



DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

from the

PUBLIC MEETING

held in

DALKEY HERITAGE CENTRE

on

Tuesday 6th April 2010 at 8pm

Special Supplement

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2009

As a community group we continue to be contacted by the general public about many issues affecting Dalkey such as parking, traffic and planning matters. We are receiving the majority of our queries via e-mail but our post box in OLH still sees a number of letters most months.

We continue to have worthwhile and fruitful contact with many of the departments in DLRCC, in particular Tom Byrne and his team in the Parks department and John Guckian in the Environment department. We contacted the traffic department of DLRCC with some success in resolving problems but new concerns have occurred in relation to poor road surfaces around Dalkey resulting from the ice and severe weather.

Our County Councillors continue to be very active on our behalf; in particular we appreciate the work and support of Councillor John Bailey and Councillor Mary Mitchell O'Connor.

We had been contacted by a twinning group from near Bordeaux, France late in 2008 - after much correspondence and research by some of our members we reluctantly came to the conclusion that we were not in a position to undertake a commitment to twin with them. Funding in France seems to be a reality for this type of project, whereas here it would appear to be non existent.

We are still experiencing some difficulty in continuing to have all streets and organisations in Dalkey represented on the Community Council; this results in a failure to report local problems to us where we can often be of assistance. Another major effect is the problem of delivery of the newsletter to these areas-some members are delivering to several areas in addition to their own. We would again appeal to members of the public to volunteer to become a representative for their area on the Community Council. They would find it an enjoyable and sociable experience.

I firmly believe that we if we work together as a community, we can go a long way towards becoming a more cohesive and caring society; in these challenging times we really do need to support and encourage each other in our community to work towards a culture where we are not so self-absorbed and where we strive for a more outward-looking, compassionate and considerate society.

It is encouraging to see in recent week's members of the business community coming together and working together. I hope that we in the Community Council can join with them to further their endeavours for the benefit of Dalkey.

In these difficult times, many organisations are experiencing financial difficulties so we were pleased to be able to give donations to several local organisations and our schools at the end of last year to assist them in continuing their work and commitment to the community.

They were:

DRAMA GROUPS:

- Dalkey Players
- St Patrick's Drama Group

AFRICAN PROJECTS:

- Kenyabuild
- Friends of Kitui

SCHOOLS:

- Loreto Primary School
- Harold Boys National School
- St Patrick's National School

SPORTS:

- Cuala GAA Club
- Dalkey United Football Club

COMMUNITY GROUPS:

- The Heritage Centre
- Dalkey Community Games
- Dalkey Community Playgroup

We thank those members of the public who responded to our annual collection and made it possible for us to help these groups. Unfortunately, contributions have diminished this past year perhaps reflecting the present economic climate; it has to be said that even in "the good times" approximately only a quarter of the residents in Dalkey contributed to our annual collection. We would urge all residents of Dalkey to support our annual collection so we can continue our work for the community.

This year we saw the retirement of our Community Garda, Arthur O'Neill, who had joined us at our meetings for many years; we will miss his contributions and we wish him well in his retirement.

Also, our best wishes go to Bernie Nevin, the manager of Our Lady's Hall who also recently retired.

I should finally like to thank all of you, members of the Community Council, who continue to attend our meetings and deliver the newsletter (in all weathers), for your support, loyalty and dedication throughout the year.

Dr Susan McDonnell

Chairman, Dalkey Community Council Ltd.

REPORT OF THE DALKEY CASTLE AND HERITAGE CENTRE

2009 SEASON

Numbers: The Centre had a relatively good year with visitor numbers only slightly down on the previous year. This was despite the down turn in incoming tourist numbers and the lower spending power of domestic visitors. Numbers for the first 10 months were up but dropped slightly in November and December.

We would like to express our great thanks to the various Agencies who part fund our operations. Without their assistance the operation of the Heritage Centre in its present form just wouldn't be possible. One of our biggest supporters DLRCoCo provides us with an annual operational grant. Due to the current budgetary situation for all local authorities including DLR CoCo they had to cut our grant by 10% in the current estimates. This meant that we had to "cut our cloth to suit our measure" and so we had no option but to close the Centre one day per week (Tuesdays) to reduce our cost base.

