**News from the PCA**

**Spring Clean Day and Clean Coast Day**

Portmarnock Spring Clean Day took place on Saturday 12th April and Clean Coast Day was on Saturday 10th May. These are two big days in in the PCA environmental calendar. The former marks the beginning of our fortnightly clean-up of beach/dunes and other black spots and continues to the beginning of November. We were delighted with the turn out on both days and were fortunate that the elements were in our favour. On Clean Coast Day some of our volunteers were interviewed by RTE and were on air later in the week. Both events are promoted by An Taisce. They encourage communities to take ownership and pride in their local environment.

Litter is still a huge problem and the war against it is a constant battle. For a country like Ireland that constantly boasts of its green image we still fall far behind other countries in keeping our environment clean. While those countries take the enforcement of litter bye- laws seriously this is certainly not the case in Ireland. Litter wardens are very thin on the ground (six in the whole of Fingal !!). Maybe more litter wardens would offer greater value for your money than increasing the number of councillors. The government promised 80% of your property tax would go to local authorities to provide better services. Instead it went to pay the bond holders!!

Dog fouling is still a problem. We would appeal to people not to dispose of their ‘pooping plastic bags’ anywhere on the ground or in trees/hedgerows as these bags are not biodegradable. Bring them home or to the nearest pooper bins.

The Tidy Towns and Beach/Dunes clean- up are from 10.00AM -11.30A.M on Saturday morning. Meet at the kiosk on promenade. The next three are 7thJune, 21st June and 7th July. Refreshments in hotel provided afterwards courtesy of the hotel.

We wish to thank all our volunteers who turned out on both Saturdays for the clean-up and a special word of thanks to Oliver, Ludmila and staff in Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links for providing us with tea/Coffee and scones afterwards.

**Adopting a Patch**

Has your street or estate ‘**adopted a patch’** yet? It is obvious some communities have and their good work is evident as you walk around Portmarnock. While we welcome the clearing of shrubberies by FCC we felt it was regrettable that the ground was not prepared for seeding afterwards. Efforts to get top soil from the Council for some of the shrubberies in Martello and Wendell Avenue proved in vain due to lack of funds. If somebody in the community can source some top soil please contact us. It costs between €350 and €600 a ton to buy from commercial outlets!

**Meeting between the PCA and Fingal County Council**

A deputation of five people from the PCA met with members of Fingal County Council on Wednesday 8th May in Baldoyle library prior to the Area Committee meeting. The main purpose of these meetings according to FCC is

‘To facilitate resident association groups to come in and meet with council officials to discuss their local issues that would be under the charge of the council…’

Councillors from the Howth/Malahide Ward also attend these meetings. The agenda from the residents association must be submitted 10 days before the meeting. The PCA agenda for the meeting was:

* **Will FCC make sure that the Deed of Dedication pertaining to the dunes, rights of way on Portmarnock Golf Links, boundary fence and lands to the west of Golf Links Rd are fully completed before the sale of the hotel and golf course takes place?**
* **What plans have FCC for upgrading toilets, promenade and bandstand overlooking the Velvet Strand?**
* **Could FCC improve traffic management in Portmarnock especially in the following areas: Lower Wendell Avenue, junction between Carrick hill Rise and Dunes Stores and the synchronisation of traffic lights between Strand Rd. and Carrickhill Rd.**
* **What criteria are used in the Planning Department in FCC in determining the building lines on infill sites when granting permission for development on these sites?**
* **What enforcement methods are used by FCC in making sure that their bye-laws are fully complied with by members of the public?**
* **Can the foot path on Blackwood Lane be completed as a matter of urgency?**

The meeting lasted for forty five minutes. Further information on the outcome will be in the next edition of Progress.

**Contact the PCA**

**If you have issues you want addressed or suggestions for the PCA why not contact us at our email:portmarnock1@gmail.com or on our mobile 087 385 8254. New members are always welcome to join us.**