

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...

Traffic Calming in Monkstown

One of the greatest fears of parents living in Monkstown is the speed of traffic through the village. Strand Road, the main road running through Monkstown from Passage West, carries a huge volume of commuter traffic to the Ringaskiddy industrial base. Also of particular concern is the Glen Road. Children tend to run out from the village playground onto the Glen Road, completely blinded by parked cars and invisible to oncoming traffic.

I arranged a meeting with Cork County Council's Area Engineer to discuss traffic calming measures on both Strand Road and the Glen Road. He has agreed to speak to the Road Design Engineer about constructing a "gate" on the Strand Road to slow northbound traffic before entering the village. He has also agreed that a pedestrian across Strand Road, from the Sandquay through the Island, would be very worthwhile. It is here that most people cross Strand Road, whether to access the village shop, the bus-stop or the playground. The ramps that so many parents have called for on the Glen Road cannot be installed at present, but the Area Engineer has committed to placing a large concrete plinth at the pedestrian exit from the playground. This will be big enough to prevent cars from parking up to the pedestrian exit and will enable children to view beyond parked cars clearly and safely before they step out to cross the road.

Website for Passage West/Monkstown

Passage West Town Council has unanimously agreed to organise the setting up of a website for Passage West and Monkstown. I mooted the website concept at the July meeting of the Town Council. The principal aim of this website is not merely to report on Town Council activities, but to serve as a resource for the Passage West and Monkstown community. It will be an attractive, active site, updated regularly with community news and giving information on the rich history of Passage West and Monkstown, facilities and services available locally and the activities of sport and community groups. It will also serve as an advertising base for businesses, of which there are currently some 130 in Passage West/Monkstown. Advertising slots will be available to purchase at a small fee (expected to be €20-50 per year). It is hoped that this will cover the cost of set-up, design and maintenance. Thus the website will become self-sustaining, will serve and be owned by the community and will help to boost the commercial base that will bring local wealth and employment.

Tender documentation is currently being prepared for the website. Should any local web designers have an interest in tendering for this project, please contact me and I will forward your details to the Passage West Town Clerk.

Waste Permit for Haulbowline Industries

The Environmental Protection Agency has told Cork County Council that Haulbowline Industries Ltd. (HIL) must apply for a Waste Permit. Under the Waste Management Act, 1996, such a Waste Permit is required for the type of scrap metal transfer and storage carried out by HIL at their Dockyard premises in Passage West. The submission of this Waste Permit application to Cork County Council will be advertised and any member of the public wishing to make an observation on the application is legally entitled to do so. Cork County Council is obliged to take account of such observations before making a final decision on the Waste

Permit. The application of this legislation to HIL has the potential to serve as a legitimate forum for residents who have spoken directly to me about activities at the Dockyard.

Indaver Waste Licence application

A great many residents of Passage West and Monkstown have expressed concern about the application by Indaver Ireland to establish two incinerators and a hazardous waste transfer station at Ringaskiddy. In recognition of this concern, the Passage West Town Council supported my suggestion that the Town Council should make a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the Waste Licence application for this proposed facility. Should you wish to obtain a copy of this submission, please let me know and I will arrange to have it forwarded to you.

With you and your support, I am working through the Passage West/Monkstown Town Council to help our community realise its potential as a unique place to live, work and play. Please contact me by e-mail at info@marciadalton.net, by mail at 4, Castle Terrace, Monkstown or by telephone 4863293 / 085-7333852.