



The Malahide Guardian

Newsletter of the Malahide Community Forum

May 2011 / Issue 32

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Any future for Casino?



Casino in its prime

The unsightly hoardings have been taken down and the original house at Casino can be seen again. However it was only after Fingal County Council commenced legal proceedings against its owner, Gannon Homes, that some action was taken.

For several years the Forum has been concerned about the deterioration of the house, which has been vacant since 2000. We expressed our concern continuously to Fingal County Council and lobbied organisations such as An Taisce, Dublin Tourism and the Heritage Council. We remain concerned that unless radical action is taken Casino will fall into complete disrepair, making it uneconomical to restore or, at worst, - as has happened to similar properties elsewhere, - it will be destroyed by vandalism or fire.

But what can be done? The building is now effectively owned by NAMA since the bank loans of Gannon Homes were transferred to that agency. Permission had been granted to convert the house for use as a restaurant but the

present economic climate rules out that use. Nor are there any state funds available to restore the house to its original condition.

Is there any purpose to which this jewel of a building could be put for the people and community of Malahide? Almost 40 years ago the bold and enlightened decision was taken to acquire Malahide Castle and its grounds from the Talbot family. It was an investment that has yielded extraordinary benefits to the community.

Could a similar but much smaller investment be made to safeguard Casino if a purpose for it could be identified? Without an appropriate combination of purpose and finance it is inevitable that Casino will disappear from the Malahide landscape – and sooner rather than later.

Water problems continue

Water problems persist, as many of us were reminded on Sunday 10 April when supplies were cut off without warning during mid afternoon and not restored until midnight. There had been excessive demand on the local reservoir, possibly from garden hosing as no leak could be found in mains. There was no alternative but to shut down supply until such time as the reservoir was replenished.

Water supply in Malahide will remain very precarious until the reservoir has been extended later this year. Meanwhile it's in our own self interest to be very careful of the way in which we use water, especially during the summer months.



Be Independent Home Care is a Malahide based provider of premium Home Care and Home Help services owned and managed by Nurses. We have trained a dedicated team of qualified carers who provide one-on-one, assistance, support and care to clients in their own home, helping them retain their independence and individuality. Tax relief can be claimed at up to 41% making this an extremely cost effective care solution.

Contact us in Malahide on (01) 8283030 or visit www.beindependenthomecare.ie

Shuttle

Last autumn, we were hopeful of a positive decision on a licence for Malahide Shuttle from the new National Transport Authority (NTA); our optimism was based on statements the NTA had made that they would 'place the consumers' interests at the heart of decision making'. Sadly, this optimism was misplaced; the application was refused on more or less the same grounds as the Department of Transport had refused it last year – protection of Dublin Bus.

We have appealed the refusal and are awaiting the result of this appeal.

The Shuttle website is kept up to date. Keep an eye on it for the latest news at www.malahideshuttle.ie

Tidy Town

The Tidy Towns group remains very active. Once the construction work has been completed in the railway station, it is planned to re-open the Heritage Garden.

Application has been made to Fingal County Council for numerous wildlife signs and seating benches to be installed in various areas from the western end of the Broadmeadows Estuary out as far as Robswall. The Bee Garden in the Library grounds has been spring-cleaned.

It is planned to run a series of weekly clean-ups around the centre of Malahide and outer areas, commencing in late May on Saturday mornings at 10.00 am, with an anticipated duration of two hours. The gathering spot will be the Ammonite Statue on the Green and further details will be announced later.

Cricket Grounds

The next phase of the expansion of Malahide Cricket Club grounds will take place during late summer and early autumn. This will involve ground works to develop a newly expanded pitch, and a second pitch in order to ensure the club has enough ground capacity for its own fixtures as well as for international matches.

The outline of the second pitch has already been marked out in the Lady's Acre. The timing of the work has been established in order to minimise disruption to the 2011 cricket season while also ensuring that it is completed in time for autumn grass growing.

For safety and security reasons the site will be fenced off, probably from late July until spring 2012. The pedestrian pathway that runs between the present cricket grounds and the Lady's Acre will be restored on completion of the works, although to a slightly different layout.

Local Clean-ups

Any residents' associations planning a clean-up in their area and needing refuse bags and/or disposable gloves, should contact Alan Devine in Fingal County Council at (087) 6468483.

Alan will arrange for the materials to be delivered and also for collection of rubbish after the work has been completed.

Heritage Plan

Fingal County Council is in the process of drafting a new Heritage Plan for 2011-2017. Submissions are invited on how better to care for our heritage, how to improve heritage services in Fingal and how to promote Fingal's heritage generally.

Any thoughts or suggestions are welcome, either to the Forum or directly to the Council at heritage@fingalcoco.ie

Demesne Opening Hours

In response to a query at the AGM, it has been confirmed that 10.00am is the official opening hour of Malahide Demesne each morning. However, the gates at the Pavilions car-park and Bridgefield car-park are opened earlier at 8.00am to accommodate school children and workers on their journeys in the morning.

The Forum will continue to lobby for early access to all parts of the Demesne to accommodate not just school-children and workers, but also walkers, runners and people walking pets.

How to contact Malahide Community Forum

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