



**DALKEYCOMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

from the

**PUBLIC MEETING**

held in

**OUR LADY'S HALL**

on

Monday 30th April 2007

**Special Supplement**

# REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

I should like to welcome you all to this open meeting of Dalkey Community Council. In previous years, our AGM was the forum for the public to discuss various issues and questions relating to Dalkey, but as we have become a Company Limited by Guarantee our AGM is open to its members only and not to the public. We believe that it is important to have one open meeting each year, when members of the community can meet us and voice their concerns relating to Dalkey directly to us.

As you will be aware, the Community Council was established over thirty years ago to increase community harmony and fellowship, to foster the benefits of all the inhabitants of Dalkey without distinction and to foster facilities in the interests of social well being, health, recreation and leisure. In furtherance of these objectives, the Council aims to work with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and institutions, commercial and professional bodies and individual members of the community.

I think it will become apparent after hearing the reports from the various committees that the Community Council is continuing to work with all these bodies to increase communication between them and the residents of Dalkey in pursuit of our aims.

In December, we had the opportunity to meet with the County Manager, Eoin Keegan, with some members of the Tidy Towns Committee, to discuss many on-going issues relating to Dalkey e.g. blocked drains, lack of road cleaning, no weed spraying, etc. etc.

We have contacted the Environment department frequently usually in connection with litter and the present position of the bottle bank on the Burmah rd; we have been attempting to have it re-sited to a more suitable site in the park with more space for cars to park without causing an obstruction to other passing vehicles. This has been an on-going issue since 2004 when it was sited there after it was removed from the Vico Rd at Whiterock to its present location after public opposition.

Traffic issues have been a regular cause for concern being raised by your road representatives on your behalf- speeding on the approach roads into Dalkey and the familiar problems of parking around the town as well as the non-appearance of a pedestrian crossing on Castle St. I was personally assured by an official from the County Council that the crossing would be in place during the summer of 2006. As you are all aware, no crossing has yet fully materialised, but preparation work has begun during last week just outside O.L.H., so hopefully it will be in place soon. As the volume of traffic passing though Castle St has steadily increased over the last few years, it is becoming more essential than ever for the safety of young and old alike.

We would like to comment on the up-grading of many of the pavements around Dalkey which has steadily taken place during the year, but the absence of regular road sweeping and lack of weed spraying is to be deplored. We have raised this issue, with the support of the Tidy Towns committee, on many occasions with various officials from the County Council. However, I have to comment that these problems are not unique to Dalkey and that they are problems that occur County-wide.

We welcome the upgrading of the sewage and drainage system along Coliemore Rd and have again had regular contact with the personnel from the County Council on a

regular basis to keep us aware of their progress. The removal of the discharge of raw sewage into the sea from many houses in the south-east of Dalkey has to be a positive step from both a health and environmental aspect. We look forward to the reinstatement of Dillon's Park at the end of the works; the park is presently being used as the construction depot during the course of the up-grade.

We and the Tidy Towns committee continue to work with the Parks department on an on-going basis. They are responsible for the floral displays and their maintenance during the summer months along Castle St and for the work in the parks of Dalkey. One of the main tracks in the quarry area in Killiney Hill Park has been up-graded during the last year, with a considerable area of woodland being cleared and replanted. We look forward to further improvements in this park in the near future. We should like to thank Tom Byrne and his team in the Parks department for their work around Dalkey; their continual support and interest in Dalkey is much appreciated especially in these times when their resources are so stretched.

We also enjoy regular contact with the Community department whose support for our annual event at Christmas when we light the Christmas tree and meet Santa and have the Live Crib in Archbold's Castle, has ensured that we can continue this special occasion for all the residents and visitors of Dalkey. This has become an event which involves many voluntary groups and organisations of our community working together for the town of Dalkey.

We have had regular contact with several of our local County Councillors during the course of the year, John Bailey, Mary Mitchell O'Connor and Cormac Devlin in particular. They are to be thanked for their interest in the varying problems arising in Dalkey and their efforts and success in raising these issues in County Hall. We had the pleasure of welcoming the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Eugene Regan, to one of our meetings when he explained Council policy on many issues relevant to Dalkey and took part in a question and answer session with members of the Community Council.

One issue that we have been contacted about by many residents has been the problem of anti-social behaviour late at night in the Castle St area of the town. In that regard, we have met with the Gardai and some of the publicans who have premises in the town to attempt to find a solution to this nuisance. We believe that by working together we should be able to improve the situation, but there is no instant solution. However, it is reported that there has been some diminution of the problem recently. We are in the process of investigating the possibility of installing CCTV in the town, but more research needs to be done. It has come to our attention whilst we have been talking to the Gardai that, like everywhere else in the country, we have a problem with under-age drinking in our community; this is an issue that we must not ignore and we should examine our attitudes to this and how we can tackle it.

