

Notes from Malahide Community Forum May 2021

Ref	Description
Q&A with Garda Representative	<p>The Chairman welcomed Inspector McKenna and thanked him for joining the meeting</p> <p>Inspector Mc Kenna thanked the community for the support over the last 12 months. He stated that the policing of anti-social behaviour is a priority for the Gardai. They will do everything they possibly can to prevent these instances from happening & to investigate them thoroughly when they do occur.</p> <p>There has not been an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months; however, the recordings uploaded to social media has increased awareness of anti-social behaviour in Malahide.</p> <p><u>Written questions submitted for comment</u></p> <p>1) Does the Inspector believe that the Village policing policy and low Garda numbers are sufficient to protect the businesses and residents with the increased numbers of people being attracted to Malahide?</p> <p>All Gardai would like more resources; one issue with Malahide is that as it has seasonal visitors, the number of Gardai required for the summer increases. Still, it drops off in the winter, and, therefore, it is difficult to bring Gardai on a permanent transfer. Hence, what they do is get gardai from other stations & divisional units as required. This will continue during the summer, and there will be extra resources for the village. It should also be noted that when the recent incidents took place, Gardai's response time was 2 minutes.</p> <p>2) Can we have visible policing on the beat every day with a particular focus on Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 4 pm</p> <p>There will be sufficient cover for the summer. It should be noted that despite recent comments stating that Malahide is not a 24-hour police station, the reality is different; though the front door of the station is not open after 9 pm, there is a Garda presence at the station 24/7.</p> <p>If somebody calls Malahide Garda Station, a Malahide Garda will respond to that call. This is a change from previous practice.</p>

3) What is the strategy by the Gardai and other bodies to address drug dealing locally?

This issue is a nationwide & generational problem. There is a lot of work done with support services and schools from a non-policing side & there is a drug unit & divisional task force regularly in Malahide with regular arrests (mainly juveniles who are dealt with through the juvenile diversion programme) & then the courts if they continue to re-offend.

4) What would the Gardai like to see concerning outdoor alcohol, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour?

This is challenging for Gardai to manage. Pubs & Restaurants are allowed to sell alcohol. However, the expectation from the Gardai is that it is sold in a closed container to drink at home.

If people are seen drinking, Gardai engage with them to remind them of the Fingal Bye-Laws & ask them to finish the drink & go home; most of the time, it works.

People buying trays of drinks from off-licenses is a bigger problem & is more likely to lead to anti-social behaviour.

These are moved on when seen. Overall is not practical to issue fines to everyone seen drinking outside.

5) What can we as a community do to assist Gardai? How do we get more Gardai on the beat?

The community have been helpful. However, people need to be aware that it is not an offence for groups of youths to come to Malahide, and the Gardai cannot do anything unless an offence is committed. The Gardai powers are limited, and they hope their visibility will turn troublemakers away.

6) What are his views on the adequacy and effectiveness of the treatment of those detained for anti-social behaviour, and where would he like to see the treatment of offenders by the courts amended?

Arrests are made under the Public Order Act & people can be charged or released for charging. Most incidents of anti-social behaviour involve juveniles, though. These are dealt with through the juvenile diversion programme. The steps are Informal Caution, Formal Caution, Juvenile Courts Juveniles are given a chance to reform

7) Can the Garda liaise with both Shannon Heritage and Irish Rail re any added security measure they may take?

Irish Rail has an excellent relationship with the Gardai; they assist the Gardai by phoning ahead if groups of youths are on the train. MCS, Sports Clubs & Youth Forum have been very

	<p>helpful too and the Planet Youth initiative has been created. The bottom line, though, if someone commits an offence, they can be arrested.</p> <p>8) What should people do if they see an incident, intervene to break it up or record it on the phone Ring the Gardai first & foremost (6664600 or 911) People should not intervene; it could pose a danger to themselves and possibly escalate the situation. Recording it can be of evidential value but always, call the Gardai first.</p> <p>9) Do Irish Rail ring ahead if troublemakers are on the way Yes, they do. However, it should be stated that youths from outside Malahide are not always causing trouble; these incidents can involve youths from any area.</p> <p>The Chair Thanked Inspector McKenna for his participation and advice and stated that there is a further meeting in relation to these issues has been arranged with Superintendent Barry , Coolock Division on Thursday.</p>
New Street	<p>FCC's plan to fully pedestrianise New St & the invitation by FCC to attend a stakeholder meeting was discussed.</p> <p>The Chair stated that he found the sequence extremely odd (where the decision to pedestrianise the street was made first, to be followed by a consultation process).</p> <p>A Leaflet regarding New Street was sent to residents in Malahide. The Chair stated that two issues have arisen since the leaflet was sent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People are more aware of anti-social behaviour ➤ It appears that indoor dining will be permitted in July; why change to fully pedestrianised when this will be happening <p>Due to these changes, the rationale for what is proposed is questionable.</p> <p>The Tidy Town representative said they would reduce the flowers on New Street to reduce clutter.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that the present arrangement in New Street should remain until full indoor hospitality service is restored when it should revert to having two lanes of traffic. Should FCC wish to pedestrianise New St at that stage,</p>

