

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

### **Hope for traffic calming in Monkstown**

At last, there appears to be some hope on the horizon for traffic calming in Monkstown.

I first raised this issue in July 2004 with the Carrigaline Area Office. Since, the need for traffic calming on the R610 through Monkstown has received unanimous support from all Members of Passage West Town Council but, while acknowledged as being desirable, has not been in any way advanced by Cork County Council. A preliminary design and costing of a traffic calming scheme incorporating gate treatment at the Carlisle Place end of the village, a ramped and traffic-lighted pedestrian crossing from the Sandquay through the island to the bottom of the Glen and upgrading of the pedestrian crossing at The Bosun has been awaited for the past three years.

After nine months of requesting same, Passage West Town Council has finally met on site with an engineer representing the Roads Department of Cork County Council. Also present was the Carrigaline Area Engineer. The Roads Department has agreed to undertake a topographical survey of the R610 from the southern end of Alta Terrace right through Monkstown village. The Town Council has asked that the survey should also include The Glen. Subsequent to the topographical survey, a preliminary design and costing will be progressed. Funding for the scheme will be sought thereafter.

### **Planning application for major new housing scheme in Monkstown**

The developers O'Brien and O'Flynn have applied to Cork County Council for planning permission to construct 121 houses on a 6½ site off Carrigmahon Hill.

The development proposes to include both four and five bedroom houses and 23 three-bedroom houses. The planning application suggests the hand-over of the three-bedroom houses to Cork County Council for Social and Affordable Housing in fulfilment of the developer's requirements under Part V of the Planning and Development Act. Landscaping proposals include for public open space and play areas.

While recognising that this land is zoned for residential development, Passage West Town Council is very concerned that the infrastructure on Carrigmahon Hill and in Passage West/Monkstown simply cannot deal with further large-scale housing estates. Both the road surface and the width of Carrigmahon Hill are severely inadequate. The proposed development would double existing traffic on Carrigmahon Hill during the morning peak. The Town Council is concerned about the consequent increase in traffic passing Monkstown school, congestion in Passage West town centre and worsening of the already lengthy tailbacks on the Rochestown road network. It also has mind to the insufficiency of school places locally, the complete absence of wastewater treatment and the general failure to address any of the infrastructural objectives outlined for Passage West/Monkstown by the Cork County Development Plan 2003.

The full text of the Passage West Town Council submission can be read at [www.passagewestmonkstown.ie](http://www.passagewestmonkstown.ie).

### **Future brightens for Monkstown Castle**

A planning application for the renovation of Monkstown Castle has been lodged with Cork County Council. It is proposed that the Castle will be restored as a single five-bedroom home. Monkstown Castle was built in 1636 and is the oldest surviving building in Monkstown.

Developer Denis Fitzgerald, who hails from Carrigaline, purchased the Castle with a view to its conversion into apartments. However, the building is listed in the Record of Protected Structures and its architectural merit is highly regarded nationally. In conjunction with the Conservation Office of Cork County Council and with the advice of the Office of Public Works, it was decided that the Castle could best be preserved by its retention as a single dwelling.

The internal plans detail a bedroom, living room, library and utility room on the ground floor. The main stairway leads to the first floor, where there are plans for a living room, kitchen and family room.

The second floor will hold the main bedroom with two walk-in wardrobes and an en-suite bathroom. The third and top floor will house three further bedrooms and a living room. The developer hopes to retain most of the existing window and door openings and the famous fireplaces in the central hall. The existing roof must be replaced in its entirety, while a glass lift is proposed for inside the southern tower.

Monkstown Castle last served as the clubhouse for Monkstown Golf Club. Since 1971, when the Golf Club moved to new premises, it has lain vacant. Now, only the shell of the building remains. There is a bad crack in the northern tower and the internal walls are badly damaged. The building oscillates between the derelict and dangerous designations. This recent planning application suggests that the future is brightening for Monkstown Castle.

### **The Magic of Christmas**

The Magic of Christmas is what promises to be a magnificent concert to be held in the Sacred Heart Church, Monkstown, on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. It will feature the Irish Sopranos, accompanied by Frances Kelleher on piano and Carol Daly on violin.

Cork-born Irish Soprano Wendy Dwyer and her colleagues, Kay Lynch (Kerry) and Deirdre Masterson (Wexford), have been working together as a group for over five years now. With their stunning good looks and soaring treble voices they wow audiences everywhere they go. Between them, they have a wealth of vocal experience, ranging from lead singer with Riverdance to solo leads on the operatic stage. Though most of their work to date has brought them Stateside where they play to great audiences in fantastic venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Waldorf Astoria, the ladies are delighted to be beginning this year's Christmas tour in Ireland on Nov 29<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets are €35 and are available by ringing Sandra on 087 – 2335655 or Ger on 087 – 8310525. All proceeds will go to Scoil Barra Naofa, Monkstown.

### **Harbour Cat Ferries public information night**

Harbour Cat Ferries are on the cusp of submitting a planning application to Cork County Council in respect of the establishment of a ferry service in Cork Harbour. The ferry will run between Cobh and Cork City, with stop-offs in Monkstown, Passage West and Blackrock.

Such that they may obtain the views of the public in relation to their proposals, Harbour Cat Ferries is hosting a public information evening at the P.A.C.E. centre on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

### **Public meeting in relation to Port of Cork proposals**

The combined Residents Associations of Monkstown, Rushbrooke and Ringaskiddy are hosting a public meeting in the Sacred Heart Church, Monkstown on 26<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm to discuss the Port of Cork's proposal to move its container terminal from Tivoli to Ringaskiddy. The proposal involves the reclamation of 18 hectares of the Oyster Bank to extend half a kilometre out into existing Cork Harbour waters. It will ultimately result in a four-fold increase in the number of containers handled by the Port. All are welcome to attend.

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.