In September, we unveiled a memorial seat to the late Harry Latham next to Archbold's Castle; Harry was one of the Community Council's founder members and was the first person to make us all appreciate and be aware of Dalkey's wonderful heritage.

You will have noticed our "new look" newsletter which we have been working on this year, not without its problems, but I shall leave this to our editor, Gerard Coakley to

comment on. In regard to that, I should like to thank all residents of the Dalkey who have contributed to our voluntary collection for their support. The collection goes towards improving the facilities in the town, but also to providing you with your monthly newsletter amongst other things. Our Treasurer will have more details of this.

I should like to pay tribute to our recently retired treasure, Pat Egan who has given so much of his time during the last four years. It was due to his hard work and dedication that we finally became a Company limited by Guarantee in 2005. This involved a huge amount of time researching and drafting our new constitution which he willingly undertook. All of us serving on the Executive Committee miss his presence, especially his humour at our Monday night meetings.

Last year, we mentioned that due to our increasing activities, we needed to find office space; I am happy to report that St Patrick's Church have kindly offered us facilities which we are presently about to move into. We are extremely grateful to the Rev. Ben Neill and the Select Vestry for their very generous offer to us.

Finally, I should like to thank all of you who are road representatives or representatives for local organisations for your interest and commitment to the Community Council; your work and dedication continues to enhance the community spirit of our town for the benefit of all.

**Dr Susan McDonnell**  
*(Chairman, DCC)*

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## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

I mentioned in my report last year that DCC was actively looking for office space in the town. This has been a lengthy process as the cost of renting has escalated and space in Dalkey is at a premium. The Council got a surprise shot in the arm towards the end of the year when we received a donation of computer hardware through one of our members when his place of work was undergoing an upgrade. Coincidentally a request had been made to St. Patrick's and Canon Neill offered office space on the agreement of the Select Vestry. Currently one of our members is working on plans to fit it out as an operating office suitable for our needs. This will give us a central base from where we can operate in a more professional manner. Presently we have several members who are working from their homes; documents and information are scattered over a wide area. Initially it is intended that it will be manned for a couple of hours a few days a week. For the first time in our history the Community Council will have somewhere to store files and a small meeting room where the various sub-committees can meet. We thank Canon Neill for this generous offer.

During 2006 more residents contacted us by email requesting our support or help in

tackling issues and problems that had arisen in the town. The three main problems that provoked the most amount of correspondence were parking, litter and anti-social behaviour. Each of these is being actively dealt with by DCC and they are all ongoing issues with the relevant bodies. Along with the secretarial duties I've supported the Editor of the Newsletter, Neighbourhood Watch and the Sports committees. I accompanied the Chairperson to meetings with local and voluntary groups with particular relevance to local issues during 2006.

The old problem of attracting new members is still a challenge for DCC. As Dalkey is expanding and changing there are many issues and concerns that affect the residents and there is plenty of work to be done. DCC acts as a watchdog, facilitator and organiser of many events for the town. It is a voluntary organisation and each member gives their free time to serve the community. No matter what the task is, be it delivering the monthly newsletter, representing the residents or a particular organisation or contributing articles or information for our monthly publication, everything contributes towards the working of the council. When An Cathaoirleach met us last October he left us with a very high opinion of how well informed and passionate all of us are about Dalkey. By being members of DCC we try to keep the community spirit alive in Dalkey and care for the environment we live in. The membership is currently at 75 but there are still areas that are without a Road Rep. and I would encourage people to consider becoming part of a worthwhile organisation.

It is thanks to a hard working Chairperson, Executive and all the members who are committed to the organisation that drive the Community Council to earn the respect of the area. Clearly this year has seen the profile of the Community Council heighten and hopefully it will gain higher prominence in the future.

**Ann Perry**  
*(Secretary DCC)*

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## **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

The Treasurer gave a summary of the financial receipts and payments for the year ended 31st December 2006. Income is derived mainly from the Annual collection and functions run by the Council. During 2006 the Council funded the restoration of the old graveyard with a €5,000 donation, the Harry Latham seat received €3,500 and the Dalkey Community Games received a total of €2,500. Smaller donations were given to both Drama Groups. The Newsletter is heavily subsidized because the advertising is covering approximately 60% of the running costs.

**Bill Conway**  
*(Treasurer, DCC)*

# **REPORT OF THE DALKEY CASTLE & HERITAGE CENTRE**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

**Visitor Numbers:** Best year to date attributable to Darts running at weekends and Living History 6 days per week in July and August, supported by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

### **Graveyard:**

**The Graveyard was cleaned up and paths restored.**

All of this was made possible by:

The funding from the Heritage Office of DLRCoCo towards signage and info panels €9,000

Community Council's donation of €5,000 paid for gravel and materials for restoration of footpaths

EBS gave a grant under their community initiatives of €1,500

Tidy Towns donated their prize money of €500

Credit Union gave €500

At end of the year the Heritage Council in Kilkenny came up trumps with €15,000 to finish off the restoration and illuminate the church. This work will be done later in the season

### **New leaflet: Copies herewith for everyone**

Funded by Heritage Council's grant.

