



Prospect Manor Residents Association

April 2012 Newsletter

Dear Neighbour,

We hope that this newsletter keeps you updated regarding the latest developments within our Estate. Should you wish to obtain more information, contribute items for the next newsletter or provide feedback, please contact a Committee Member, email info@prospectmanor.net or visit the website www.prospectmanor.net



Summer and Outdoor Games:

As the weather improves and with the extended daylight hours, allot more children are playing outside. With this in mind we wanted to recommend a number of useful guidelines to ensure we have another enjoyable and safe summer:

- We would like to ask all drivers to be aware that children or footballs can enter the roadway at any stage, so please drive slowly and carefully.
- One of our Residents has asked if parents would remind their children to play ball on the open green space as they recently had their car mirror damaged as a result of children playing football on the roadway.
- Another Resident has highlighted the increased level of dog litter on the green space. Please note it is an offence not to clean up if your dog fouls. Remember children are using the same green space to play!!
- If you are having a barbecue, why not invite your neighbours!! You will be surprised how much you will enjoy it. This will help create a community spirit that we cannot put in place without your help.

Landscaping & Clean-up Day:



- The recent clean-up day on 25th March was a great success and two full skips of rubbish were removed from the common areas within our estate. Thanks to everyone who helped and gave their time on the day. A large amount of rubbish was removed from the bridge area adjacent to Edmondstown Road.
- We also cleaned along the cycle pathway on Stocking Lane and added plants to the flower bed at the Scholarstown Road junction.
- You will probably have noticed the installation of two benches on the main green by the Association. We are glad to see these are getting regular use and hope that you find them beneficial. Remember this is another example of how your Annual Subscriptions are invested back into the Estate.



- We continue to have a weekly collection of litter from open areas within the estate. In the meantime you can assist by ensuring your bins are facing downwind, thus not opening up and blowing the contents down the road or into your neighbour's garden.

- A large number of plants were planted at the estate entrance but unfortunately some of these were subsequently stolen. It is disheartening when things like this happen, vandals damage trees or spray graffiti on walls within the estate. But I am sure you agree that we have managed to improve the Estate's appearance despite these small setbacks. Not only does this improve the neighbourhood in which you and your family are living, it also helps achieve a premium value for your property, a welcome result in the current economic climate.

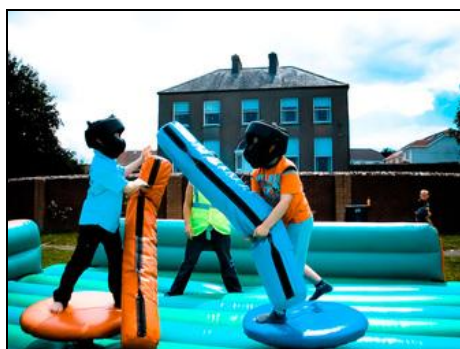


Annual Subscriptions

- The Association has managed to maintain the annual subscription at the current level of €50 for another year. If we haven't managed to collect your subscription yet, it can be dropped to the treasurer - Declan O'Rourke at 30 Prospect View. Thank you for your support. Receipts will be issued to all houses ASAP.
- The annual fee funds Estate maintenance & landscaping projects, all grass cutting, pays for the Annual Fun Day (bouncy castles, refreshments & face painter .etc..), regular newsletters, website maintenance, SMS messaging alert service (send your details into the Prospect Website), annual clean-up day and all other admin costs in relation to Estate.

Fun Day

- **This year's Fun Day will be held on July 1st, 2pm – 5.30pm**
- Parents will need to sign in their children on the day.



- As well as the usual face painting, light refreshments and bouncy castles, we are planning to have additional attractions, such as a penalty shoot (organised by Ballyboden Wanders GAA) and your local Community Garda – Kevin Drennan will be available on the day to offer helpful advice.
- Anyone able to assist with additional attractions or contribute towards the light refreshments should contact a committee member or email the Prospect Website.
- We will need volunteers to help supervise attractions on the day please



Neighbourhood Watch Advice:

We would like to offer some advice so that you are not the unfortunate victim of a crime:

- When you are leaving your house always set your alarm. Remember to leave a key with a neighbour so they can check your house if the alarm sounds, and reset the alarm in the case of false alerts.
- Lock your front door. Sounds simple but you would be amazed the number of people that are in the back garden with the front door unlocked. It only takes seconds to grab a bag, an i-Phone or car keys!!!
- We recently learned about a series of organised burglaries in neighbouring estates. On one occasion, five houses were targeted, all via the front door. No alarms were set, so the thieves were able to force the doors. Four of the burglary attempts were successful, while the fifth failed, because the householder had turned the key in the lower deadlock. Moral of the story: don't just pull the door after you; set the alarm before you close the door and then turn the key in the bottom lock behind you.
- Place a secure lock on your garden shed. Thieves will take bikes and even use tools in the shed to break into your house. Lock bicycles inside your shed so if thieves manage to get the shed door open; they cannot immediately cycle away with your property. It is possible to get alarms fitted to garden sheds and these are available at very little cost from your local DIY Stores.
- The Garda are warning about an increase in thefts of i-Phones. These thefts are mainly of the “grab and run” type. Thieves target people who are unable or unlikely to fight back or pursue them, e.g. teenage girls, mothers with small children, etc. The Luas has also been used: the thieves grabbed the ‘phone and jumped off just as the door closed, so they couldn’t be pursued. The advice is to be careful about where you use your i-Phone.
- We recently received an email sent to the website from an observant resident, containing a photo of two suspicious people, driving around the estate searching skips. As it turned out this photo was passed to Rathfarnham Gardai who were very interested as a result of other incidents in the Rathfarnham area. So no matter how trivial you think your information is, it may be a critical piece of evidence. Please continue to email such information into the website.
- If you are unfortunate to be a victim of theft or an attempted break-in, please notify the Gardai and email the Prospect Manor website so we can advise neighbours, in the next newsletter. Remember if thieves consider Prospect Manor as ‘an easy target’, they will only return again and again. If they are unsuccessful they are less likely to return.
- For your reference: the telephone number for Rathfarnham Garda Station is 01 6666500 and Tallaght Garda Station is 01 6666000.



New Security Product – Smartwater

A new product called Smartwater can be used to DNA mark your property. SmartWater is a colourless liquid solution that is simply dabbed onto the uneven surfaces of your valuables.

It can be used to code all sorts of items such as jewellery, ornaments, electrical items and even your motor vehicle. Each bottle contains a unique chemical ‘code’ which is registered to you – conclusively proving ownership. It cannot be easily seen by the naked eye and is almost impossible to remove. The liquid glows under ultraviolet light making it easy for the Gardai to detect.

The Police in the UK are using it in undercover operations to catch and convict criminals. Criminals know about SmartWater and fear its power to forensically link them with the scene of a crime.

So, by coding your valuables and displaying the SmartWater deterrent signs, you are sending out a

powerful warning to any thieves and burglars operating in your area. Launched in the UK it has proved very successful and is now available in Ireland.

Checkout the following two sites for more information:

<http://ireland.smartwater.tv>

www.smartwater.com

Issues Raised by residents:

- We recently had a number of residents contacting us in relation to cars parked too close to junctions within the Estate. Please ensure your vehicle is a suitable distance back from the corner so as not to block line of sight or pose an obstruction to oncoming traffic. You don't want to receive a parking ticket and we don't want to have to report an accident in the next newsletter.
- We are glad to see teenagers using the main green to play football and using the new benches. However this has led to an increase in litter in this area. Our helpers are struggling to keep the estate clean and would ask you to remind your teenagers to dispose of their litter correctly.
- A number of you have highlighted the issue of ongoing dumping over the boundary fence (adjacent to Avenue, Meadows & the Court). Although grass can be classed as green waste and in small quantities this will biodegrade. The volume of grass, including grass in plastic sacks, Christmas trees, dead shrubs combined with rubbish from a household party is an eyesore. Remember Green Waste can be taken to South Dublin County Council's Ballymount Civic Amenity. A full car load is only €8. Please help keep your estate clean.

Additional Useful Information:

Subsequent to a suggestion raised at the AGM, we are highlighting local businesses and utilities servicing the estate. The aim is to make you aware of any potential savings and benefits. Please email in any suggestions, local businesses or local services to the Prospect Manor website so we can recommend them to your neighbours:

- There are a number of sites such as **www.bonkers.ie** which are useful when comparing providers.
- Another Resident has successfully used a site called **www.freetradeireland.ie** to successfully dispose of some old garden stepping stones. Maybe you have something you need to dispose of? Check out this excellent service!!
- Checkout the following website **www.recyclefree.ie** to discover details of your local recycling depots. It is a free service!!
- We recently highlighted an ongoing problem with the quality level of UPC within the estate. Subsequent to our newsletter and as a result of an increase in complaints from your neighbours, the fault was prioritised, located and repaired. Remember as well as making your complaint to your service provider, you can email the Prospect website, so we can co-ordinate a larger protest to get the issues resolved.
- We recently employed the services of a local private contractor to remove graffiti from walls within the estate. This company is also available to pressure clean driveways and their contact details are available on the prospect website.
- Thinking of painting your house this summer? The houses built by **Albany Developments** were painted with "Alabaster" (Code BS04B15).

Thank you for your support throughout the year.

www.prospectmanor.net