We'd like to thank specifically the County Manager, Mr Owen Keegan; the Cathaoirleach Cllr Marie Baker, our two Councillor Representatives on the board Cllr John Bailey and Cllr Mary Mitchell O'Connor for all their personal support and work for and behalf of the Heritage Centre. We also express our thanks to all the other busy Councillors for their continued interest and support of the work carried on in the Heritage Centre.

Out thanks also go to Mr Tim Carey, Heritage Officer for his on-going assistance and support of the national schools programme. This is enjoyed by over 1200 young students from, and beyond, the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown catchment area. Last but not least we'd like to thank our very busy board member, Mr Richard Shakespeare, Director of Environment, Culture and Community DLRCoCo for his unfailing interest, encouragement, advice and support.

We are grateful to FAS who fund a Community Employment programme and to the staff who operate it. This programme enables the Centre to train and avail of the services of 13 enthusiastic part-time workers who are "up skilled" as part time tour guides, gain work experience and prepare for the world of work. This initiative works extremely well and progression by trainees to full time employment from it is very good. This resource is sponsored by DLRCoCo and re-imbursed by FAS.

We take this opportunity to publicly express our grateful thanks (we have done so already privately) to Dalkey Community Council for the substantial grant aid given by the Community Council to the Centre October. These monies were put to extremely good use given our very tight budget.

Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (CRAGA) support Community Heritage Centres generally and our Living History Theatre programme in particular. They do this via Deilg Inis a company set up is set up under their auspices which provides the Living History Tours within the Centre. The Living History method of imparting information has proved to be our unique selling point. This method is a vibrant, lively, innovative and memorable way of imparting historical information. Imitation being the highest form of

flattery it is being copied elsewhere. For the 2010 summer season (beginning on May 1st) we are introducing a Tudor flavour to the presentation. It was Henry V111 who brought the disciplines of barbering and surgery together into the one “profession” of the Barber Surgeon. So he will be in attendance in Dalkey to trim your beard, do a blood letting, tooth pulling and more! There is a Living History Live Performance every half hour where actors from Deilg Inis cover aspects of life in Ireland and in particular in a Dalkey Tower House in the 1500s. It’s great family day out!

National Schools programme has just finished their schedules of visits to our Living History tours. The programme continues for Secondary Schools/Associations of Actively Retired people and Special Interest groups.

We continue to offer a programme of Guided Historical Walks on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from May to August. This adds to the other offerings available in our heritage town. We also lead Literary Walking Tours around the area to the settings used in the work of famous Irish writers, explaining the history and stories behind the various locations. Writers with work set in the immediate area include Flann O’Brien, George Bernard Shaw, James Joyce and Hugh Leonard. Maeve Binchy and Joseph O’Connor also feature prominently.

We provide space and promotion for the CoCo Market. This is your local DLR Co Co Market. It runs on Saturdays in the Town Hall with a smaller offering taking place on Fridays from 10.00 to early afternoon in Dalkey Town Hall.

Renovation and Extension of the Centre: DLR Co Co has agreed to carry out much needed extension works to the Heritage Centre and to upgrade the facility generally so as to make it more accessible. All efforts to obtain Capital Grants failed we were delighted when DLRCC agreed to take on board and make happen this most important initiative.

I should like also to take the opportunity to pay tribute to our voluntary board so well chaired and motivated by local resident Mr Howard Kilroy. My fellow Board members include; Blaithin O’Brien (Dalkey Business Association), Dr Susan Mc Donnell (Dalkey Tidy Towns), Nicola Fitzgerald (Dublin Tourism), Jim Gregg (Dalkey Drama Groups), Richard Shakespeare, Dave Irvine and Martin Allen of DLRCoCo executive staff; John Bailey and Mary Mitchell O’Connor DLR Co Co Councillors and Paddy Rigney. These are all busy people who give voluntarily of their time and through whose endeavours the Heritage Company has become such a success.

Finally and perhaps first in order of importance I pay tribute to our Manger Margaret Dunne. It is no exaggeration to say that without her inspiring commitment, enthusiasm, ideas and “never say die” attitude the Heritage Centre if it existed at all would be a much poorer place. If Margaret had devoted herself to making money instead of what I might describe as “public service work” I think we would be seeing her on TV as a member of the panel of “Dragons Den”.

Thank each and every one of you for all for your personal support. Your goodwill is vital to the success of the centre. Please keep up the good work and do continue to send any visitors you meet in our direction!