Gives an overview of the activities of the Centre. Walks Living History etc

We have it translated in 6 languages and are getting 6 more translations done.

**Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre** has secured the necessary finance to run the **Living History** programme for all visitors from beginning of May to end of October. The Community Dept of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co Co. is the main sponsor. Deilg Inis Theatre Company, based locally, will provide the Living History.

**The Dalkey Guided Walks** on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will begin again in May and continue to the end of August. The package provided includes the Guided Historical Walk, half price admission the Centre and Special Offer price on lunch locally.

### **Building Work (Revamp of Centre)**

**Guarantee of €400,000 match funding has been received from DLRCoCo.**

This will provide: a new entrance, office space and a revamp of the old committee

meeting room upstairs. We have to find the remaining 405K.

**The Art Gallery** is fully booked out for some months already. A number of the national organisations are now holding their annual Art Exhibitions in the Gallery. An info pack can be sent out if you email diht@indigo.ie

**Schools Living History Programme** was a phenomenal success. Over 1000 school children from the entire county participated.. The medieval merchants of Dalkey deal with questions of trade with Bristol and Chester and the unique defensive features of Goat Castle. The archer demonstrated the use of the longbow and the medieval maid outlines the living conditions, the food they ate and how they cooked it. The Victorian era is dealt with by a character from Dalkey Quarry, based on factual research. To finish with a flourish, the King of Dalkey presents each child with a scroll with all his titles as a memento of the visit to Dalkey.

FÁS continues to place a **Community Employment** programme in the Heritage Centre which provides valuable work experience for participants and is a valuable resource for the Centre, without which it could not operate successfully. It is greatly appreciated by the Dalkey community and we thank FÁS for their continued involvement in the Centre and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council who act as Sponsors for the programme.

**Annual Grant:** Best news of all from the beginning of 2007 is that the DLRCoCo has included Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre in the Estimates for 2007. The Centre will now receive (a long overdue) annual operational grant. We would like to thank all the councillors who vigorously supported this motion especially the two councillors on the board of the Heritage Company, John Bailey and Maria Bailey.

We would like to make special mention of the County Manager Mr Owen Keegan who is very appreciative of the work of the Centre and the great care the board and the Manager and staff take of the County Council's asset.

Dalkey Irish Heritage Town Co thanks all those in the community who, through their goodwill and word of mouth publicity, send us visitors and support our events during the year. We would like to thank our chairman Mr Howard Kilroy and all the members of the voluntary board. I can't let the opportunity pass without commending the trojan work and innovative programming done by the Manager of the Centre, Margaret Dunne.

She has been nominated by the Cathaoirleach and is to be honoured in the Council Chamber for her work with one of three awards to be bestowed by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Eugene Regan.

**Dominic Dowling**  
*Heritage*

# REPORT OF THE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

## **Annual Dinner**

This was held in the Northover Hall; St Patrick's on April 22nd 2006 and attended by 55 past and present members of the Community Council. Guest speaker, Mark Little, journalist and presenter of

Prime Time, gave us an insight into his working life and his experiences in some of the most deprived and war-torn countries in the world. Caterer, John McManus, served a most delicious meal. Our thanks to St. Patrick's for the use of the hall.

## **Garden Competition**

The garden competition was judged on 28th June, which was a lovely day. Our judges, Patty Maher and Anne O'Dwyer visited many wonderful gardens. There were 18 entries in total.

## **Garden Outing**

The garden outing was held on 26th July again a very warm day and 39 people visited June Blake's garden and nursery in Tinode, Blessington. Lunch was in The Blue Gardenia and then we visited the Tramway Gift and Antique Shop. Afterwards we went to Jimi Blake's Hunting Brook Garden. All in all a lovely day out.

## **Reception for Garden Awards and Community Sports Cup**

Reception was held on 15th September. A large attendance was a fitting tribute to Mai Kelly who posthumously was awarded the Community Cup. Peggy Brown, Mai's sister received the cup.

Mrs. McCabe presented the McCabe Cup for Sports to Brian Meyer on behalf of Dalkey Sea Scouts.

Patti Maher, our judge of the Garden Competition, spoke about every entry as she presented the awards for each category and this was much appreciated.

The Tidy Towns Committee presented a new award for the most environmentally friendly garden.

The reception was a great success with wine and canapés (which were prepared by the committee).

Many congratulations to all the winners.

## **Art Exhibition – 18th and 19th November**

The exhibition was opened on 17th November by Maeve McCarthy, an artist of renown and was attended by artists and guests including Cllr. Jane Dillon-Byrne, Eamon Gilmore T.D. and artist Imogen Stuart. We had 96 entries and a large display of woodcarvings.

