

Cois Inbhir Residents' Association

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Newsletter

A year in review

Cois Inbhir is alive, the Spring is here and the days are getting a little longer. At this time of year, there is a renewed buzz around the place as the flowers, trees and plants start to shoot and the children tear themselves away from their hard studying (and a little TV) and start playing everything from Cricket to skipping on the streets and greens. This renewed buzz is mirrored in the plans for 2009 but before you read about 2009, let's look back on the activities that took place in 2008 with the help and support of the Cois Inbhir residents:

- More people got to know their neighbours a little better through the Christmas and summer social events. This is important and something that has been somewhat lost in Ireland in recent times.
- Our already clean estate got a little cleaner following the clean up day.
- Essential funds were raised to pay for the running of the association. The funding was primarily spent on the social events and safety signs.
- Cois Inbhir was put on the map in terms of representation. We are now represented on the Neighbourhood Watch & Tidy Towns committees and have official status with Fingal Co. Co.
- We now have a forum for dealing with issues that impact us all.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes in terms of getting our estate taken in charge by the County Council. This work is likely to continue for a number of years.

Items in the pipeline in 2009

The focus of the Residents' Association continues to be to:

1. Continue to develop the social fabric of our area through social events.
2. The safety and security of our residents through neighbourhood watch participation as well as other initiatives.
3. The taking in charge of the estate by FCC.
4. Dealing with issues that impact us all.

While this list is not exhaustive, at the last AGM, the following key activities were proposed for 2009:

- ✚ Christmas event including carol singing by the local children.
- ✚ Summer event (Clean up and BBQ day)
- ✚ Enter competitions (tidy towns and Fingal awards)
- ✚ Further newsletters & updates to keep residents informed.

- ✚ Fully implement Neighbourhood Watch
- ✚ Lobby Fingal Co. Co. to take roads in charge.
- ✚ Continue to represent the estate on local committees.

Unlike many other estates, Cois Inbhir does not have any issues in getting volunteers to be on the committee or help out with various activities. Many residents are helping out in different ways during the year by volunteering their skills. We are always happy to hear from anybody that wants to add to the mix. If you would like to get involved or join the committee, email secretary@coisinbhir.com

Subscriptions

In December 2008, the committee called door to door to collect subscriptions. We got a very positive response but did not get to talk to every household. If you are interested in subscribing to the association in 2009 and we have not managed to talk to you at your door, please email us at committee@coisinbhir.com or drop the subscription into any of the committee houses (nos. 6, 17, 54, 58, 59 or 79).

Donabate Tidy Towns

Donabate Tidy Towns' aim is to make Donabate a better place in which to live, work and play. Each year we enter the national Tidy Towns competition. The newly reformed Donabate Tidy Towns committee first entered the competition in 2006 and achieved 225 points. Since then we have increased our points, achieving 234 points in 2007 and 240 points in 2008.

We were delighted to see that Cois Inbhir was listed along side Willowbrook and Eden Grove as the cleanest estates in Donabate in the Tidy Towns competition 2008. This was judged prior to the clean up on the 30th of August so we are hopeful that next year, we will be even better. A big congratulations also to the staff and boys at St. Patrick's Boy's school who WON the Dublin region Tidy Towns schools award AGAIN!

Tidy Towns is not just about picking up litter, although that is an important part of our work. Since 2006 we have completed a number of other projects and have a few more in the pipeline. We have landscaped areas such as the "Donabate" stone at the entrance to the town before the petrol station, "The Hand" junction at the meeting of the Portrane and Beaverstown roads, the sloped area beside the north-bound train station

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platform and the new flower beds laid last year in the village green. For more details of our work see our blogspot on <http://donabatetidytowns.blogspot.com/>

Our next project is on 22nd March (Sunday) at 2pm to tidy up the landscaped area beside the Northbound Train station car park. We have a Tidy Towns awareness weekend on 18/19th April and the kick start to the summer season is the National Spring Clean day on Sunday 26th April. Last year we had lots of volunteers of all ages for the Spring Clean day and collected 42 large bags of rubbish! We are, as always, looking for more volunteers so if you want to get involved please email Blaithin O'Donnell at donabatetidytowns@dub.ie or phone 085 1264660 or drop into 17 Cois Inbhir. Emails are sent every few weeks when an event is happening and if you are free you can join in.

Cois Inbhir United!

Each Friday night at 8pm, a group of lads from Cois Inbhir play football in the Community Centre. All are welcome. If you are interested, pop down any Friday.

Cois Inbhir Best Garden Competition

We are planning to run a competition this summer for the best garden. The winner will receive a voucher for the local garden centre. Details will be posted later in the year. Entrants to the Cois Inbhir competition can also enter the Donabate Tidy Towns garden competition.

Mind that Dog

At our last Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) meeting in Swords Garda station we were informed that there is a group of people stealing dogs from outside the shops in Donabate and then using them to gain a reward from the owners. One of the people involved in this activity was caught on the CCTV camera outside Supervalu taking a dog and running across the road with the dog under his arm to a waiting van. The dog owner was only in the shop for 3 minutes.

After the owner posted a reward he received a call from a person informing him that she had the dog. He then met up with the woman and paid the reward and received the dog back.

Although he was delighted to get the dog back he was in no doubt that these were the same people that had taken the dog in the first place.

Therefore we would like any resident who has a dog to be mindful and careful when they are leaving their dog

for any length of time outside any of the shops in the village of Donabate.

Rodent Issue

We have been informed that there is a rat problem along the ditch to the south boundary of Cois Inbhir. While we have no confirmation of sightings outside this area, we felt it best to make as many residents as possible aware of this as it is a health and safety matter.

It is believed that some of the food that people are leaving for the birds may be attracting the rats. Feeding birds is important and fun for children however, it is suggested that food be left in a place that is not accessible to rats.

The HSE have been contacted and will set poison in gardens that are affected. If you are affected, please contact the HSE on 8906296. The ditch to the south boundary has also been reported to Fingal Co. Co. who have informed us that they will raise a work order for the HSE to treat this area too.

Please Consider our Pavement Users

Just a couple of items to take into consideration with regard to making Cois Inbhir a safer estate to live in.

- 1) Once the bins have been emptied, this being on a Thursday or Friday, could our residents please make sure they are removed from the pavements?
- 2) When parking two cars in a driveway or a car on the street, please make sure the second car does not protrude and block the pavement.

We ask you to remember that by blocking the path, you are forcing our Mams and Dads with buggies, as well as general pedestrians, to use the road for walking. This is not good practice as we try to strive for absolute safety.

Cois Inbhir on-line

Don't forget that we have a web site with information for visitors to get here as well as details of activities taking place in Donabate. The address is: <http://www.coisinbhir.com>

From time to time, we send out communications via email. If you are not receiving these and would like to, please email secretary@coisinbhir.com and we will include you on the mailing list.