

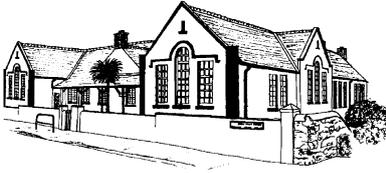
The Skerries Community Association Limited

CRO 100983; Muintir na Tíre registered charity CHY 6865

Established 1934

Making a great town even better!

www.skerriesca.com



Registered Office:
Skerries Community Centre
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Skerries
Co. Dublin

Hon. Secretary: Zaneta Wright
01-8490888 info@skerriesca.com

Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure
Fingal County Council,
Swords,
Co. Dublin

15th May 2015

re: Fingal Development 2017 - 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Skerries Community Association in relation to Fingal Development Plan.

Mindful that this is the beginning of a long process of engagement with Fingal County Council we have set out below in general terms some of our organisation's aspirations for the future of Skerries:

Cultural Heritage

Skerries has a thriving and growing cultural life, but it needs greater infrastructural support. The town is without a permanent, purpose built performance space. The SCA would like to see this addressed in the town's future development.

The library is a landmark building in the centre of Skerries, but it is underutilised. The development plan is an opportunity to explore its possible renovation and renewal.

Directors: John Coleman; Mary Conway (*Hon Treasurer*); Karen Guildea; Jane Landy; Dee Langton; Ciara Leonard (*Chair*); Nunce McAuley; George McCormack; Geoff McEvoy; Michael McKenna; Sabine McKenna; Martin Russell; Brendan Sherlock; Ernestine Woelger; Zaneta Wright.

Infrastructure and Movement

Active travel (walking and cycling) must continue to be a priority focus as the town develops. The provision of cycle lanes and accessible footpaths is key to keep the town accessible to all. Local public transport options should also be considered to further encourage mobility and prevent traffic congestion in the town centre.

There needs to be an overall, strategic approach to traffic management in the town. This includes traffic movement around the town, road safety, parking etc. These concerns need to be addressed in a holistic manner as opposed to the piecemeal basis of previous experience.

Economic Development

Tourism is of increasing importance for the economy of the town. In this regard, hotel beds may be needed to meet increasing demand and encourage Skerries as a venue for weddings, overnight stays for festival visitors etc

The promised and planned cycle path between Skerries and Balbriggan needs to be brought to completion.

Infrastructural support is required to facilitate a joined up approach to the various water sports and activities that make use of our coastline.

The Martello Tower is a potential tourism resource that is not being utilised. Options should be considered for its use and development, possibly in conjunction with the other towers along the Fingal coastline.

Natural Heritage

Continued access to clean water and beaches is crucial for Skerries. The recent granting of the waste facility licence at Milverton Quarry has raised concerns in this regard.

The water treatment plant in Kelly's Bay does not cope with increased water (heavy rains) and water quality in Rush (due to lack of proper water treatment there) has an impact for Skerries. Effective, sustainable water treatment must be a central part of the town's future development.

Flooding at the Mill Stream has been a longstanding problem for local residents. Long term plans are needed to address flooding risk.

Settlement Strategy, Placemaking and Communities

Recent experience highlights the need for a clear policy to facilitate the swift return to use of vacant properties.

As our town expands it is increasingly important that it be managed in a way that is sensitive to the needs of both our older and young populations, including supporting independent living and the provision of youth facilities and open spaces.

High-quality broadband is still not available in parts of Skerries and its environs. Public (free) WiFi throughout the town centre is desirable.

The green belt between Skerries and the neighbouring towns of Balbriggan, Lusk and Loughshinny should be maintained.

In the midst of a housing crisis we all must be mindful of our responsibility and the part every town must play in addressing years of pent up demand. In this regard the close locality of landbanks to Skerries is noted. However, all planning and development must be sensitive, sustainable and community focused in order to avoid the mistakes of the past.

We look forward to exploring these issues in more detail with the Council over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. McEvoy', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Geoff McEvoy
Vice-Chairperson
Skerries Community Association