Tea and refreshments were served at several monthly meetings during the year.

A Christmas Tree was donated to the Church of the Assumption and decorated by members of the Committee.

On behalf of the Functions Committee I would like to thank Peggy Comerford for her valuable work on the Committee for many years and wish her a happy retirement. My thanks also to my fellow members of the Functions Committee – Lena Feely, Ursula Brooks, Ethna Blake, Gerard Coakley, Laura Doyle.

**Colette Doody & Maura Murray**  
*Functions Committee*

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## **REPORT OF THE DALKEY TIDY TOWNS**

DTT began the year by meeting John Guckian of the Environment Dept. of the County Council with a view to explore how they could support DTT. The usual problems of litter and particularly the black spot at the rear of Eurospar were to be seriously targeted.

In January TT sent photographs of litter black spots to the County Manager and several departments in the County Council that resulted in a huge improvement in road cleaning during February.

Irish Business against Litter published results of a survey where Dalkey was found to be Litter Free, although we all know that this is not always the case. The Viewing Area at Coliemore Harbour however was in the “Badly Littered” category.

The town was mentioned as “Dalkey Delights” and “Dalkey Cleans up in National Survey” in the headlines in local newspapers following a recent IBAL survey (Irish Business Against Waste). Even the Irish Times and RTE radio news gave Dalkey a mention but unfortunately all too soon Dalkey reverted to its old dirty ways!

### **Projects during 2006**

DTT undertook the clean up at the Ramparts on the Vico Road. This picnic area, which was derelict for so long has now been restored. The first of 2 sessions in April involved the TT committee, volunteer Blathnaid MacGinty and a coordinator from An Taisce. It was very productive with the seats being repaired as well as more site clearance. An Taisce has presented DTT with a ‘Coast Care Award’ for the Picnic Area Project.

A response to the National Spring Clean Campaign’s appeal for volunteers brought a group of staff from Timberland in Dundrum, who volunteered their time to Dalkey. The answer was 11 bags of litter collected from the notorious Dillon’s Park and assistance on the project at the Ramparts.

In May DTT Treasurer Blaithin O’Brien gave a talk last week to Dalkey Leo Club

(Junior Lions), about the history and aims of Dalkey Tidy Towns. This group of young people is enthusiastic and their members offer to help with our projects whenever possible.

The public car park behind Eurospar has undergone a transformation. Coordination between Eurospar management, an adjoining land owner, DLRCC and Dalkey Tidy Towns has resulted in a vast improvement and it is hoped it will be maintained.

Work is in progress on St. Begnet's Graveyard. Through An Taisce a group of volunteers from the Oracle Software Company at East Point made quite an impact when they gave a day of their time and energy to help DLRCC Parks Dept. improve the pathways for accessibility.

New Heritage Signs have been placed at the end of the Burmah Road and the Vico Road. The seat at the bottom of Saval Park Road was a joint venture with the Dun Laoghaire and Killiney Lions, DLRCoCo and DCC.

TT has painted two litterbins on Castle Street and the aim is to shame the County Council into following this example by painting the rest. Following years of asking, begging and pleading for the street furniture to be repaired and painted TT took matters into their own hands (thanks here to the most talented painter on the committee, Paddy Rigney). After a lengthy period of pleading An Post responded to TT's request and the post boxes around the town were painted.

The Lighting of the Christmas tree on Sunday 10th December was a great success. DCC, Business Association, DTT and others from the community were involved. Members from the Cuala Club, Dalkey Leo Club and Dun Laoghaire and Killiney Lions helped with the stewarding. A substantial grant from the County Council was put to good use and a number of their employees volunteered to help on the day. The local Garda made their presence felt in a friendly and reassuring way.

## **Clean ups**

Thirty Litter Patrols have been undertaken during the summer with **168** bags of litter collected. Volunteers have included representatives from the Community Council, a few Dalkey residents and DTT members.

The summer twice-weekly clean-ups began on Tuesday 30th May and ran through June, July and August. The clean ups on Tuesdays concentrated on the town and the lanes off the main street. The Thursday ones dealt specifically with tidying Dillon's Park. There was quite a slow start on 30th May with only 3, but up to 9 people have joined in this work. The worst mess on the first day was around the recycling bins at Dalkey DART station. Boxes, bags and other rubbish must not be dumped there. The company who empty the bottle banks have been asked not to leave a gap behind them as this leaves a space for dumping. With problems such as these, TT are enjoying a good working relationship with DLRCC and whenever problem areas are reported, often supported by photographs, they make a serious effort to do something about them. The numbers vary between 2 and 9 people - not enough to have the desired impact on Dalkey's appearance.

