

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...

Pollution of watercourse entering Monkstown Creek

For some time, Passage West Town Council has been concerned about pollution of the small river which enters Monkstown Creek at Raffeen Bridge. Passage West Town Council voiced this concern to Cork County Council some two years ago but, in the absence of any improvement, it has now asked the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the potential cause of this pollution. Monkstown Creek is a designated proposed Natural Heritage Area by virtue of being a valuable feeding ground for migratory waders and having a nationally significant population of breeding cormorants.

Broadband update

Laing O'Rourke and Cork County Council have entered into agreement that Laing O'Rourke should tar and chip the entire width of both Chapel Hill and Fairy Hill in Monkstown rather than just reinstate the channel dug for installation of the broadband cable. This is welcome news, as the surface of both roads is in very poor condition. Laing O'Rourke will not be carrying out final reinstatement on Carrigmahon Hill as Cork County Council plans to resurface Carrigmahon Hill in its entirety before the end of 2007.

The installation of broadband along the railway line from Hop Island to Passage West is due to cease this week and the walk will then be reopened to the public. Cork County Council is considering the laying of a new surface on this very popular walkway in the near future.

Planning application for apartments in Pembroke, Passage West

A planning application has been submitted to Cork County Council for construction of a 5-storey apartment block comprising 27 apartments on a 1.2 hectare site between Maple Rise and Harbour Heights. The proposed development also includes 10 townhouses and 54 car parking spaces. Although one side of the site borders the R610 opposite the Gerry Collins garage, it is proposed that the development should be accessed from a new vehicular entrance to be constructed at the end of Maple Rise.

Clean ups in Passage West/Monkstown

During Project 2006 last year, litterpicks were organised every Saturday morning with those taking part meeting at the Fire Station car park. Formal litterpicking events such as these have not been organised for 2007. While there has been a noticeable improvement in the cleanliness of our streets, litter continues to be one of the most evident forms of visual pollution in Passage West and Monkstown. If everybody were to spend 10 minutes cleaning 50 metres or so either side of their own front gates on a Saturday morning, the problem would soon be vastly reduced. The members of Passage West Town Council have committed to start the ball rolling by cleaning their own patches this coming Saturday morning.

New Civic Amenity Site charges

Cork County Council has issued a new schedule of charges for its amenity sites. These will take effect from 14th May and will be relevant for all users of the Raffeen Civic Amenity Site. The charges are outlined as follows:

Standard residual waste bags: €8

Residual waste accepted at Civic Amenity Sites for disposal other than bagged waste: 67 cent/kg

Waste from households

Waste electric and electronic equipment from households: Free

Single mattress: €10

Double mattress: €15

Single armchair: €10

Double armchair: €15

3-seater settee: €20

Carpet (standard size): €10

Bagged timber/green waste: €5 for 1 – 3 bags
Single axle trailer of timber/green waste: €20/trailer
Double axle trailer of timber/green waste: €40/trailer

Commercial customers – waste for recycling

Timber/green waste: €100/tonne
Glass bottles: €50/tonne
Paper/cardboard/plastic: €200/tonne
Waste electric and electronic equipment from commercial sources: €40/item

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, by mail at 22, Hillcrest, Pembroke Wood, Passage West or by telephone 4863293 / 085-7333852.