Dominic Dowling

Dalkey Community Council Board Representative

FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2009

This has been my first full year since taking over as Functions Manager and the first event was the **Annual Dinner**: This was held on Saturday, May 9th. For a change, and mostly because of circumstances, it was held in Our Lady's Hall. We were very fortunate to have national broadcaster and local resident, Mary Wilson, from RTÉ's Drive-Time radio programme as our interesting, informative and stimulating speaker. The venue proved to be excellent, the event was well attended and the evening was generally enjoyed by all members and guests.

Garden Competition

The Garden Competition was held in June, although this was felt to be too early in the year for some of our more dedicated gardeners. We had our usual high level of entries and the two judges were meticulous, took copious notes, met several times and met again to discuss and review their detailed reports.

Garden Outing

This year we went a little further afield than in the past and headed for Carlow. Our first garden was near Bagnelstown. The time it took to get there was soon forgotten with very welcome teas, coffees, and scones and then a trip around the garden. The second stop was at The Arboretum in Leighlinbridge, a huge garden centre with an extensive garden display, auxiliary shops, (even clothes shops), household goods and, amazingly, a pet shop. The last garden of the day was a reclaimed field and featured a series of themed gardens and, of course, plants. (I'm almost embarrassed to mention the massive display of cakes for us to enjoy with our teas and coffees).

Garden Reception and Community Awards

The garden reception again proved to be a popular event. The judges commented on the winners' gardens, which is always appreciated by their owners and by the audience generally. The recipients of all the cups were delighted and generally felt honoured to be nominated.

Art Exhibition

This is always well received and this year, fortunately, we had more entries and, despite the economic downturn, sold more pictures than last year. The Exhibition was opened by Ms. Susan Cuffe who herself is a wire artist and she was most impressed with the quality and talent of the artists who had exhibited.

Christmas Meeting

This is usually a casual, informal celebration, but this year we were presenting cheques to clubs and associations in the community - so we made it rather festive with mulled wine and mince pies which were enjoyed by the members, recipients and friends.

None of this programme could have worked so well without the support of my Functions Committee. I am in the enviable position of having a dedicated committee who work hard and without complaint. With their support I am confident that 2010 will be even more successful and enjoyable.

Rosaleen Callaghan

Functions Committee Chairman

DALKEY TIDY TOWNS ANNUAL REPORT TO DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 2009 national Tidy Towns Competition results yielded increased points for Dalkey and once more the coveted County Award. In addition Dalkey was awarded Best Presented Urban Centre (>10,000 population) in the DLRCC Tidy Districts Competition. Encouraged by Dalkey's success and the tremendous support we receive from schools, businesses, DLRCC and the public we entered and WON the DLR Community Awards Competition in the Environmental Category. A grand total of 3 prizes this year!

The Road Sweeping Schedule introduced by DLRCC is working well - see website <http://www.dlrcoco.ie/roadsweeping/d.html>

1,826 litter offence fines were issued last year the in DLRCC area, an increase of 341 from the previous year.

Dalkey's participation in the National Spring Clean 2009 was very rewarding and involved over 150 people on our dedicated weekend in April. 25 volunteers carried out various projects around central Dalkey. Residents from The Rise made a notable difference to their development. The stars were our young people. Sea Scouts, Cubs and Rangers cleaned the Bulloch Harbour area. Pupils from Harold Boys School covered Dillon's and Sorrento Parks.

Congratulations to **Harold Boys and Loreto Junior Schools** who have raised Green Flags.

The "**Lighting of the Christmas Tree**" organised by Community Council and Tidy Towns committee members and others, was once again a successful occasion. Blessed by fine weather and willing volunteers over 1,000 people came to enjoy the evening.

Projects

- a) The unsightly concrete block wall beside the Masonic Hall was replaced with attractive chain linked bollards and cobbles. Thank you to DLRCC Parks Department. This project was on the agenda of DBA and DTT for many years. Renovation of the Masonic Hall has further enhanced this project.
- b) Clearing and planting an area at the entry to Ormeau Drive was undertaken by DLRCC Parks Department, at our request.
- c) Harold Boys School pupils planted a flowerbed at their school.
- d) Loreto schoolgirls planted the border at the rear of the public car park.
- e) Dalkey Island Probus Club and DTT contributed towards funding a landscaping project at Dalkey Station.
- f) Dalkey Business Association substantially funds annual floral displays that are provided and tended by DLRCC Parks Department.
- g) A Lecture on Home Composting was held in our Lady's Hall.