Monthly Litter Patrols during the winter took place on the last Tuesday in every month meeting at 10.30 at Select Stores. The October patrol yielded 16 bags from 6 workers, covering much of central Dalkey from the station to the Square About, and a

huge job was done on cleaning the steps from St. Patrick's Square to Railway Road.

### **Local areas**

TT would like to encourage more environmentally conscious residents to patrol their own areas. Equipment could be provided and collection arranged so that any such volunteer would not incur any personal expense. Several areas in Dalkey are already involved and more would be welcome. The rising population in Dalkey and visitor numbers unfortunately does mean more litter.

The list of areas that local residents are presently covering is: -

- |                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Kilbegnet Close | 7. The Village Gate                |
| 2. Bulloch Harbour | 8. Southwinds                      |
| 3. Paddocks        | 9. Sue Ryder community             |
| 4. Dillon's Park   | 10. Castle Close                   |
| 5. White Rock      | 11. Barnhill Av. Green Area        |
| 6. Ard Mhuire Park | 12. Hyde Park & the pedestrian way |
| 13. Leslie Avenue  |                                    |

Members of our committee attended Dublin Castle in September for the announcement of the Tidy Towns Competition results. Dalkey gained 4 points (3 last year) and have for a second year retained the County Award with a prize of 700.

At the National Tidy Towns presentations for the area on 30th November DTT chairman Terry Wheatley collected the cheque for €700 for 'Best Large Town' in the County.

DLRCC Tidy Districts Competition 2006 – Dalkey received the Overall Winner's and Best Large Town Award for the third year in succession. The Guinea Pig Restaurant won the Best Hospitality Outlet Award.

We look forward to this year, with many projects in hand; as ever, we would welcome more support from residents of Dalkey, so please contact us if you are interested in improving your environment. The Tidy Towns Competition is more than hanging baskets along Castle St - it is about valuing and preserving your local environment, so please join us!

**June Barnett**

*Secretary, Dalkey Tidy Towns*

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## **REPORT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Neighbourhood Watch is a scheme that aims to reduce the level of crime in an area and in conjunction with the Gardai to provide additional protection for that area. It is crime strategy prevention where the residents work in partnership with the Gardai.

Neighbourhood Watch meetings for the "F" District are held every 2 months in Dun

Laoghaire Garda Station. During these meetings the Community Gardai give figures and trends from Dun Laoghaire, Dalkey, Kill O'Grange and Cabinteely. Problems and any matters of concern are also discussed.

The "F" District Neighbourhood Watch AGM was held on Tuesday 4th April in the Community Hall at Foxrock Church. Síghle L'Estrange, Chairperson of NW Committee opened the meeting and gave a summary of the past year. She introduced Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald who has recently been appointed to Dun Laoghaire Station. He emphasised how important it was for the Gardai and the community to work together to prevent crime and improve the quality of life and create a better environment for everyone. NW can reduce crime figures and he expressed his appreciation to all those who are involved with the scheme. He launched 3 new schemes Dundela, Laurel Bank and Leopardstown Abbey.

Inspector Hennigan from Cabinteely gave a report on crime figures for 2005. "F" District does not have a problem with **serious** crime but a lot of the crime that is committed is opportunistic. A majority of house burglaries occur between 11am to 7pm. Domestic alarms must be upgraded for verification by 2007. Garda response times are being constantly improved. It is important that each householder knows the number of the local Garda station or incidents can be reported by using the confidential telephone number. The drink driving offences have increased by 25% over the first three months of this year and the enforcement of the Road Traffic Act will be rigorously enforced in the area.

To mark the cultural change in our society three guest speakers from the ethnic minorities a Muslim and two young Nigerians gave a presentation to us on the difficulties found settling into Ireland and their opinion of the Gardai. The police in their own native countries would be considered the protectors of government rather than the people and each of them found this a strange phenomenon.

In November the public were invited to attend a Multimedia Road Safety Presentation in the Maritime Museum that focused on the impact our driving habits. These talks are very informative and it is planned to have more in the next year.

Dalkey does not suffer from serious crime but we cannot become complacent. We live in a lovely part of the country and we should endeavour to keep our town a safe place for everyone. NW provides a channel to the Gardai with information from the street and it also is a means by which the Gardai can inform the community of what is happening in their areas. There are 2 Community Gardai based in Dalkey station and the exchange of information between co-ordinators of schemes and local community Gardai results in real benefits for all.

There are 2 Community Gardai in Dalkey Station, Arthur O'Neill and Marie Barry.

Dalkey Garda Station Tel: **666 5450**. Confidential line: **1800 666 111**.

*Neighbourhood Watch Rep.*

# REPORT OF THE SPORTS COMMITTEE

I took up the position as secretary of the Dalkey Community Games in 2006. This year was a transition year as there were a lot of changes with personnel in the different disciplines that compete in DCG. It was very much a learning time for everyone.

