

Village of Balrothery



Balrothery Community Council Report for Deputation Meeting with Fingal County Council.

8th of May 2008.

Attention of: Ms. Janice Kavanagh

Compiled by Members and Residents.

April 2008



BALROTHERY Community Council

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Introduction

Following on from our previous September 2007 meeting we wish to have a review of the issues highlighted then with supplements for 2008 included. Whilst some of the issues arising at our previous meeting in June 2007 have been addressed and some projects budgeted for 2008 no details or road maps have been given of proposed completion of these projects. Many of the issues and concerns remain on the agenda since June 2007 with no resolution.

Notes highlighted in Red.

We are aware that some issues have been budgeted for this year but would like some clarification on these.

The Issues 2007

1. Roads, Traffic, footpaths, litter bins.
2. School Crisis.
3. Development of local amenities.
4. Unfinished Housing Developments.
5. Protection of Our Heritage.

1. Roads, Traffic and Footpaths.

With the expansion of the village boundaries, increased traffic and population the amount of vehicles passing through the village has increased greatly in the past few years. A lot of cars are "Rat Running" from Skerries through to the M1 in the morning and evenings. The main road into Balbriggan is also as busy as ever despite the M1 bypass. It needs to slow down passing Balrothery village; current speed limit of 80kmph is too fast. Unfortunately Cars get priority not Pedestrians or cyclists in Balrothery.

1.1 **Speed signs:** The current location of our speed limit signage locations are out of date, the need to be moved further back up the Man O War road and the Skerries road. **Still outstanding 2008, the pedestrian exits from Balruddery Wood are extremely dangerous.**

1.2 **Traffic Calming:** We need more speed ramps, cars are driving through the village too fast. Ramps are needed on Man O War road at the Balruddery Estates down to first roundabout, also on Cross of the Cage road along Rosepark to first Roundabout. The Main road is too fast (80KM limit), there should be traffic calming from the Glebe House to the North end of the village. With the Cricket, Rugby Clubs and planned Leisure Centre located across this road as well as access to the Playing fields/Tennis

courts it has now become a dangerous road and crossing point. ***Still outstanding 2008***

1.3 Footpaths: We have no footpaths to the playing fields/tennis courts, this is a serious health and safety issue. Walking along main road to these amenities is too dangerous especially for our children.

The footpaths along the back of The Balrothery Inn are poorly planned despite the relatively new developments there, you have to walk around cars onto the road to get by, this is dangerous for children and mothers with prams. Double yellow lines and clear marking of parking areas should be considered here. The New development at church green on the corner needs double yellow lines outside the houses to prevent parking from the start of their pending occupation. ***Still outstanding 2008 and made worse by fact that the old footpath was taken away recently in favour of Cloch Choirneal resident parking!***

1.4 Pedestrian Crossing: We need a safe crossing of the main road to the Cricket and Rugby Clubs as well as the Bus Stop. The road is too fast, busy and dangerous to cross safely, especially at peak times. ***Still outstanding 2008, maybe budgeted? No Roadmap or timescale***

1.5 Main entrance to village: The main entrance to the village is a bottle neck. It needs to be widened to allow two cars exiting the village to turn right and left at the same time. There are unnecessary delays exiting especially in the mornings. ***Still outstanding 2008, maybe budgeted? No Roadmap or timescale***

1.6 Litter Bins/Dog Fowling: Balrothery Tidy Towns will be entering the National Tidy Towns competition next year after some years of absence due the development works in the village. We currently only have one litter bin located at school and one at the Graveyard entrance. We need more litter bins and also some dog poppy scooper stands (if only to remind dog owners of their responsibilities).

1.7 Impact of development of Millerton, no access through village for construction traffic. What steps have been and will be taken to minimise disruption to village life?

Our new Tidy Towns committee have requested more litter bins around the new estate area of Rosepark/Balruddery wood. Dog fowling is still a big problem, could we please get at least 2 Dog clean up stands in the village, this would help educate dog owners also.

Roundabout at junction to Skerries/ Man O War: Little or no consideration is given to pedestrians crossing from Knightwood towards Village. With traffic getting busier at this junction safer crossing is needed at peak times.



Footpath behind The Balrothery Inn: This footpath receives the most complaints to us from residents.



(f). Old footpath removed



(g). High curb, not dished out.



(h). Cars blocking path.

The original footpath along here was very good, safe and wide. It is now an obstacle course and dangerous because pedestrians are not using it.

The development along here is all new build, last 10 years, which make it more frustrating because it was a good footpath, bad planning and enforcement. We complained about the cars parking on the old footpath at Cloch Chaoirneal, so we were very disappointed to see that path given over to resident parking, forcing people to use the “private path” of the Cloch Chaoirneal houses. The line and level of the new path makes it unsafe to use, and impossible for parent and prams.



(i). Mixed use of footpath materials and levels.

2. School Crisis

We have a school crisis. A large portion of entitled children enrolled for 2008 from the village will be refused due to lack of school places. This does not take into account the new 157 Social and affordable houses at “Ringfort” soon to be released. The school is currently booked out up to 2012, that means no additional places available for next 5 years.

This is bad planning, going from 150 to over 600 houses in the village without any provision or consultation with Balrothery School.

How many new school places will be required resulting from the new Ringfort estate being occupied?

School places still a big issue, refusing over 50 children this year. Two possible sites for a new school have been suggested, one located in the area of the old

pitch and putt course and second at land just after Ringfort on the Skerries road. A local developer with a keen interest in community development and inclusion has made an offer of land; the land concerned will be subject to inclusion in the future Development Plan, also we suggest: serious consideration to rezoning prior to new Development Plan. Can planning department please advise on their suitability.