Miscellaneous

- a) DTT gratefully accepted a cheque for €500 from Dalkey Eurospar, given as a gesture of goodwill.
- b) Following our complaints about litter problems at Coliemore Harbour and Whiterock Beach the coast-care service has been improved.
- c) An additional litterbin has been provided by DLRCC at the Taxi Rank opposite the Post Office.
- d) A Graffiti Removal Training Session was organised by DLRCC. DTT committee members have graffiti removal kits. Following a recent increase with this problem some offenders have been identified.
- e) A Nature Trail/Easter Egg Hunt Family Day was held on Easter Saturday at Dalkey Hill. This Family Day was organised by OWLS - Outdoor, Wildlife, Learning, and Survival. Established in 2009 by DLRCC Department of the Environment OWLS is aimed at protecting our natural environment through Conservation and Education.
- f) National Heritage Week activities included a nature walk on Dalkey/Killiney Hill last Autumn.
- g) Byelaws were introduced by DLRCC for the Control and Prevention of Litter and Waste Presentation. Businesses were notified.
- h) Dalkey Library and Maxwell's Chemist kindly display DTT notice boards in their windows and we thank Dalkey Business Centre and the Exchange Bookshop for occasional complimentary photocopies.
- i) Community Garda Arthur O'Neill was presented with a book token with our best wishes on his retirement.
- j) DTT committee members attended a Carmona Workshop and a Tidy Towns Conference at Dundalk.
- k) The Binocular-scope at Coliemore Harbour has been away for repair twice during the year to maintain its excellent standard. Unfortunately it had also been defaced by graffiti that was removed.

REPORT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Dalkey is one area of the “F” District that comprises of Dun Laoghaire, Cabinteely, and Kill O’the Grange and Shankill. The new Chairman of NW is Pedro Angulo and he is committed to keep the scheme thriving and encourage as many groups and residents to become involved in the organisation. Meetings are held every 2 months where crime figures and trends are reviewed and specific crime problems and other issues are discussed. Crime in Dalkey is mainly derived from burglaries, theft, criminal damage and public order. NW is a community based crime prevention program. It is aimed at minimizing the incidents of preventable crime in a defined area. NW schemes can be of benefit as Insurance Companies do ask if there is one in the area when seeking house insurance.

The Neighbourhood Watch AGM for the “F” District was held in the Johnstown Parish Centre on 25th June 2009. This year NW has been busy with supplying the monitored social alarms for the elderly. The total amount spent was 30,000. Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald gave a report of the crime figures in F district during 2009. He stressed the important role NW plays in the fight against crime. Sgt. John Moran then made a presentation on a Crime Initiative - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. The Gardai working with the local Authority and Planners can help in the design phase of estates to avoid sprawling areas that generate anti-social behaviour and lead to incidents of crime. Underground car parks should be well lit with CCTV cameras strategically placed. Mistakes can prove to be costly and any future plans for schools, community halls, and etc. contact should be made with the Community Garda for advice.

Garda Arthur O’Neill, who served in Dalkey for 16 years, retired at the end of 2009. Garda Arthur was always approachable and willing to help. He was very visible in the town and was continually looking out for the slightest sign of trouble. He was most helpful and gave sound advice and good direction with problem solving. We thank him for his dedication to his duties and wish him all the best for the future. Garda Marie Barry and Garda Cathy Burke are the Community Gardaí in Dalkey and they are there to help and assist the local community in whatever way possible. NW depends on a commitment of co-operation between neighbours and the Gardaí but more importantly between neighbours themselves. The Gardaí encourage us to contact them if we see any suspicious behaviour or anything that is out of the ordinary.

Dalkey Garda Station Tel: 666 5450
Garda Confidential Line: 1800 666 111

Ann Perry

REPORT OF THE SPORTS COMMITTEE

Dublin Community Games is over forty years in existence. It is quite amazing how much has been achieved by the Community Games as it is totally reliant on volunteers. Children take part in Community Games in their local area each year and a good number advance to the Dublin Finals in Santry Stadium, then to the Leinster Finals and if successful to the National Finals.

Dalkey Dashers:

This year was a difficult year for the athletes as the weather proved a to be a challenge for the training sessions. However a high number of the children got through to compete in the Dublin Finals held over the weekend of 27th and 28th June. The competitions were tough but Dalkey rose to the challenge and did themselves proud. We are very fortunate that Dalkey has Conor Patton and his excellent team of Group leaders who are so enthusiastic about coaching the children for the games. This year DCC gave an extra grant of 1,000 to Dalkey Dashers for the purchase of new equipment, the re- training of coaches and Health and Safety Training and Child Protection course for the leaders. This extra input will benefit the athletes and broaden their opportunities for competing in 2010.