The swimming teams who usually represent Dalkey were not able to compete in the Community Games as Swim Ireland held a swimming gala on the same weekend and competitors chose to attend this meet. Due to changeover in new coaches, the tennis team was not ready to participate and unfortunately due to First Holy Communion in Dalkey, this date clashed with the hockey competition. So it all came down to the Athletics and as usual Dalkey was well represented in Santry.

This year was the most successful yet in terms of the numbers who participated in the Dalkey Dashers each Wednesday since late March. Taking part in the Community Games is the key measure of success and we are delighted that the Dalkey Dashers goes from strength to strength.

At the end of June over 60 children and teenagers travelled to Santry to represent Dalkey in the Dublin Finals of the Community Games. The competition was very stiff with close to 50 areas taking part from all over Dublin. Many of the Dalkey competitors progressed through the different stages with over 30 of the Dalkey people getting through to the final of their respective events.

Both Aisling King and Sarah Patton went on to represent Dublin at the National Community Games in Mosney at the end of August.

The Dalkey Community Council is grateful to Dr. MacKenna from Loreto Abbey for the use of the grounds for the training sessions for the athletics.

Conor Patton also organized training for the group leaders and new volunteers that joined this year that was funded by the Community Council and I thank them for this sponsorship. Conor will be purchasing new equipment for next seasons' training sessions. Dalkey owes a debt of gratitude to the Patton family and all the leaders who give so generously of their time to help train the youngsters.

The Community Council Sports Cup was presented this year to Brian Meyer of Dalkey Sea Scouts in recognition of their fiftieth anniversary and the huge amount of work done with the young people of the area.

Ann Perry and I attended the Dublin Community Games AGM in November. The proceedings opened with an address from the President Mr. Tony Feeney and reports were given from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Development Officer, PRO, Games Director and Youth Officer. The election of members to the Executive Committee took place. The Secretary Maureen Quinlan is to be highly commended as she does a huge amount of work and she has been a great support to me during the past year.

We were a little surprised at the small numbers attending (40 approx). We both expected a larger turn out but unfortunately the universal problem of attracting young volunteers is proving to be a huge challenge for the Community Games. One of the main aims from the AGM is to actively promote interest and participation from among the

young and especially to encourage parents to have a more “hands on” involvement with the movement.

The growing success of Dalkey is due to the team leaders who give their time freely and their continued support and 2007 will bring more success.

**Elaine Feely**

*Secretary – Dalkey Dashers*

*Secretary – Dalkey Community Games*

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## **REPORT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

### **Editorial**

2006 was another year of consolidation in terms of the editorial content of the Newsletter. Our regular contributors were wonderful in the way they delivered their material in accordance with our production schedule. The most popular subjects were Gardening, Nature, Recipes, Herbal Medicines, Planning, Historical Memories, Heritage and Tidy Towns, Psychotherapy, etc. with the occasional article of general interest such as: An Englishman’s Impressions of the Area.

### **Production**

Printing costs increased again this year in keeping with the general trend in the industry. We have held a number of meetings with our current printers as well as with potential replacement ones during the year. The conclusion is that we are getting a good price for the service we demand from the current printers. An additional challenge might have been the fact that they moved from Sandyford to Maynooth a few months ago. However, this has not proved to be the problem it might have been in the past because of the benefits of E-Mail and couriers. We have also tightened the schedule for the year’s production, which is working out well thus far. One of the benefits of the general improvement in our dealings with them is that they now deliver a collated and bound Newsletter every time.

### **Advertising**

Last year saw an increase in the advertising rates to help offset the increase in costs of production. However, it will probably never match our total cost. We are looking at ways to increase our income to dilute this problem and contact has been made with the Environment Section of Dun Laoghaire County Council with a view to getting some financial assistance for this community project. We will keep trying.

Also, we are most fortunate to have had the benefit of the experience and knowledge of our Advertising Manager, Helena Feely, throughout the year. She has been a superb member of our Editorial Team and has maintained an excellent relationship with the advertisers.

## **Distribution**

We have seen improvements in this aspect of the Newsletter during the year. As always, there will be minor hitches mainly to do with Road Representatives not delivering their Newsletters soon after publication. We are addressing this problem at present and hope to have it resolved soon.

**Gerard Coakley**  
*Editor*

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## **REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

There were 181 planning applications during 2006 for the Dalkey area compared to 183 applications in the previous year. 23 of these were declared invalid for a variety of reasons, often problems associated with the site notice and 3 were withdrawn.

There were 15 applications for retention mainly for alteration of the internal layout. Additional information was requested in 24 cases and supplied for 31 applications; further clarification was requested in 5 cases.

112 decisions were made, of these 91 were granted permission and 21 were refused.

27 decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanala; of these 10 were 1st party appeals against either refusal for permission or the conditions imposed by the planning department of the County Council.

There were 17 3rd party appeals against the grant of permission by the County Council.