3. Development of Amenities.

Since the start of the new Millennium Balrothery has seen an increase in its housing with the new housing developments of Rosepark, Balruddery Woods/Heights and Cloch Chaoirneal, also soon to be released Ringfort (157 houses). There has been no improvement in local amenities.

3.1 Access to Playing Fields/Tennis Courts: There is no proper access to these sites. We need a proper footpath from the Resource Centre all the way to playing fields, currently a mud path. From the main road there is no footpath, very dangerous walking to tennis courts. There is no footpath to the Cricket, Rugby and forthcoming Leisure Centre. We badly need new footpaths to allow safe access to these important local amenities. Plans for path access to playing fields from Balruddery Wood/Field have never materialised. **Still outstanding 2008, maybe budgeted? No Roadmap or timescale**

3.2 Expansion of Resource Centre: This centre was built with community raised funds and some local funding in 2000. It badly needs expansion and redevelopment to cater for our large growing community.

3.3 Financial Support: Any financial funding available for future community projects would be most welcome, we would need advice on applying for such funds.

3.4 Children's Playground: We know that a playground was proposed for the village. A suitable location needs to be found, we are willing to suggest some locations and help get project completed. **Locations submitted.**



Ringfort current developer base.

3.5 Restore Old Right of Ways: The old school lane from the Pitch and Putt club should be re-opened(overgrown) and developed for walking, this would provide great access for pedestrians and an excellent walking facility for the village.



3.6 Funding or provision of Broadband at church. Heritage centre, any grants or funding available to provide public access to broadband in village.

4. Unfinished Housing Developments.

Will all the new estates built in Balrothery since 2000, it is very disappointing to see the lack of interest by these developers to fully complete these estates as per their planning conditions. Planning conditions should be rigorously enforced, why aren't they? Incumbent residents of Balrothery have noted the beautiful landscaping, planting of mature trees and completion of road surfaces at Ringfort.

4.1 Lack of signage: No Signs for Rosepark or Cloch Chaoirneal or indeed many other smaller developments in Balrothery. **Still outstanding 2008, Estates with no signage are Rosepark, Cloch Chaoirneal, The Coach Manor, Coach Villas, and Church Green No1 to 6/The Rise No 7 to 11.**

4.2 Finish of Road Surface: Rosepark, Cloch Chaoirneal Balruddery Woods/Field still have no finished top road surface applied. **Still outstanding 2008, 'Some' clean up work carried out in Cloch Chaoirneal.**

4.3 Finish of green areas and boundaries: Rosepark has a poor green space finish, no tree planting (as per planning conditions), very bad boundary fencing and finish. There is a dangerous exit (for children) down a slope from the green space on Balruddery Wood crossing to Balruddery Heights across a busy and fast road. There are a number of steep slopes on the green areas of Rosepark and Balruddery Field and Woods (topsoil was banked). **Still outstanding 2008**

4.4 Damage to Rosepark Holy Well: The Holy Well in Rosepark (National Monument listed) has been buried by Joe Wade Developments and still after nearly five years not restored, despite it being a clear condition of planning application. **Still outstanding 2008**

4.5 Drainage issues Rosepark/ Cloch Chaoirneal: There appears to be major water drainage issues resulting from Rosepark Holy well water draining into the back of some houses at Cloch Chaoirneal, this is related to the damage of the Holy Well and improper drainage of it's water. ***Still outstanding 2008***

Unfinished Housing Developments Update

4.6 Balruddery Wood and Field: "particular attention will be paid to an extensive landscaping programme incorporating paved walkways, seated areas and attractive features" as stated in plans, has not been delivered, roads are also not surfaced.



(a). Dangerous exit.



(b). Sharp drop.



(c). Exposed fall onto road.

The green area at Balruddery Wood and Field from the main road entrance to the pedestrian entrance, pic(a), along the green space is extremely dangerous with a sharp drop to main road from green field in front, pic(b), the speed limit here is 80Km, speed sign must be move immediately. The pedestrian opening between Balrothery Wood and Field is a very dangerous crossing of main road, pic(a).

The green area in Balruddery Field has been fenced of by the developer, why?



(e). Fenced off green areas, Balruddery Field.

5. Protection of Heritage

It is very sad to see some of our local Heritage destroyed, despite clear conditions of planning and under the eyes of our local authority. We will not allow Rosepark Holy Well to be forgotten and demand that Fingal Planning enforcement take actions

against Mr. Joe Wade to fully restore the damage he caused, this has gone on too long, now approaching 5 years.

5.1 **Rosepark Holy Well:** Needs to be fully restored with proper drainage and security/Health and Safety issues addressed as per planning conditions. **Still outstanding 2008**

5.2 **Footpath to Heritage Centre:** We need a proper footpath up to the Heritage centre, gravel path at present which is dangerous for elderly people and is washing away after heavy rain. **Still outstanding 2008**

5.3 **Standing Stone:** Some landscaping is being completed at the Standing Stone in Cloch Chaoirneal, need to ensure that it is completed as per planning conditions. **Some work done here.**

5.4 **Milestone:** Members of Balrothery Heritage Committee removed our local milestone(no.11) during the development of Balruddery Field (was in the way of the entrance). We now need to put back close to original location as possible, right or left of entrance to Balruddery Field. Is there any issues regarding this with Fingal Co Co? **Arranging to put back next month.**