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Regular newsletter to be published

This is the first of a new series of monthly newsletters to our membership. Our aim is to keep everyone informed and engaged, while doing so in a more timely and cost-efficient manner than could be achieved through a printed format. The primary delivery vehicle will therefore be email, but I'll also be posting the newsletters on

the website. (www.antaisce.org). We will also have a few hard copies available for events, information stalls etc, although we



are trying to keep paper wastage to a minimum.

We will, where time allows, be publishing this as a properly designed newsletter like this, but in an effort to get everyone involved we will be producing the newsletter in straight text in the body of an email, so that those with little time and/or slower or hyper secure computers can still access the information.

Policy discussions

An Taisce is embarking upon a course of policy discussions which will both help guide the organisation and allow our membership to more directly contribute their expertise. In some cases these discussions will simply help us all understand the issues better; in other cases the meetings will result in draft policy for presenta-

tion to An Taisce's Council. Policies which are approved (as amended) by Council will become active policy of the trust.

The first such discussion was held Wed 9 September on the topic of the Sutton to Sandycove Cycleway (see following section for details). The next discussion

will be held at Tailors' Hall on 7 October at 18:00, and will focus on the North-South Interconnector. Please forward any suggestions for future topics to me (jeff@rokeby.ie).



The Natural Environment Committee

The 'NEC' of An Taisce is getting up and running again, to guide, facilitate, and inform the work of the Natural Environment Office of An Taisce. The

committee will carry out its work through meetings and an email group. Their first task will be to set the Natural Environment Strategy for 2010. If you are

interested in participating, please contact Anja (anja.murray@antaisce.org).

Sutton to Sandycove cycleway



Balancing biodiversity and sustainable transport

“we can’t build our way out of the battle against climate change, we must conserve our way out.”

Richard Moe
plenary speaker

David Brown
(National Trust for historic preservation USA) with Catherine Leonard (INTO secretariat)



Several of our members met to discuss the proposed S2S Cycleway. An application for Section A has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála; an application for Section B is expected within the next couple of months. Further sections are not expected in the near future due to limited funds. (The full, projected route can be seen at: <http://www.dublincity.ie/Press/PressReleases/PressReleasesMay2009/Pages/bullwalltocausewaySection.aspx>).

A number of views were expressed at the meeting regarding the importance of promoting cycle usage, the possible use of Smart Travel

funds for further sections, and the amenity value of having a world-class coastal cycle path. There were also concerns regarding the protection of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, protection of the local bird populations (particularly at our Booterstown property), and the proposed structure of the cycleway. Support was expressed for the plan if it could be rerouted at certain critical points, such as Booterstown and sections in Dun Laoghaire.

Several action items were taken away from the meeting, including the need to check

the statutory status of the Cycle Plan, the environmental assessments completed (or not completed) for Section A, and checking for the existence of any existing submissions (either by An Taisce or others). The group is to remain in contact while carrying out the action items. For further information, contact Anja Murray (anja.murray@antaisce.org).

ICNT conference, Dublin Castle

An Taisce is currently hosting the 13th International Conference of National Trusts in Dublin Castle. The conference theme is *Heritage of the World in Trust: Conservation in a Changing Climate*, and was opened by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government John Gormley. The opening plenary session also included an eloquent speech from former President Mary Robinson on "climate justice", an impassioned and moving speech by 16-year-old Eammon Hayes entitled *Your*

Legacy to My Generation, and

presentations from our own President Prof. John Sweeney and the UK National Trust's Executive Director Dame Fiona Reynolds.

Following the opening plenary session were several workshops under the umbrella of *Climate Change*, including mitigating the effects of climate change on historic buildings and other heritage sites. Tuesday opened with field workshops at five heritage sites in the region, followed by a plenary entitled *Heritage as an Empowerment Tool*. Wednesday held further workshops on *Sustaining Value through Empowerment* and *Sustaining the Movement*.

Before the opening of the conference, the International National Trusts Organisation

executive met to endorse the *Dublin Declaration on Climate Change*, which unites the world's heritage community in taking decisive action on climate change in order to "protect the world's natural and cultural heritage now and for future generations."

More info can be found on the website: <http://www.antaisce.ie/property/ICNT13/tabid/389/Default.aspx>, or by contacting John Ducie (john.ducie@irishnationaltrust.org).

