



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

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Compiled by Members and Residents.

February 2009

Presented By:

Niall Keady Chair, Margaret Haugh Secretary,  
Martin Fanning Heritage.

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## **Introduction**

Following on from our deputation meeting in May 2008, much work has been completed and we are quite satisfied with works, which have been completed. Whilst several issues remain unresolved and new concerns have arisen we are very pleased with Fingal County Council and the attention being paid to our Village, we would particularly wish to thank our local representatives for their efforts.

We hope to build on our existing relationship with Fingal County Council, we would appreciate stronger connection with the organisation and hope a direct contact could be appointed, a person to act as our main point of contact to assist us present issues as they arise and monitor progress.

## **The Issues 2009**

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

## 1. Roads, Traffic and Footpaths.

**Junctions:** Roundabout at junction to Skerries/ Man O War: This junction has become very dangerous, diminishing road markings have added to the problem. Serious consideration is needed to manage this junction. 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 all times.



**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. This was budgeted for in the 2008 plan, yet has not been incorporated into the works to provide pedestrian lights and traffic calming.

**Daves Shop:** Road Markings need updating and traffic management needs to be improved. The existing yield sign has been damaged and needs to be replaced.

**Speed signs:** The current location of the speed limit signage is out of date, they need to be moved further back up the Man O War road, beyond the new estates of Balruddery Wood/Field.

**Traffic Calming:** Several locations have severe speeding issues particularly on approach from Skerries Rd and Man O' War road.

**Footpaths:** Many footpaths remain in poor condition. Across from Balrothery Inn, From Hairdressers to Daves Shop is particularly poor and inaccessible for prams, buggies or wheelchairs.

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.



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

**Unfinished Road works:** Reinstatement following works at Daves Shop has not be completed. This has been brought to the attention of FCC by several parties and has remained uncompleted for several months.



**Signage:** Directional signage need to be improved particularly at the roundabout at Daves Shop. From the motorway excellent signage exists for Ardgillan Castle however within the village it is poor.

**Crossings:** We request that all junctions and crossing points throughout village be refreshed. We also require pelican crossing road markings at every junction in village.

**Road Surfacing:** Resurfacing the road to Man O War must be prioritized this road is in very poor condition.

**Ringfort:** Provision of stop sign and road markings at entrance to Ringfort are required.

## **2. School Crisis**

We have a school crisis. A large portion of entitled children enrolled for 2009 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" recently 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.

Balrothery Community Council plan to hold a crises meeting with all relevant parties to plan a way forward to address this crises and formulated a plan of action.

### 3. Development of Amenities.

**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. Recent clearance activity here has created very difficult terrain from resource centre to playing fields.

Plans for path access to playing fields from Balruddery Wood/Field have never materialised.

**Access to Cricket Rugby Club:** The provision of pedestrian lights on main road is much welcomed. There is a continuing need for provision of satisfactory lighting and pathways to both the cricket and rugby clubs. Young children using these facilities face very dangerous conditions on this road.

**Children's Playground:** We continue to await guidelines for locating playground facilities.

**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.



#### 4. Unfinished Housing Developments.

With 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.

***Finish of green areas and boundaries: Rosepark, Cloch Chaoirneal and Balruddry Wood/Field*** have 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 Balruddry Wood crossing to Balruddry Fields across a busy and fast road. There are a number of steep slopes on the green areas of Rosepark and Balruddry Field and Woods (topsoil was banked).

Balruddry 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 Balruddry 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).

## 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.

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

**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. This erosion occurs due to several drains blocked at church all rain from roof flows down path due to gutter drain blockage.

**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.

## Tidy Towns

The Tidy Towns Committee has been re-established and a big effort will be made to clean up Balrothery Village. Volunteers have been established and funds have begun to be raised. We would appreciate Fingal County Councils support particularly in the area of road markings, provision of litterbins and regular road sweeping.

Chair of the Tidy Towns is Anthony McNamee 0863841467.