**News from the PCA**

**PCA Facebook and Tidy Towns**

The PCA have two Facebook pages,’Portmarnock Community Association’ and ‘Tidy Towns Portmarnock’. You can visit both our pages and ‘Like’ to receive all the latest PCA and Tidy Towns news as well as notices of upcoming local events

Readers are aware from the previous edition of Progress that a Tidy Towns committee has been formed and we are entering Portmarnock into the 2015 Tidy Towns competition. It was decided at our last meeting that Tidy Towns would be a subcommittee of the PCA for the moment rather than being an independent body as we already have public liability insurance. All entrants to the competition receive a detailed report from the judging panel so that this will act as a benchmark to find how how much improvement works need to be done if they are to be more successful in 2016.

 This year the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government launched a new initiative called the SuperValu Diversity Award, which recognises the benefits, that embracing diversity and working across generations brings to communities. It will reward the committee based on how they try to involve all of the community in the work of Tidy Towns. The efforts to include everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity or ability are what are rewarded. This year SuperValu have also included a Youth Award. This aims to celebrate the contribution of young people to Tidy Towns activities and to encourage greater youth involvement with tidy Towns groups

In Portmarnock we are fortunate to have the support of the business community in this year’s competition. Local traders on Facebook ‘Love Portmarnock’ have already made huge strides in showing off and promoting the village as is evident from floral displays and Portmarnock Village days which will take place on the 11th June of this year

Many estates are already very well maintained and are a credit to volunteers working to enhance them. Why not send pictures of your patch to tidytownsportmarnock@gmail.com and we will display them on Facebook.

Keep Portmarnock Beautiful……..engage with Tidy Towns to enhance our environment!!

**Spring Clean Day**

The PCA which to thank all our volunteers who turned out for Spring Clean Day on Saturday 18th April. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day. While our beach/dunes were quite clean, by far the blackest spot in all of the public areas was the bottle and clothes banks in the car park overlooking the community fields. It was a real eyesore. Broken glass, bottle tops, cans, bottles and household waste were in abundance. The PCA subsequently contacted our local councillor and FCC to establish whose responsibility it is for keeping this area clean. We were informed that the contractors for bottle and clothes banks must make sure the area is cleaned up after the removal of bottles and clothes. However they are not obliged to remove household waste. This is the responsibility of FCC .Ideally there should be CCTV cameras overlooking bottle and clothes banks so as to identify the culprits for bringing household waste to these sites.

We wish to thank the Manager and staff of Portmarnock Hotel and Golf links for providing us with tea/coffee, sandwiches and scones after our Spring Clean had finished

**Meeting of Joint Policing committee**

Representatives of the PCA attended a public meeting of the Joint Policing Committee in Malahide library on Wednesday 15th April. The JPC is made up of gardaí, councillors, members of the Oireachtais and FCC. These meetings are open to the public and are held twice yearly. Any matter pertaining to policing can be raised at these meetings. We were assured that there would a strong presence of gardaí in Portmarnock and other sea side resorts again this summer on days when large crowds were expected. Superintendent Ronan Galligan said that last year’s garda operation in this area was ‘very successful’ and said his officers intended to continue to police any anti-social behaviour this summer with as much severity.

‘**The consumption of alcohol on public beaches will not be tolerated and we will make sure that message is very clear’ he said.**

The gardai showed pictures to the press of the alcohol they confiscated last summer. They told the meeting that they were working in close cooperation with Irish rail and Dublin bus to tackle this growing problem.

**SEAI-better Energy Communities**

Would anyone in our community be interested in getting together to retrofit their houses? Several communities around the country have already done this. If you want to participate you can contact us by email **at** **portmarnock1@gmail.com**

**Bee Watchers!**

Some in our community are concerned about the declining bee population. They are encouraging residents to plant bee friendly plants in their garden as bees are required to pollinate plants. There are large amounts of wild flowers growing on our greens areas and the prevalence of cowslips in some areas is very noticeable this year

**Contacting the PCA**

**If you wish to contact the PCA on any matter why not call us at 087 3858254 (leave message) or email portmarnock1@gmail.com. Don’t forget to use our Facebook!!**