Chocolate box



Life is like a box of chocolates...

of chocolates" where various initiatives requiring development could be presented, and members could volunteer for those which personally resonated with them.

We have had several requests from members for opportunities to get more involved. At the same time, the Board of Management often comes up with promising initiatives, but with insufficient manpower to develop them. Richard Darby introduced the idea of a "box

As we come up with such initiatives, we'll present them as "chocolates" here in the newsletter. Local Associations that are in need of manpower for specific tasks/projects should feel free to forward them to me (jeff@rokeby.ie) for inclusion in the "box". Each chocolate will include contact details to allow interested members

to get involved.

Our box begins with a single flavour:

Events Organizers. To further engage our members, we'd like to organize more zero-cost social events. Ideas have included Dublin North's bring-your-own-booze-and-burger BBQs and Meath's picnics held at various heritage sites. If interested in organizing one (or more) such event, please contact Richard Darby darby.richard@gmail.com or Abby McSherry member-ship@antaisce.org

Help us to help you... expert knowledge is available, liaison is essential.

Planning application distribution

In order for our staffed units (energy, natural environment, built environment, etc.) to keep up to date on developments it is important that they are made aware of planning applications that come in through Local Associations that are related to their work. In particular, please make sure that all planning applications dealing with energy or energy

infrastructure are forwarded to Elizabeth Muldowney (energy@antaisce.org).

Any planning applications with potential natural environment impacts, including any that are in or near a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA), a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), or near a

protected or sensitive water course should be forwarded to Anja Murray (anja.murray@antaisce.org). If there are any undesignated areas of natural habitat involved, such as a bog, a lake, or woodland, they may also be worth forwarding as these can sometimes contain protected habitat types or species such as bats.

Fun Fundraiser - quiz at Fallon and Byrne

Think you know your country?

Think you know where your food comes from?

Want to pick up some fun facts about Irish wildlife (and we don't mean Leeson Street on a Thursday night...)? This is a quiz with a difference! This isn't just about making food seem fun. It's about how our natural world creates our foodie world!

An Taisce, Ireland's oldest charity protecting our built and natural heritage is having a fundraising and fact filled evening. Fallon & Byrne are playing host and there will be good wine, nice food and great craic aplenty. Come join 'bugman' Dale Treadwell for Ireland's first and finest biodiversity quiz. If you know nothing, you'll learn something. If you know it all, you'll win a great prize! Either

way, the night will be alive with heritage, abuzz with nature and awash with food and drink! It won't be bland, so come join us!

When: Wednesday, October 14th 2009. 7:30 pm.

Where: Fallon & Byrne, Exchequer St., Dublin 2

For tickets (€20) contact Lorraine Hackett or at the door on the night (fundraising@antaisce.org)



RTE's Dale Treadwell is master of ceremonies and quizmaster

Reclaiming the Planning System - Achieving Sustainable Local Development through Community-Led Planning

Over the next year, An Taisce will be working in a number of counties, both those counties with and those without local associations, to help develop public participation in the planning process. As the County Development plan in your county comes up for review, a public meeting will be held to introduce people to the input that they can have in the review of the plan for their county. Training will be provided and the work will be facilitated by a qualified planner who has experience of community led planning. The planner, Gavin Daly, assisted by Abby McSherry, local associations officer, will be contacting you as the time comes near for your county

development plan to be reviewed. This will be an ideal opportunity to learn about how to make a real difference to what goes on in your area without having to take on an enormous amount of work. Most of the communications in this project will be by electronic means to keep costs low. We hope that inputting into the

planning system at the right time...having and communicating a vision for how your community should be, will be more effective than reacting later to plans that have already been made. Watch this space for news of this exciting project.



Planning your community for the future



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Preserving our built and natural heritage for future generations

Your views are important to An Taisce. Please don't hesitate to send us any feedback on content, format, etc. of this newsletter, and if there are any topics in particular that you'd like to see covered, we'll do our best to get them in.

Sincerely,

Jeff Young

Hon Secretary, An Taisce -- the National Trust for Ireland jeff@rokeby.ie

and Abby McSherry, Local Associations Officer

membership@antaisce.org