Dalkey Dashers is grateful for the continuing support of DCC and also the generosity of Mr. Dunne, Principal of Loreto Secondary School who permits the use of the hockey pitch for the weekly training sessions.

Dalkey Swimmers:

The Dublin Community Games Swimming Gala was held on Sunday 21st May 2009 Dalkey entered a team of 5 girls and all of them brought home medals.

It is hoped that Dalkey will partake in more disciplines in the future and compete in more than two areas.

DCG AGM:

This years AGM was held in Carmichael House on 6th October. It has been a year of change for the Dublin Community Games. The founder of the DCG forty two years ago the late Joe Connolly died in October and the venue for the National Finals moved from Mosney to AIT Athlone. The DCG website was launched in December by John Curran TD Minister of State at Dept of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. Areas are able to access up-to-date information on all the activities and download entry forms for the competitions. During 2010 it is intended to expand the organization and bring on board as many new areas as possible. As Dublin has been designated the European Capital of Sport for 2010 it is the ideal opportunity to promote sports at a local level and encourage participation among the young.

I would like to thank Dalkey Community Council for sponsoring the Community Games and the generous funding it has donated towards the new equipment and the further training of the leaders. DCG thanks Conor Patton for all his hard work and time and that of the Group leaders and the help given by the parents who make the games a fun time for all the children.

We look forward to 2010 and greater triumphs!

Elaine Feely

Secretary, Dalkey Dashers and Secretary, Dalkey Community Games

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Editorial

Contributors: - great regulars but need 'fresh blood'
Broadening sources of material
More images, sketches, photos, etc
Editor Group: good teamwork every month
Supplement in Autumn issue with Public Meeting Reports

Production

Regular meetings with printers and typesetters
Monitoring of other print companies and quotations

Advertising

Increased rates had no adverse effect in 2009
Loyalty of advertisers very heartening
Superb support and experience of Advertising Manager, Ms. Lena Feely
DLRCC CoCo Markets advert on outside back page cancelled due to lack of funds in DLRCC budget

Distribution

Constantly under review due to some gaps in areas covered last year
Is being addressed at every Editorial Group Meeting
Very thankful to Road Representatives especially ones who are the life-line of our activities in local areas
E-mail technology and broadband now mean that we send every issue of the Newsletter to readers at home and abroad
Cheaper and more efficient method of getting them their issues.

Future

Newsletter is in good shape and improving all the time with the support of the community and the advertisers
Thanks for regular publication, the use of colour and the loyalty of advertisers, the Newsletter is not losing money
We hope to continue to reflect Dalkey and the community council to a wide audience

Gerard Coakley
Editor

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

There were 78 planning applications during 2009 for the Dalkey area compared to 112 applications in 2008. 5 of these were declared invalid for a variety of reasons, often problems associated with the site notice and 3 were withdrawn.

There were 8 applications for retention. Additional information was requested in 22 cases and supplied for 20 applications; further clarification was requested in 2 cases.

61 decisions were made, of these 53 were granted permission and 8 were refused.

17 decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanala; of these 6 were 1st party appeals against either refusal for permission or the conditions imposed by the planning department of the County Council.

There were 11 3rd party appeals against the grant of permission by the County Council.

An Bord Pleanala handed down 20 decisions during the year, of these 8 had previously been granted permission by the Council and were upheld by the Bord; 4 were granted permission by BP that previously had been refused by the County Council. 6 were refused permission by both the County Council and by Bord Pleanala.

I will now comment on some individual applications that are of particular interest.

Linden Lodge

There are several planning applications going back over several years for this 19th century house on its half-acre site. In June and November 2006, there were applications for the construction of 24 apartments and the demolition of the original house on Castlepark Rd. Both were refused permission and later appealed and refused by Bord Pleanala.

In July 07, the developer lodged another application for 4 detached houses on this site. This was refused permission by the planning department, but was appealed. In 2008 Bord Pleanala refused permission for the proposal which included the demolition of the house stating it would be contrary to the policy of DLRCC which encourages the renovation, rehabilitation and reuse of older buildings.(Policy AR5).

