**FEBRUARY 2016**

 **PCA EGM and EGM**

Let me start by wishing all in our community a very happy and peaceful new year. At the time of writing our country is inundated with water. December has been the wettest month on record according to the Met Office. Several homes have been destroyed with flood water and families evacuated mainly in the south, west and midlands. Luckily in Dublin we have escaped the worst of the storms and the floods.

Our AGM and EGM took place on Monday 30th November in Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links. As outlined in a previous edition of Progress the purpose of the EGM was to reverse the decision taken at last year’s EGM. The proposal put to the meeting to change the PCA from a company limited by guarantee (CLG) to an unincorporated body was carried unanimously. Our Memos and Articles of Association were replaced by a new constitution very similar to most other residents associations. Andrew Rittweger, our accountant, subsequently undertook to wind up the company pro bono with the Companies Office. A copy of the New Constitution was given to everybody at the meeting. It is now available on our website under  the " About Us" tab

 The attendance at the AGM was up on previous years. The chairman in his address to the meeting outlined the main issues tackled by the PCA in the last year. He said the entry to the national Tidy Towns completion was their greatest achievement. While we did not expect to win any medals this year the remarks of the adjudicators would form a template for us to build in future competitions. To be successful in the Tidy Towns competition a real community effort is needed and he said it was evident from this year’s effort that the people of Portmarnock were more than willing to respond to the call! The chairman thanked all who helped even in the smallest way with this project. He said a meeting with the representatives from Fingal County Council would take place shortly and a strategy would be put in place with their cooperation and hopefully with some financial backing from them.

An excellent Tidy Towns presentation was subsequently made to the meeting by our coordinator, Pat Suttle.

The Chairman said that the proposed Lidl development on the old Tin Church site was another major issue for the community this year. The PCA had attended the public meetings in the Parish Centre and had sent in three submissions to FCC. Our concerns about this development have been outlined in previous editions of Progress and are available on the website. All the documentation pertaining to this development is available on Fingal website**: Ref f15A/0265**

He told the meeting that the new parallel runway at Dublin Airport was now very much back in the news recently with the increase in passenger numbers in 2015 to almost 23.5 million. The PCA would insist that the previous 31 conditions set down by An Board Pleanala in 2009 when granting permission would be strictly adhered to by the DAA if they decide to proceed with it in the near future.

He said that burglaries were on the increase in Portmarnock and the extension of Neighbourhood Watch into other communities this year was very welcome. The chairman said that the closure of the overflow car park at Portmarnock Station during the year inconvenienced commuters enormously and made no sense as motorists are being constantly told to park and ride. The PCA had written to Irish Rail (Iarnoid Eireann) expressing our anger at the decision to close the car park.

In conclusion he thanked Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links for providing their facilities to the PCA pro bono during the year. He thanked the volunteers who helped with Tidy Towns and with the fortnightly clean-ups of the beach and other black spots. Finally he thanked the committee for their support and help during the year and wished the new chairman, Pat Suttle, and the committee every success in the coming year

**Lidl Development**

On 2nd December Fingal County Council made a decision to grant permission for this development. This came as no surprise to the PCA. It was very clear from the response to the additional information made by the applicant on 6th November that FCC regarded this additional information to be **of significant nature** even though only 10 additional car par parking spaces were added from the 25 sought by the Planning Authority. 20 Conditions and reasons were set down by FCC when granting permission. The reader can check out these conditions by accessing Fingal website: **Registered reference is F15A/0265 or going into our PCA website: www.portmarnock.org.**A public meeting**w**as subsequently held in the Parish Centre and a decision was taken to make an Appeal to An Board Pleanala. The PCA as well as at least two other groups made an Appeal to ABP. The final date for making this appeal to ABP was Thursday 7th January 2016. An extension of 9 days was given under planning regulations due to Christmas holidays. The main points put forward by the PCA in our submission   to the Board were:

**1 The scale of the development**

**2 Major traffic congestion on Strand Rd**

**3 Inadequacy of parking spaces**

**4 Safety factors especially for children and others**

It should be noted that when ALDI were refused permission by ABP to build a supermarket near White Sand Hotel traffic congestion especially in summer was one of the reasons put forward by ABP for refusing permission. Aldi, after looking at a number of other locations in Malahide and Portmarnock prior to putting in their application to FCC, felt that the Old Tin Church site was not a suitable for a supermarket, **due to the surrounding roads to be of substandard quality**. A decision will be made by ABP within 14 weeks of the appeals.

**Bag Packing Fundraising for PCA/Tidy Towns**

The PCA would like to thank all who supported our bag packing fundraiser in Dunne’s Stores on the week-end of Friday 11th December 2015. We raised over €2000. This has now become our main source of finance as it far outstrips subscriptions from households. The funds raised will go to some of our Tidy Towns expenses over the next year. We are very grateful to the students in Portmarnock Community School who helped us on the Friday and to the volunteers who acted as supervisors and bag packers over the week-end .Our thanks to the management of Dunne’s Stores who were delighted to provide us with this facility for fund raising.

The PCA wish to thank all who paid the €20 household subscription at our AGM or subsequently. If you would like to pay the annual subscription you can send it to our Treasurer, David Kelly, Ivy Lodge, Strand Rd, Portmarnock. Being a paid up member allows for full membership of the PCA.

**PCA Website/Facebook**

Our website has been given a much overdue facelift. It provides links to several other organisations inside and outside our community. We are delighted to see more and more people using our Facebook page to voice their opinions about issues in our community. A resident recently posted a comment about the increase in airport noise in lower Portmarnock over Christmas. We were able to give her the complaint number to contact at Dublin Airport **1800200034** and assure her the matter would be investigated and a written reply would be send to her.

**Our website is: www.portmarnock.org. You can email us at****portmarnock1@gmail.com****or by calling us at 087 3858254 (leave a message).**