**News from the PCA**

**Application for Foreshore Licence for Portmarnock Outfall**

In last month’s edition of Progress it was stated that Greater Dublin Drainage had made a submission for a Foreshore licence from the Department of the Environment which was on display in Swords Garda Station. This was incorrect as the application by GDD was for investigative work only. An application will eventually be made to An Board Pleanala probably in 2016 for the construction of the giant sewage plant at Clonshaugh and the pipeline outfall at Portmarnock . However the PCA did send in a submission to the Marine Planning-Foreshore Unit based in Wexford before the closing date of 21st January expressing our concerns about aspects of the pipeline. As stated in last month’s Progress the pipeline will be drilled beneath the Baldoyle estuary which is an SAC (Special Area of Conservation). This is certainly the most ecologically sensitive part of the proposed pipeline. We are also of the opinion that the pipeline should extend much further out to sea than what is being proposed in the submission by GDD. The sewage will not be treated to tertiary standards.

**Upgrading of Toilets and Shelter**

The upgrading of beach toilets will probably be completed and open to the public by the time you are reading this news item. This was long overdue and hopefully there will be no further sewage problems arising as a result of this work. It goes without saying that the shelter/bandstand is an eyesore and has been very badly neglected over the years. We are delighted to report that work will commence shortly on giving it a much needed facelift. As soon as the remedial work has been carried out on the floor, seating and back wall an appropriate mural will be painted behind the pillars.

**Eco-Eye on Portmarnock Beach**

 On a related matter the PCA were delighted along with other groups including students from the Portmarnock Community School to facilitate the filming of part of an **ECO-EYE** programme recently from the Velvet Strand. There were a number of activities filmed including a beach clean-up by our volunteers as well as a swimming display by the daily swimmers. The programme mainly concentrated on the presence of **microbeads** in our oceans. **Microbeads** are tiny synthetic plastic particles used as an abrasive in many personal care and beauty products such as facial scrubs, soaps, shampoos and toothpastes. These particles don’t dissolve and are so small that even waste water treatment plants can’t filter them. Duncan Steward joined us afterwards for tea/coffee and scones in Portmarnock Hotel and Golf links. The presence of **microbeads** in sea water due to domestic discharges has become a very serious danger to marine life. Our thanks to Annabel and Clean Coast Ireland for helping with this excellent environmental programme

**Neighbourhood Watch Update**

At a meeting of Neighbourhood Watch last month our PCA representative informed us that **10** burglaries took place in Portmarnock during January covering Blackwood Lane, Briar Walk,Portmarnock Crescent(2),St Anne’s, Martello Court, Hazel Court, Hazel Grove, the Dunes and Hillcrest. Car keys and cars were taken in two of the burglaries.

In addition there was one incident of a counterfeit €20 being tendered in a business transaction.

From this information the need for vigilance on all our parts is essential and the extension of **Text Alert** into other areas ever more urgent

**Station Car Park**

The PCA have written to Irish Rail asking for information about the future of the car park at the station. It would cause enormous inconvenience to commuters if the capacity of the car park was to be reduced. There are several days when the car park is full to capacity. The land for the car park was only leased by Irish Rail from the developer. At the time of writing the overflow car park is still in use and part of the new car park has been opened for parking.

**Parking on grass margins**

Again we would appeal to motorists to refrain from parking on grass margins outside of people’s homes. For residents on lower Wendell Avenue this is a serious problem. As Wendell Avenue is the main entrance to Martello for cars, buses and commercial vehicles double yellow lines on both sides of the road hopefully would end this problem.

**Sunrise over Portmarnock**

The PCA are very grateful to Eddie Delahunty for continuing to email us his really stunning photographs of ‘**Sunrise over Portmarnock’** as well as other beautiful pictures of the Velvet Strand. Some of his shots are included in Catherine and Betty’s recent book ‘**Portmarnock Uncovered’** and can also be viewed in our photo gallery on our website at **wwww.portmarnock.org**. If you would like to get some of his photos please send us your email.

**Subscription to the PCA**

The annual family subscription to the PCA is €20. We don’t do a house to house collection as we just haven’t the time or personnel to do it. A number of people paid at our AGM in December and we wish to thank them for doing so. If you would like to renew your subscription to the PCA or wish to join the association you can contact us by calling **087 3858254 or email** **portmarnock1@gmail.com****.** PCA subscriptions can be sent to: **The Treasurer, Ivy lodge, Strand Rd, Portmarnock. Co Dublin**.

**You can visit our website at: www.portmarnock.org**