - safe route connecting to Malahide Demesne via Ashwood Hall. (walk / bike route): (Not in FCC county development plan). We will be presenting our proposal to the school board of management for input. Assuming we obtain

	<p>their support, we will present to the Council and seek to have it included in the new FCC County Development plan (2023-2029).</p> <p>4. Swords Road (R106) - Waterside to Malahide Castle (In FCC County Development plan) This route is part of the Malahide to Swords route allocated EUR100,000 by NTA. Based on the timelines stated at the Howth Malahide LAC meeting, this route will not be progressing in the short term – hence we will need to advocate to get the council to prioritise this.</p>
3. New Street Update	<p>The St. Margaret’s Road representative gave the following update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council has relied on a legal and technical interpretation of the Road Traffic Act - Section 38 (3) to close New Street. This same clause was the one used by Dublin City Council to progress the road changes in Sandymount and is currently the subject of a High Court Action by Residents and local Councillors. The outcome of the Sandymount High Court Case will have a material bearing on whether the New Street road closure can continue on the current legal basis. 2. Many residents of the street and adjoining streets are opposed, as are many restaurateurs and retail businesses. The Chamber is in favour however its members are primarily pubs. 3. There have been breaches of national and local alcohol laws through serving of alcohol and drinking on the street. This is despite Councillors saying drinking would not happen. 4. The Chamber has written asking for the bye laws to be changed to allow alcohol on the street. 5. The closure has caused access difficulties to the HSE health centre and the Scouts have highlighted issues with traffic in James Terrace. Note: The forum has written to the council asking that the street furniture immediately in front of the Health Centre be removed to improve access (CRM 64111/21). 6. There is currently a planning complaint underway from residents through planning enforcement, requesting amongst other things that Fingal adhere to its legal planning obligations (Malahide ACA, Malahide PRS, County Development Plan). It is a slow process. If the planning enforcement is not responded to, the next step in coming weeks is a circuit court action initially and fundraising to fight the case at a minimum of €20k is required. 7. There is no date or timeline for when the public’s views will be sought and how. Only two options are proposed by officials. Full closure or One Way traffic. This was not the basis provided for under the Public Realm Strategy agreed by all the Community and enshrined in the County Development Plan. 8. The proper democratic processes both statutory and non-statutory should be observed and the Community Forum in my view has an important role to play in preserving that.
4. Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirement to reduce CO2 emissions by 50% by 2030 With reference Malahide Car ownership data – 2016 Census, there are now approx. 10,000 cars owned by people living in the Malahide area. In the 55 years since large scale residential development started in Malahide there has been a minimal amount of additional road infrastructure, while car ownership has increased approx. 50 fold. There’s an agreement in the programme for government reduce CO2 emissions by 50% by 2030 and transport will be a key issue. The chairperson suggested we will all have to review “how we use our cars” over the coming years.
5. Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grants available for Biodiversity & Climate change projects A new biodiversity officer has been appointed for our area. There’s a biodiversity corridor planned from Skerries to Fairview. If anyone is interested in progressing a biodiversity project in their local area (e.g. a wildflower patch or allowing grass to grow on a section of green space), please contact the Malahide Tidy Towns malahidett4@gmail.com. 2. Reminder on how to raise an issue with the council: The secretary asked members to raise issues themselves, using the simple process below. <i>If the issue is of relevance to all residents</i>, email the details and the CRM number to the secretary for inclusion in the forum’s issue tracking list. The process for raising an issue: Take a photo(s) showing the issue and the exact location. Email the photos and details of the issue to Howmaloparea@fingal.ie. (FCC’s Operations section). Ensure that you receive a reference number (This will be called a CRM number). Email secretary.malahideforum@gmail.com with the CRM number and a copy of your email to the council. Please inform the secretary of updates. 3. Dog fouling in the village: The Marina representative asked where FCC’s dog wardens are – and could they police the village area – especially outside Bank of Ireland. 4. Resurfacing of St Margarets Avenue

	<p>The same potholes are repeatedly being repaired – the street needs to be resurfaced.</p> <p>5. Deterioration of cleanliness in the area and anti-social behaviour in Malahide Demesne The Old Golf Links representative raised a number of issues which he wrote up in a letter sent to the council by the secretary.</p> <p>6. Use of CCTV in Prosecution of Offences (such as fly tipping) As the law currently stands, the council cannot currently use CCTV in the prosecution of offences. The Local Government (Use of CCTV in Prosecution of Offences) Bill 2021 is currently in its second Stage.</p> <p>7. Malahide Yacht club – Inner Estuary The Inbhir Ide Close and Drive representative stated that he had contacted FCC Planning Enforcement, the FCC CEO, the Lord Mayor and councillors to ask if works carried out by the Malahide Yacht Club at their Inner Estuary premises required planning permission.</p> <p>8. Risk of wall collapse near the Coast Road car park The Seapark representative has informed FCC of the risk of a wall collapse on the sea side of the Coast road car park.</p> <p>9. Allow Caves Marsh to rewild while facilitating boardwalk safe route to school FCC should fence off the sensitive parts of Caves Marsh as a biodiversity measure, enabling it to rewild, while facilitating controlled access via existing paths and an Active Travel safe route to school boardwalk across the Marsh at an appropriate location.</p>
6. Finance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The treasurer was unable to attend and sent his apologies. The chairperson asked that all outstanding subscriptions be paid, reminding members that 2020 was deemed free, due to the pandemic and any subscriptions paid in 2020 will be credited to 2021.
7. Planning	<p>With reference to planning details circulated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> St. Josephs, The Hill The St. Andrews / Church Road Residents Association intend to lodge an objection. The planning chairperson stated that architectural advice received is that the only grounds on which this application might be refused would be due to the proposed height or bulk. The flat roof(s) in the plan are not suitable for walking on – they will use sedum roofing, a form of “green roof”, designed to attenuate rainfall run off. They are not verandahs. Inis Free Hanlons Lane FCC has requested additional information and specifically asked that the boundary of the property be adjusted to correct the misalignment of the pavement in that area. <p>Other planning matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Siam restaurant The Siam restaurant has now applied for planning permission and retention, which suggests they may have already completed some of their planned works. Dublin Airport – North Runway FCC has written to the DAA with 5 pages of requests for additional information. The queries raised by FCC to date do not relate to noise. The competent authority in the area of noise has the power to request information related to noise. The chairperson is of the opinion that this planning application process will run for years rather than months. The noise regulator website is not yet up and running, however they have stated that there will be a public consultation on noise at a future date.
8. Neighbourhood Watch (NW)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The forum’s NW representative contacted the NW chairperson, who contacted the local Garda sergeant (Sgt. Walsh) about restarting meetings. The sergeant has expressed interest, but no meeting has yet been scheduled, hence NW is effectively dormant. The Biscayne & Lambay Court representative asked that Anti-Social Behaviour on The Village Green be raised and suggested there’s no Garda presence to prevent it. The NW rep stated that local Gardai have repeated their request that anyone who observes a law being broken should immediately call the Gardai. The chairperson expressed his personal opinion that much of the Anti-Social Behaviour observed across the Malahide area is local, carried out by our children, and we need to take measures ourselves to prevent it.
9. AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bins overflowing. The narrow aperture in FCC bins is designed to prevent people putting domestic refuse into bins.
10. Next Meeting	Monday 19 th April 2021.