

## **Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...**

### Resurfacing of Monkstown village

It is great to see that the surface of the R610 through Monkstown village has finally been renewed. As was promised by Cork County Council, this resurfacing followed the laying of the broadband fibre optic cable.

However, it is terribly disappointing that traffic calming measures did not accompany the resurfacing of the village. Traffic calming in Monkstown village has been promised by the Carrigaline Area Office of Cork County Council for the past three years and it was a stated commitment of the Area Office that traffic calming would be undertaken following the resurfacing of Monkstown village. These traffic calming measures were to include gate treatment of the entrance to the village (similar to that at the entrance to Shanbally), a traffic-light controlled pedestrian crossing at the Sandquay and improvement of the pedestrian crossing at The Bosun. The Area Office has said that the necessary funds are not available at this time. The Town Council is seeking a meeting with senior officials of Cork County Council to ensure that the project is prioritised and accelerated.

### New marina for Monkstown

Planning permission has been granted for a new 80-berth marina in Monkstown. It is proposed that the marina will be situated off the R610 below Alta Terrace. Conditions attached to the grant of planning include financial contributions towards the provision of parking and traffic calming.

### Installation of broadband in Passage West and Monkstown

Installation of the new broadband cable in Monkstown is complete, while its installation in Passage West continues. Laing O'Rourke, contractors for Cork County Council, are undertaking the project in two steps. Firstly, the road is opened, ducts are laid down and the road is closed over with a temporary tarmacadam surface. The second step is the final reinstatement of the road.

Reinstatement of the Strand Road from Bunkilla to Monkstown village is complete. However, the Chapel Hill and Fairy Hill road surfaces were so poor even before the road openings that the contractors have abandoned reinstatement. They are currently in discussions with Cork County Council as to the potential for resurfacing the entire width of Chapel Hill and Fairy Hill. A decision is due later this week.

Work on Carrigmahon Hill has also been abandoned temporarily while awaiting the formal approval of a road closure to facilitate completion of the works. The one-way system the contractors have used to date will not work for the lower end of Carrigmahon Hill because the road width is not sufficient for buses to pass machinery at work. The road closure has been set for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 inclusive. When the ducting and cable are installed, Cork County Council will resurface the entire length of Carrigmahon Hill.

The walk along the railway line from Hop Island to the car park opposite Ardmore House will be closed from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> June while the broadband cable is being laid. It is most unfortunate that this closure coincides so closely with the summer. There are so few potential broadband customers along this stretch of the R610 that the economics of running the cable along the road rather than along the railway line did not stack up. However, the contractors have committed to reopening this delightful public walk as soon as possible.

### New Special Speed Limit Draft Bye-Laws

Cork County Council has published new Special Speed Limit Draft Bye-Laws. Under these proposed Bye-Laws, there will be a new speed limit of 50 km/h on the following roads in the Passage West/Monkstown area:

- Church Hill-Monastery Cross Road (L2475) from the Town Council boundary to its junction with the Rathanker Road
- The Judges Boreen Road (L24751) between its junction with the Church Hill-Monastery Cross Road and its junction with the Monastery Road-Rathanker Road
- The Rathanker-Strawhall Road (L6470) between the Town Council boundary and its junction with the Monkstown-Raffeen Road (R610)
- The Monkstown-Raffeen Road (R610) between the Town Council boundary and its junction with the Cork-Ringaskiddy Road (N28)
- The Passage West-Rochestown Road (R610) for a distance of 80 metres from the Town Council boundary
- All housing estate roads which are public roads with direct access off any of the above defined roads or with direct access off Passage West Town Council Roads.

There will be a 60 km/h limit on the following roads in the Passage West/Monkstown area:

- The Monastery Road (L2474) and its continuation as the Rathanker and Glen Road between a point 115 metres south of its junction with Rochestown Road (R610) to a point 32 metres north-west of the southern Passage West Town boundary
- The Rochestown-Passage West Road (R610) between a point 415 metres east of its junction with the Monastery Road (L2474) and a point 10 metres east of its junction with the Underwood Road (L6710).

The draft bye-laws will be finalised over the coming weeks.

With you and your support, I am working through the Passage West/Monkstown Town Council to help our community realise its potential as a place to live, work and play. Please contact me by e-mail at [info@marciadalton.net](mailto:info@marciadalton.net), by mail at 22, Hillcrest, Pembroke Wood, Passage West or by telephone 4863293 / 085-7333852.