**News from the PCA**

**What a summer!**

When we had almost despaired of ever seeing a summer again in this part of the world July turned out to be one of the hottest months on record! Temperatures soared to over 30C in some parts of the country. Roscommon recorded the highest where barometers soared to 30.5C How delightful it was to see so many thousands visiting Portmarnock daily and enjoying our lovely beach. Costa del Sol had come to North Dublin! Let’s hope there is more to come and an Indian summer might be on its way in the autumn!

**Combatting anti-social behaviour**

What was even more gratifying to observe was that families and individuals enjoyed their day or days in Portmarnock without the threat of anti-social behaviour or a repeat of the terrible events of 30th May. The presence of the gardai on the promenade and at other locations had a huge impact in preventing alcohol from being taken on to the beach and dunes. The PCA wrote to the superintendent at Coolock Garda Station thanking him for the garda presence throughout the heat wave and for confiscating alcohol from individuals and groups. Word spread very quickly through social media that Portmarnock was not a place to bring alcohol. We are aware that many locals thanked the gardai for the work they were doing. Further problems were prevented at bus stops as people left to go home in the evening. Parking chaos was also averted by the placing of bollards on Wendell Avenue and on Strand Rd. The parking of cars on the green area in Lower Wendell, while some residents may not approved of it, certainly helped to alleviate the congestion and didn’t do any harm to the grass as the ground was very hard.(See photo)

One very shocking incident during July was the attempted burning of the historic thatched cottage on Strand Rd by a gang of ‘thugs’ on their way home from the beach. Except for the bravery and quick thinking of neighbours and passers-by that stopped and helped the homeowner until the fire brigade arrived, the cottage would have been engulfed in flames and destroyed. Similar individuals set fire to parts of our dunes as well as Howth Summit during the summer.

Litter continued to be a serious problem on our beach and dunes after the sun seekers went home. Until such time as a determined effort is made to enforce our litter bye- laws with appropriate penalties the problem will continue to exist throughout our lovely country. There should have been more litter bins and more litter wardens on duty along our beach when thousands were present. But even with litter bins nearby some people still disposed of their litter on the ground where they pitched themselves.

The work done by the refuse workers from FCC has to be acknowledged especially on the promenade and upper part of the beach. In particular the PCA want to thank Joe Smith, Lar Daley, Joe Lambe and Derek McBride who worked tirelessly to keep the litter under control! The main black spots were in the dunes and the lower end of beach. During our fortnightly clean-up we collected up to 25 bags of litter from the dunes in the middle of July!! Can you imagine any other part of Europe or the wider world that would leave so much litter behind them? The litter problem in Ireland was also a major topic on the radio during the good weather with listeners expressing strong views on what should be done to tackle it. Education and law enforcement are the only solution to this blight on our beautiful landscape with priority given to the latter. In the meantime we learned that our property tax that was ‘ring fenced ’for local authorities is now being used to pay the bond holders!!

**Monster Sewage Treatment Plant**

Residents are probably now well aware that Clonshaugh, between Baskin Lane and the N32, has been selected as the site most favoured for the Monster Sewage Treatment Plant. It is estimated that the plant itself will be three times the size of Croke Park! The PCA have made a very comprehensive submission to the Greater Dublin Draining Project Team outlining our concerns about the project and have asked that a number issues be taken into consideration in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The deadline for EIS submissions was 2nd August 2013. Application for planning approval for the Project will go to An Board Pleanala in early 2014 and if planning permission was granted it is expected to start construction in 2017.The project is still at the pre-planning stage. Some people favour a network of smaller local plants rather than a large regional plant. You can read our full submission on our **website.www.portmarnock.org.** More information available at [**www.greaterdublindrainage.com**](http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com)**.**  and **info@greaterdublindrainage.ie****. Tel. 1890`44 55 67.**

**Beach/Dunes Clean-up**

The clean-up of beach/dunes and other black spots has continued throughout the summer every fortnight. Volunteers meet at the kiosk on the promenade at 10.00AM on Saturday morning. Refreshments are provided after clean-up at 11.45AM I Portmarnock Hotel and Golf links courtesy of Oliver and his staff. Dates for September are Saturday 7thand 21st.

**Contacting PCA**

Why not contact us with your views about issues in our community through our email: portmarnock1@gmail.com. Website: **www.portmarnock.org**