We lodged appeals in 4 cases and sent in submissions relating to a further 3 cases. I shall elaborate on some of these appeals later.

An Bord Pleanala handed down 25 decisions, of these 17 had previously been granted permission by the Council and were upheld by the Bord. 8 were refused permission by the Bord. We are waiting for decisions on 2 cases.

I will now comment on several applications that are of particular interest:

### **1) The Tramyard**

This site had seen previous applications for a large apartment complex with underground car parking, one in June 99 and another in April 2001. Both of these applications were substantially the same, and both were eventually appealed to Bord Pleanala. Both times the Bord refused permission on the grounds of inappropriate design and excessive bulk in relation to the special nature of Castle St and the failure of the design to integrate with the town centre

In June 2004, a proposal was lodged for 28 apartments and 6 commercial units, a children's play area, a facsimile tram, and an underground car park.

We were concerned again by the design and the bulk of the proposal amongst other

problems. The application was refused as it was considered that it would constitute a form of development out of character and unsympathetic to its location in a Conservation area in the centre of a Heritage Town and in close proximity to protected structures.

However, another application for a similar development was made in November 2004 and we felt that the scale, design and bulk of the proposal were still unacceptable. We therefore lodged our objections but the planning department subsequently granted permission for the development. We lodged an appeal with Bord Pleanala who refused permission in October 2005 despite their Inspector recommending permission albeit with additional conditions.

Later in October 2005, another application was lodged for 23 apartments and one retail space over a basement car park in 3 three-storey blocks. Again we felt that the scale and height were excessive in addition to overlooking and overshadowing of properties on St Patrick's Rd and White's Villas as well as other concerns and we lodged our observations to the Planning Department. However, the planning department granted permission which was subsequently appealed to Bord Pleanala in March 2006. This application was withdrawn by the developers in June and then lodged a further similar application with the planning department later that month. This was granted by the planners, but was appealed to Bord Pleanala by the developer and by ourselves in November 06. We are awaiting a decision any day now as it has been delayed on two occasions this year by the Bord.

## **2) Santa Maria**

An application was lodged in December 2005 for a development of 24 units consisting of 5 terraced mews dwellings and 10 2-storey over basement houses and 9 apartments on a site at the rear of Santa Maria, a protected structure.

There was considerable opposition to the development from the residents and we wrote to the planning department supporting them and outlining our concerns. The planners decided to grant permission in May 2006 which was appealed by several residents and ourselves.

We were notified by the residents later that month about the wide scale clearance of the site with the removal of most of the mature trees and vegetation despite the application being under appeal. The planning department, the Conservation officer, local Councillors, the Cathaoirleach and Bord Pleanala were all notified to no avail- the destruction of the site continued.

In January of this year, Bord Pleanala granted permission, although their inspector did pass comment that the clearance of the site was reprehensible.

Subsequently the developers, having been granted planning permission, have put the site on the market. We believe that if the site is sold on, there may be a further application for a change in the permission granted..

## **3) Castlepark School**

Widespread concerns were raised when Castlepark School submitted plans in 2005 for a major upgrading of the school buildings as well as a proposal for 81 residential units

in 8 blocks, several being 4 and 5 stories high and one of 7 stories, all over basement car parks. The proposal also included the use of the cul-de-sacs, Castle Close and Castlelands for the access and exit from the development.

We considered that by reason of its scale, mass, bulk, height and inappropriate design that the proposal compromised the surrounding architecture and would be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area

There are no developments of this scale and height in Dalkey, the only designated Heritage Town in County Dublin and it is obvious that the proposed development did not respect the existing built form, character and heritage of Dalkey.

The scale of the proposal (81 units) was totally out of character with the surrounding scale of previous developments and would pose major problems with the immediate infrastructure in terms of traffic management, water supply and sewage disposal facilities.

The residential amenity of the surrounding houses would be compromised in terms of increased traffic volumes and over-looking of the rear of houses and gardens in Hyde Rd, Castlelands, Castleland Grove and Castle Close. In addition, the sylvan setting of the school and surrounding houses would be largely removed by the proposal.

In May 2006, Bord Pleanala refused permission for the development on the grounds of its scale and form that would be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area; the Bord's planning inspector commented that the proposed development would set an unwelcome precedent for similar infill schemes in proximity to established residential properties.

The Board also considered that the proposed development, being located within the attendant grounds of a Protected Structure and within its visual envelope would, by reason of its height and scale, result in an unacceptable visual intrusion into the character and setting of the Protected Structure of Castlepark School.