In October 2008 a proposal was lodged to refurbish the house and construct 3 detached houses on the site. In December, permission was granted by the County Council to refurbish the main house but the proposal for the 3 additional houses was refused. In January 2009 this decision was appealed to Bord Pleanala and refused by them in July.

However, in May 09 another application was lodged, this time for the refurbishment of the original building to be incorporated into additional buildings for a 60 bed nursing home. This was refused in July 2009 by the planning department.

The building has been allowed to deteriorate by its present owner, with regular problems of anti-social behaviour and vandalism being reported by local residents. We believe it is the duty of the County Council to prevent this property becoming a derelict and dangerous site.

Mackey's Garden Centre

An application for 56 apartments, gymnasium and swimming pool was lodged in

December 2006 on the site of the two garden centres, Harry Byrne's and Mackey's. Permission was granted despite intense local objection to the development and appealed to Bord Pleanala. They granted permission for a slightly reduced scheme of 51 apartments in February 2008. In June 2008 another two applications were lodged, one increasing the number of apartments, the other also increasing the number of apartments as well as constructing three town houses instead of the pool and gym. Both were refused permission and subsequently appealed to Bord Pleanala. They refused permission in March 2009 for both proposals.

In October 09 an application for the main former garden centre site for the omission of the swimming pool and gym facilities and the construction of 6 enclosed garages was made; this was granted permission in January 2010.

December 2009 saw a further application, this time for the reduction of the number of apartments from 51 to 48, modifications to the fenestration, extension of some balconies and a revised landscaping scheme to include basement ventilation, altered children's playground and an ESB substation. No decision has yet been made on this application.

An associated planning application was lodged in April 2008 for the demolition of 1 Castle Close and the construction of 8 Senior Citizen apartments in a two and three storey building. Permission was granted, but the conditions imposed concerning the Council levies were appealed by the developer. Residents in Castle Close also appealed on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site, insufficient private open space and insufficient parking facilities.

Bord Pleanala granted permission in March 2009 for a reduced scheme of 6 units instead of the proposed 8 by the omission of the two-storey block.

In October another application was lodged for retention of the construction of 5 units instead of 6 and alterations to the fenestration and omission of an electricity sub-station. This was appealed in January 2010 and a decision should be made in May.

An application for the provision of a services room, stores and bin facilities was lodged in December and granted in February of this year; this was to comply with the Bord Pleanala decision granted the previous March.

It is worth noting that no indication has been given as to who will be eligible to live in these apartments or how this will be monitored. The plans indicate that it is for senior citizens however there is nothing to indicate that is particularly suitable for the elderly. There is no common room, no facilities for a warden or to accommodate guests staying overnight. As it currently stands, this is a development of 5/6 one-bedroom apartments.

There were 6 applications made during this year alone relating to this site which incorporates the former two garden centres and 1 Castle Close. If the proposals as now approved are constructed, there will be in total 57 units on this site; if the proposals lodged and awaiting decisions are granted there will be 53 units. However, much of the apparent reduction would be incorporated into larger apartments.

Site on Ardrubh Road

This has been the subject of 5 applications for varying developments since 2005; the first was for a scheme for 18 apartments which was refused permission by both the

planning department of DLRCC and also Bord Pleanala.

Last year a proposal for 12 apartments was lodged and we voiced our concerns. It was refused in May on the grounds of excessive scale and bulk, its proximity to the protected structure Ardbrugh House and unacceptable drainage proposals.

Another application was lodged in April for 3 large houses but was withdrawn in June.

A similar application for 3 houses was lodged in December, but with houses of increased size, varying from 374sq.m to 523sq.m. It is proposed that the largest house will be nearest to Ardbrugh Rd and would appear to block the protected view across the bay to Howth. In addition, we have concerns about overlooking of neighbouring properties, drainage proposals, inadequate parking provision and traffic issues, and the proximity to neighbouring houses including the protected structure, Ardbrugh House. We are presently awaiting a decision.

Development on Public Right-of-Way between Torca Road and Knocknacree Road

This proposal generated a great deal of public interest and anger which I have never witnessed before for any other planning application.

In April a proposal was lodged by the developer Noel Smyth for the demolition of one existing derelict outbuilding, area 25sqm. and the construction of a new two storey 3-bedroom, 440sqm, detached house with four outside car parking spaces, with access from a new vehicular entrance off the existing laneway; a new pedestrian entrance off the laneway; renovation of the existing structure on the site of 13sqm into a studio, associated landscaping and site works. The laneway referred to is a long-standing public pedestrian right of way beginning at Knocknacree Rd and leading to the end of Torca rd adjacent to the entrance to Killiney Hill Park and Dalkey Hill.

