

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton writes ...

Website for Passage West/Monkstown

My proposal for a website for Passage West and Monkstown which received unanimous support from Passage West Town Council is now coming to fruition. An acceptable tender for design of the site has been received. To be accessed at "www.passagewestmonkstown.ie", this will be an attractive, active site, updated regularly with community and Town Council news, giving information on the rich history of Passage West and Monkstown, facilities and services available locally and the activities of sport and community groups.

Local businesses are already enthusiastic about the potential advertising value of the website and are availing of the special introductory rates currently being offered through Passage West Town Council. Throughout September, a regular listing, to include business name, details and description, is available for €50. A special listing, in which the business name is highlighted by typeface, font and/or company artwork, is available for €100. Alternatively, businesses requiring top prominence can become title sponsors for €250. A title sponsor's company logo is presented on the website title page with a clickable link to business details, description and services offered. Links to existing websites are offered to all advertisers, while title sponsors may avail of a web page design service to enhance their internet presence.

The Passage West/Monkstown website is a proactive move on the part of the people of this area to use their own initiative in promoting themselves, both locally and globally. Local businesses with an interest in advertising on www.passagewestmonkstown.ie should contact either myself or any of the members of the Passage West Town Council.

Traffic calming in Monkstown

I am grateful to the Carrigaline Area Office of Cork County Council for having installed a plinth at the pedestrian entrance/exit to the Monkstown playground. This was as promised by the Area Engineer on foot of a meeting with me last summer. The plinth has significantly improved visibility for children leaving the playground to cross the road. I have also obtained a quotation for fabrication of a swing gate to be installed at the road side of the pedestrian bridge. Such a gate would help to deter young children from venturing out on the road. Cork County Council has committed to considering covering the cost of providing this gate.

Despite these long-sought improvements at the Glen Road, I have been told that the traffic calming measures for Strand Road discussed at this same meeting will not materialise due to lack of funding. These comprised the construction of a "gate" to slow northbound traffic entering the village and a ramped pedestrian crossing from the Sandquay to the Island. The total cost of these measures was estimated at €15,000. I find it extraordinary that such a paltry sum could not be found to potentially save the life of a child living in a village which facilitates a vast volume of through traffic from Cork City to the industrial base at Ringaskiddy every day.

Enforcement of planning conditions at Haulbowline Industries

A number of local residents complained to me of dust arising after a recent unloading event at Haulbowline Industries. The planning permission under which the Dock operates permits unloading of dusty cargo only at windspeeds less than 8 m/s as measured at Roches Point.

However, on at least one day of this unloading event, windspeeds at Roches Point were higher than 8 m/s. Currently, Cork County Council uses a hand-held anaemometer on Strand Street outside the Dock Wall to check on wind speeds during unloading. It appears to me that this is not in accordance with conditions attached to the Dock's planning permission. At both the July and September meetings of Passage West Town Council, I asked Cork County Council to respond to a request for proper enforcement of conditions relating to wind speed which would provide assurance to residents living adjacent to and downwind of the Dock.

Clean-up of the Cut and Cover

Monkstown Amenity Association has been awarded a grant of €10,000 under the Urban and Village Renewal Grant Programme. The Amenity Association is devoting most of this grant to a clean up of the Cut and Cover, including clearing overgrown vegetation, gravelling existing beds and planting new shrubs. This work, together with the new seating kindly promised by Cork County Council, should help to make the Cut and Cover a pleasant place to relax by the sea. The remainder of the grant money will be used to redesign a rockery and low-level planting on the island at the centre of Monkstown village.