Thirdly, the Board also ruled that the mature trees on the site comprised a significant ecological feature in the local landscape, and comprised a passive amenity resource both for the school and for the surrounding area. The County Council's Development Plan states that trees, groups of trees or woodlands which form a significant feature in the landscape, or which are important in setting the character or ecology of an area, shall be preserved wherever possible. The proposed development, by reason of its form and layout, would have resulted in the loss or removal of a significant number of mature trees from the site, which would have seriously injured the visual and residential amenities of the site and property in its vicinity. The proposed development was therefore considered to be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Finally, Bord Pleanala also decided that the proposed development would have a significant and adverse impact on public safety by reason of a traffic hazard, having regard to the proposal to route all construction traffic, and subsequent vehicular traffic, through existing cul-de-sacs of established residential schemes.

#### **4) Mackey's Garden Centre**

Residents in the Castlepark area were understandably worried when an application for 56 apartments, gymnasium and swimming pool was lodged in December.

The two garden centres on Castlepark Rd had been sold to a developer during the year and the application was for a large development on the site of 0.6 hectares.

Again residents in Castle Close, Castlepark Rd and Hyde Rd will be directly affected by this proposal for two 4-storey blocks of apartments, which raise similar concerns as those for the development in Castlepark School i.e. inappropriate architecture, overlooking, and traffic issues etc.

We and the local residents voiced our concerns to the planning department and are now awaiting their decision.

#### **5) Sports ground, Hyde Rd**

Dalkey United lodged an application for an upgrade of the facilities including an all weather pitch in August 2005. This was refused permission by D.R. C.C. in 2006 and was later appealed by the club. Bord Pleanala refused permission in September 2006 ruling that having regard to the configuration of the proposed playing pitch which would bring the play area closer to the boundaries of residential properties, the loss of trees along the southern boundary of the site, the direction of play and the absence of an adequate runoff area behind the goal posts, it was considered that the proposed development would seriously injure the residential amenities of property in the vicinity.

The County Council is the owner of the playing field and had met with the residents during the course of the applications for development by the football club; it has therefore decided to upgrade the park itself and has put forward a draft proposal which it has discussed with the residents of the surrounding area. There is some disagreement particularly in connection with the proposal for an all weather pitch, but there is on-going consultation with the residents. A children's' playground has been included in the design, which is to be welcomed. A further proposal will be put out to public consultation in the near future.

#### **6) Dalkey Lodge Nursing Home**

In April 2006, an application for the demolition of the existing nursing home and the erection of 15 three storey terraced houses, including revised site access was lodged. We were concerned that the terraced houses would intrude into the views from Dalkey Hill and Killiney Hill Park in addition to our concern that the proposal was not sympathetic to the surrounding architecture and would dominate the adjacent single storey quarry workers' cottages. The County Council granted permission, which we and one resident appealed to Bord Pleanala. In January of this year, the Bord decided to grant permission considering that the proposed development is compatible with the mixed character of the surrounding area and will not have an adverse effect on visual or residential amenities. The density of the scheme, they believe, is in accordance with the policies of the Residential Density Guidelines and the County Development plan. They considered that the development would not result in a traffic hazard. Accordingly, permission was recommended subject to conditions.

## **7) Linden Lodge**

In June an application for the partial demolition of the existing period house and the construction of 24 apartments in 3 and 4 storey blocks over an underground car park was lodged. The site is less than half an acre.

We wrote to the planning authorities expressing our concerns about the over development of the site, the inappropriate design, and over looking and over shadowing of existing buildings. We were particularly concerned about the traffic implications for the area as the site is near the dangerous junction of Castlepark Rd and Barnhill Rd. Permission was refused for reasons similar to ours. In November, another application was lodged for the demolition of the entire house and the construction of 24 apartments; again it was refused permission, but the developer has appealed to Bord Pleanala. We have sent in our concerns about the development to the Bord; a decision is due later this year.

## **8) Proposed Phone Mast at Dalkey Garda Station**

During last summer, an application for a phone mast of greater size than the present one at the Dalkey Garda barracks was lodged with the County Council planning department.

There was widespread local opposition which culminated with a picket outside the barracks from 4th July. On 20th July a public meeting was held which was very well attended by residents of Dalkey and several local councillors and TDs. In October, DLRCC refused permission for the mast on the grounds that it was inappropriate adjacent to a protected structure. A further site notice was erected in November, but no plans were lodged with the County Council. An application was lodged in January of this year but was later deemed invalid. We are very appreciative of the work of the group led by Oliver McCabe of Dalkey Business Association in keeping us all informed of the issue and for organizing the public meeting.

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 to find out if the proposal will affect your property.

The applicant must lodge the plans within the following 14 days of erection of 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-euro 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 euros.

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

As representatives of Dalkey, we continue to be concerned about the number of applications for the demolition of viable buildings and the construction of apartments on these sites, often with the destruction of the wooded setting. We believe there is a steady erosion of the setting of Dalkey which we believe is at variance to the County Development Plan and is to be condemned.

We will continue to try to preserve our beautiful town and would appreciate your comments on these matters.

I should finally like to thank the members of the planning group who have worked throughout the year on your behalf.

**Dr Susan McDonnell**  
*(Chairman, DCC)*



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