There were several issues involved among which were:

- 1) The demolition of a gardener's potting shed to be replaced by a very large suburban house.
- 2) The clearing of a site that is designated to preserve and conserve the woodland aspect.
- 3) The disregard for the specific zoning objective that is in place to protect its unique qualities for the enjoyment of the public ie the O/O zoning-no further development.
- 4) The claim by the applicant that he owned the public pedestrian right-of-way but would "allow" the public to continue to use it.
- 5) The proposal for vehicular access with the obvious traffic safety issues on a pedestrian right-of-way.

We lodged our concerns with the planning department.

In June the planning department refused permission for the application on several grounds;

- 1) Interference to a public right-of-way
- 2) Vehicular hazard to pedestrians on a narrow public right of way
- 3) The application would adversely affect the character of a Conservation Area being visually obtrusive and overbearing
- 4) The proposed development would result in an additional dwelling and would be contrary to the O/O zoning objective.

- 5) Failure to demonstrate sufficient legal interest to carry out the development in order to facilitate vehicular access
- 6) The public right of way is within land owned by DLRCC for which consent to make the application had not been obtained by the Council

An appeal was lodged with Bord Pleanála in July but was withdrawn in late August.

There were many objections to this application from residents in Dalkey and members of the public who enjoy the amenities of this area. I also personally received e-mails and phone calls about the proposed development.

Mount Salus Residents Association was particularly active in researching both the planning and legal aspects of this proposal; appreciation of their efforts cannot be emphasized enough. Thanks are due to Councillor John Bailey and Councillor Mary Mitchell O'Connor who gave their time and advice to support residents in their objections to the development which we greatly appreciate.

Development Plan 2010-2016

We sent our submission regarding the development Plan for 2010-2016 with an emphasis on protecting the 0/0 objective from Killiney Hill Park to Whiterock and north to the pedestrian right of way adjacent to Torca Rd Park.

This area consists mainly of parkland in its natural state of gorse, open spaces and wooded areas, and a few houses with their own grounds with a similar type of landscape as in the adjacent public park surrounding them. Several are protected structures.

It is and has been recognised as an area offering an environment with a very high level of natural amenity both in terms of the landscape itself and the multitude of views and prospects.

However, there has been relentless pressure in the Dalkey area, mostly for large one off houses, which has gradually eroded and diminished these valuable qualities over time. Apart from the main public parkland of Killiney Hill itself, there now remain very few, and often fragmented, areas of Dalkey Hill to illustrate what was once a most notable characteristic. The present Development Plan recognizes this precious, but now limited resource by preventing its further and perhaps terminal erosion by excluding further development.

It is therefore vital that this area and that at Sorrento Terrace and Sorrento Point should continue to have the protection it has received for generations by retaining the wording of the previous Development Plan for this particular zoning,—"no increase in the number of buildings".

We also made reference to the protection of many of the views around Dalkey with an emphasis on enforcement procedures to stop the erosion of several of them.

We await with interest for the new Development plan which has recently been passed by our County Councillors.

We are frequently asked about the procedure to lodge an observation /objection to the planning department.

In regard to planning applications, I should like to stress to everyone, the importance of vigilance in respect of site notices. If one appears in your neighbourhood, it is important that you find the time to inspect the relevant plans for the particular application in the Planning Office in County Hall, Dun Laoghaire if you believe the proposal will affect your property.

The applicant must lodge the plans with the Planning Department of the County Council within 14 days of displaying the site notice.

Following the lodgment of plans in the planning office, the public has 35 days to submit their observations and objections, accompanied with a 20 fee. If you believe you will be affected, it is vital that you write into the planning department to voice your concerns.

The planning authority will then make their decision.

Following the decision, the public has 28 days to appeal to Bord Pleanala if they had previously submitted the relevant objection to the planning department.

The fee for this is €210.

Following the lodgment of an appeal with An Bord Pleanala, the public has 28 days to submit their observations, the fee being €50 in this case.

Finally, I should like to thank the members of the planning committee who have continued to work throughout the year on your behalf.

Dr. Susan McDonnell
(Chairman, Planning Committee.)
