**News from the PCA**

**Trouble Free Summer on the Velvet Strand.**

As you are reading this news item summer 2014 will have gone and hopefully we might be enjoying an ‘Indian summer’. The weather may not have been as good as 2013 but there were several very nice beach days. It was great to see so many families enjoying our Velvet Strand. The PCA are delighted that Portmarnock did not make the headlines for the wrong reasons this summer as happened in two previous years. We generally had a trouble free summer on our beach, golf course and bus stops thanks to the excellent work done by the gardaí whose presence in large numbers on beach days certainly prevented any outbreak of anti-social behaviour. The confiscation of large amounts of alcohol from youths by the gardaí as groups made their way from the station or alighted from the buses was a major factor in preventing trouble arising. The PCA have written to Malahide Garda Station and the Chief Superintendent in Coolock expressing the appreciation of our community for their excellent work. We are only too well aware that garda resources are currently stretched to the limit as a result of government cut backs.

Our thanks to the Fingal workers who kept the litter under control when large crowds visited our beach throughout the summer.

**Reviewing the PCA Articles of Association**

The PCA are currently reviewing the constitution of the PCA with the intention of having a new constitution ready for our AGM in early December. A Special AGM will be called in October when a lot of the groundwork has been completed. We are very keen to make contact with people who drafted the original Articles of Association in 1976 or indeed residents who were members of any of the respective residents associations that existed in Portmarnock for many years. The PCA are of the opinion that we should no longer remain a limited company. Please call us or email us at the numbers below if you can help us in any way with revising the constitution.

**Environmental Matters**

Well done to all individuals and groups who helped to keep their ‘patches’ looking bright and beautiful throughout the summer. Portmarnock really looked glowing as one walked around the estates. The presence of flower beds on the grass margins, the cutting of edges and regular grass cutting by residents was clearly evident. Our two community workers Paul and Imelda kept the litter under control in all the public areas. Our thanks to all the volunteers who turned out every fortnight for the clean-up of beach/dunes and other black spots. The management and staff of Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links provided us with tea/coffee and scones after each clean-up. We wish the new owners of the hotel every success and are confident they will continue to provide refreshments after the clean-ups as well as other facilities for the PCA!

Portmarnock Village never looked better and the floral displays have given it a very welcome facelift. The inaugural Portmarnock Village Day was an outstanding success and was blessed by glorious sunshine. We are confident that Portmarnock will do well in the Tidy Towns competition next year and will someday be able to match Malahide!

Southern Cross Day now in its third year was again very successful and the hotel setting this year was an excellent location. The sunshine, music and song made for a great community day as well as the food and beverages supplied by the hotel staff!

However we were disappointed with Final County Council for allowing our large green areas to grow into ‘meadowland’ in June and July. The grass needed to be cut weekly during these months. We have previously informed FCC that these areas are unsuitable for meadowland as they are the principal play spaces for many of the younger children. Otherwise they will have to resort to playing football on the streets which would be much more dangerous.

**New Members**

The PCA are very keen to recruit new members before our AGM. The association needs new blood if it is to remain vibrant association and face the challenges that lay ahead. Younger members would be particularly welcome. The committee meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Links Hotel at 8.00PM. So why not give us a call if you would be willing to serve for even one year on our committee.

**Contacting the PCA**

**If you wish to contact the PCA about any issues you can call us at 087 3858254 and leave a message or email us at** **portmarnock1@gmail.com****. Our website is: www.portmarnock.org.**