**News from the PCA**

**PCA AGM**

Let me start by wishing all in our community a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

The AGM took place on Monday 2nd December in Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links. Again the numbers attending were disappointing compared to days when up to 300 would attend such a gathering. It shows how much times have changed. It would seem people are now much more selective in attending such meetings and depends very much on issues on the agenda that animates or engages them. However it was a very successful night. The Chairman in his address thanked all for attending and hoped they found the effort worthwhile. In his address he went back over the main issues that were addressed by the PCA over the past year. He referred to the meeting in May with FCC, the Gardai, Dublin Bus and Iarnoid Eireann. The purpose of the meeting was to have a strategy in place for summer months and prevent a repeat of the anti-social behaviour of previous year.

Apart from one bad day at the end of May he said the strategy worked well and hoped the large crowds who came to Portmarnock over our glorious summer had a very pleasant days outing. He thanked the Gardaí for their very visible presence on sunny days and the confiscation of alcohol had been very effective. The chairman thanked our volunteers for helping out with the clean-up of beach and dunes every fortnight throughout the summer. The work done by our two community workers Paul and Imelda was very much appreciated by the PCA. He referred to efforts being made to get our Tidy Towns Committee up and running and be prepared for entry to competition in 2014. He updated the meeting on the Greater Dublin Drainage Project and said that it probably would now go to An Board Pleanala at the end of 2014.He was well aware of the very serious concerns of residents as regards the outflow under the Baldoyle Estuary and its impact on the quality of the sea water

As the representative of the PCA on the DASF (Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum) he said there was no mention of the new runway going ahead in the near future. He also spoke about our efforts to have the bus stop on Lower Wendell Avenue relocated to a more suitable location on Strand Rd and the difficulties encountered with Dublin Bus. Subsequently a vote was taken at the end of the meeting which was carried by 22 votes to 2 to have the bus stop relocated. The Chairman thanked Peter Coyle who recently retired from FCC for his excellent work on the Council and for engaging with the PCA regularly on various issues. He wished him well in his retirement and hoped that Ms Judy Dunne, Peter’s replacement, would continue to work for the good of Portmarnock.

In conclusion he thanked the committee for all their help and support especially our outgoing treasurer for her work over the past three years and our auditor Andrew RittWeger for doing all our accounts pro bono saving the PCA about €600 per year. He thanked Philip Duffy, Manager of Texaco for facilitating our Fas workers. He paid special thanks to the management and staff of Portmarnock Hotel and Golf links for the support given to the PCA over the past year. Oliver Sevestre and his staff had provided us with refreshments after each Saturday clean-up and also rooms for our monthly meetings as well as The Links Suite for the AGM at no cost to the association.

Finally he passed on our condolences to the wife and family of Joe Gallagher, former Chairman of the PCA, who died during the year.

**New Constitution for PCA**

The meeting was informed about the necessity to review our Articles of Association drawn up by our founders in 1976. The PCA is a limited Company and must operate according to the Companies Act. This involves a lot of work for our accountant and treasurer at the end of each year as accounts must be filed according to the Act. The PCA is no longer an umbrella organisation for the different estates in Portmarnock as all of the former resident associations are now dormant. The possibility of drawing up a new Constitution more tailor made to the present situation was discussed. This is what happened in Malahide when the Malahide Community Forum replaced Malahide Community Council in 2006. The meeting agreed that we would engage professional expertise to explore how this could be done and then call a Special Meeting of the PCA to see how best to move forward. The meeting was assured that there was no question of the PCA folding up completely.

**Meeting with Community School**

A deputation from the PCA met with some staff and students recently to discuss how the school and the PCA could develop a closer relationship and work for the betterment of our community. The meeting was very constructive. It was agreed that the PCA would make a presentation to all Transition Year students before the end of January informing them about the history of the Association and its work since its foundation in our community.

**Parking in Portmarnock**

Some people raised the issue of parking by motorists in some estates and the dangers it was causing for motorists and other road users. Cars were being parked near road junctions and near people’s driveways that presented problems for people entering and leaving their homes. The PCA would request motorist to be more considerate from now when parking their cars

**Contacting PCA**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any issues that concerns you or have suggestions to make about improving our community in any way. **Email:portmarnock1@gmail.com**