

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...

ECAD meeting in Passage West

On Thursday evening last, ECAD (East Cork Area Development) held a public meeting in Passage West to explain funding opportunities for groups and organisations in the Passage West and Monkstown area. Hosted by Suzanne Kearney of ECAD and assisted by Bill Thorne of Exodia Consultants, attendees representing all interest groups in the towns understood €425 million to be available nationally through the LEADER and the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme over the next six years.

Cork County Council refuses planning permission for proposed Maple Rise development

Cork County Council has refused planning permission for the proposed development of a 5-storey block of 27 apartments and 10 townhouses at Maple Rise, Pembroke Wood.

The reasons outlined for the refusal of the development were:

- the potential effect of the development on land zone as public open space
- the inadequacies of the proposed development in relation to provision of public and private open space and access road
- the excessive proposed density of the development
- inadequate public water supply in Passage West to cater for a development of this size
- inability to site a wastewater treatment plant on the site to serve the proposed development.

Passage West Town Council had submitted an objection to the proposed development on the grounds of excessive density, destruction of public open space, tendency for the site to flood, inadequate apartment layout, inadequate public open space, inadequate private open space, overlooking of proposed townhouses by existing buildings, inadequate provision for parking and an oversaturation of Passage West with apartment-type developments.

South Western River Basin District Management Plan needs your input

The Water Framework Directive is regarded as one of the most powerful pieces of environmental legislation ever passed by the European Commission. It requires Member States to prevent the decline in the quality status of all waters and to ensure all waters achieve “good quality” by 2015. This requirement covers rivers and streams, lakes, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters.

In Ireland, the Water Framework Directive is being implemented by catchment or River Basin District. The whole island of Ireland has been divided into eight River Basin Districts. A management plan is being produced for the waters within each River Basin District, the implementation of which will be the joint responsibility of the local authorities whose jurisdictions fall within that River Basin District.

This area of County Cork falls into the South Western River Basin District, the co-ordinating authority for which is Cork County Council. A management plan for the South Western River Basin District is currently in preparation by Cork County Council in association with a consortium of consultants. This management plan is expected to be published in 2008.

A consultative booklet, “*Water Matters*”, was published by Cork County Council at the end of June. The aim of the booklet is to get the opinion of the public on proposed plans for managing and improving the quality of local waters. Comments are necessary and welcome. In particular, our comments would relate to the quality of Cork Harbour and its feeder rivers. Further information and the booklet, “*Water Matters*”, may be obtained from: <http://www.swrbd.ie>.

Public meeting with ECAD

Passage West Town Council has invited ECAD (East Cork Area Development) to host a public meeting in Passage West to explain funding opportunities for groups and organisations in the Passage West Area. ECAD is the umbrella organisation for distribution of funds from both LEADER and the

Local Development Social Inclusion Programme in this area of County Cork. All community and development groups are welcome. Sporting groups are also welcome; although core sporting activities cannot be funded by ECAD, any community initiatives being undertaken by the sporting group may qualify.

The public meeting will be held at 8pm in the PACE Centre on 19th July 2007 and will be hosted by Ryan Howard, Chief Executive Officer of ECAD.

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.