	<p>it should follow the required statutory consultation. The proposal was agreed upon.</p> <p>The Tidy Town representative disagreed with this stance. However, it was stated that the Forum had not taken a position on whether New St should be pedestrianised; instead, the Forum believed that such a decision should follow the required Statutory Consultation process.</p> <p>Additionally, It was stated that some residents did not get the leaflet & many felt the online survey was problematic. However, there are paper-based forms available.</p>
<p>Malahide Village</p>	<p>A subcommittee was created to focus on the needs of the village and the environs. The St Margarets Residents representative (who will Chair) put forward the proposal and the terms of reference, which were:</p> <p>Coordinate with local RAs to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Uphold and ensure planning complied concerning ACA and SCA 2) Work with Fingal Council and Councillors to put in place and monitor the full implementation of Malahide Public Realm Strategy including Design Guides 'Building Facades', 'Street Furniture 'Signage' and 'Lighting and Wirescape.' 3) Work with Shop Malahide, Malahide Chamber and Malahide Tidy Towns to ensure the shared approach and agreed Vision for the Village with Residents 4) Ensure a Village centred response to the Active Travel and other Government Policy Objectives that will affect the village <p>The St. Margarets Residents representative stated that there was a lot of money coming from the Government regarding items such as active travel & that he would like it spent in a considered way. He also stated that the issue of traffic in the village, which the subcommittee would look at</p> <p>The Old Street & Railway Avenue (including New Street and Rosses Cottages) RA representative said they were adopting a monument (Sylvester's Well)</p>
<p>Planning</p>	<p>The Chair stated that the Forum had hoped to comment on the proposed four-story apartment block behind Robswall Cottage as FCC had come back with a long list of additional information. However, this information was not deemed Substantial Additional Information by FCC and thus did not permit a response from MCF</p>

	<p>The Forum made a submission to ABP concerning the proposed Auburn Development & we requested an oral hearing which, if granted, will lead to us to come back to the topic again</p> <p>The Old Street & Railway Avenue (including New Street and Rosses Cottages) RA representative said they were tracking ten planning enforcements issues in the village area at the moment. It was agreed that these issues should be brought up with the new village subcommittee.</p> <p>The Seamount Representative brought up a point of information regarding Ballymore's development of Seamount Rise; they are looking to make what ABP consider significant changes & to the access. In addition, there was a legal challenge to the planned access for Seamount Rise residents through Seamount Abbey. Since the changes to the plan are major, he believes that Ballymore will have to advertise in the press again, which will allow people to make submissions.</p> <p>The Seapark representative elaborated and said that the plan was to have one single entrance to Seamount Rise & that many residents in existing estates would find that problematic. He also wants to see a 3D model of the proposed park showing all exits and entrances; this should be shared amongst residents, allowing for buy-in and giving each resident a better understanding of each other's needs. A genuine public consultation could be very effective concerning the park. He said we require a meeting with Senior Parks Superintendent from FCC should be pursued as a matter of urgency</p>
Active Travel	<p>Caves Marsh Boardwalk – This came up at the last LAC; FCC said that any changes to Caves Marsh would be problematic due to the requirement for planning permission and an environmental impact statement and could require substantial infrastructural change. FCC are, however, acutely aware of the problems of this route for the children going from Seabury to PJPII. Therefore, the Chair proposed that there be a discussion on this assessment and any changes to Barrack Bridge route before the next meeting.</p> <p>New pedestrian/cycle bridge over the railway, at the back of MCS - safe route connecting to Malahide Demesne via Ashwood Hall. (walk/bike route) – This was presented to the BOM. The Principal has now written to the patrons of MCS requesting their approval. We are awaiting a response from the patrons.</p>

	<p>This proposal was also submitted to FCC for inclusion in the next Fingal Development Plan. It is wholly consistent with Government policy in this area.</p> <p>The Old Street & Railway Avenue (including New Street and Rosses Cottages) RA representative said they submitted into the County Development Plan, which included a bypass of Malahide.</p>
Tidy Towns	<p>The Tidy Towns representative said that there was now a biodiversity group in Malahide, made up of various stakeholders and that they have met FCC's biodiversity officer. She is hugely interested in Caves Marsh & that the Active Travel subcommittee should work with the biodiversity group on this.</p> <p>The Tidy Towns had their AGM & a new committee is in place, chaired by their MCF Representative</p>
Finances	<p>Cash Balance €9,734 Subscriptions 2020 €1,065 Subscriptions 2021€1.052</p>
Step Down	<p>The Step Down Chair said the Committee were very active until Covid.</p> <p>Gannon homes had decided to sell 37 apartments in a group sale (NAMA were also involved). The subcommittee had been in contact with NAMA and Gannon homes then decided to sell the apartments individually. This was a good result for the residents of Malahide as many would like to downsize & the Casino was perfect for this.</p> <p>In May, Gannon Homes reversed the decision to sell the apartments individually & are planning to sell 70 apartments in a block. Letter to be sent to NAMA & the Minister of Housing objecting to that proposal</p>

Next Meeting Next meeting June 21st 2021