

AN TAI SCE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 2010



LOOKING BACK ON
2010

FIRST OF ALL A FEW
WORDS FROM OUR
CHAIRMAN CHARLES
STANLEY-SMITH

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A Message from the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

We could not do what we do without the practical commitment of those who support An Taisce financially and through voluntary effort. Unfortunately going into 2011 we face a major funding crisis which severely threatens our operations.

We thought it might be appropriate to provide a tangible but symbolic gift in return for your donation which you can give to someone who values our heritage as you do. Hence our new Christmas gift catalog of symbolic gifts. The recipient of your gift will receive a certificate outlining the significance of your

Looking Back on 2010

In this last edition in 2010 of An Taisce's ezine, we have decided to take the opportunity to have a kind of annual review of each of our sections in Tailor's Hall. This was particularly at the request of Attracta our new Communications Chair on the Board and in light of members comments at our AGM.

Our purpose is to introduce you to the faces behind the names and to find out a little about the staff and their focus through the year. This is so that you can see some of the high points and achievements which your support of An Taisce has helped to realize and the challenges you help us address.

The ezine is a little longer than usual because everyone has so much to say. We also decided we will do a special version on the Education Unit in the new year year. As usual we welcome any comments to feedback@antaisce.org.



These pictures were taken by Westmeath members Jack O'Sullivan and Dalia Smestoriute of the Tullynally estate in the current snow. Just to put you in the mood.

Our Chairman Charles Stanley-Smith

THE YEAR 2010 HAS BEEN ABOUT 'THE FINANCIAL CRISIS'

The highlight (or perhaps low light) of 2010 has been the ongoing financial crisis. I can tell the people that are seeking reasons, that the current financial crisis was as much caused by lax planning as by lax financial controls. It was a property bubble, a con job foisted on the young people of the country. They were herded into over paying for houses with no proper services or public transport miles from their families and place of work. Now as taxpayers of the country they have been landed with the future bill of cleaning up the mess.

The fact that NAMA has so far paid €77 billion for loans with a face value of €54 billion, that there are many smaller 'impaired' loans would indicate that we allowed for €50 billion of over development – that does not take into account the amount of negative equity of the houses that were sold.

We tried to ensure that the existing planning laws and guidelines were followed and fought against an orchestrated campaign to subvert them but the extent of the overdevelopment has shown that there was a **catastrophic failure in planning**.

The message seems to have finally become apparent that the Country cannot develop its way out of the current situation. So during the next election, I suggest that you ask the canvassers that come to your door to explain to you what part they believe that the planning system played in the financial crisis and what they intend to do to ensure that it does not happen again.

THE NEXT CRISES

I'm afraid that I have to repeat my message that the financial crisis we are now struggling with will be followed by crises of Energy Security, Food Security, Water Security and Climate Security. A message has to be put out there that we are living in a world of 'finite resources' and continuous growth that uses up these finite resources is impossible.

If you haven't frightened the canvassers away with your questions on the failures of planning, you could ask them how they are going to maintain growth for ever into the future. There is going to be a changed political landscape in the New Year and it really is important for us to ensure that those standing have a full understanding of the critical importance of the tripod of sustainability - economic, social and environmental, I worry that the environmental (and social) bit will be thrown out in the rush to convince us that they have the answer to the financial crisis.

An Taisce will continue our strategic fight to ensure a sustainable (economically, socially & environmentally) future for all, for instance to help ensure we meet our targets for renewable energy without threatening our biodiversity, to contribute our efforts for 'local food', to contribute positively to ensuring a sustainable future for rural Ireland, to ensure that our transport planners get off their 'habit' of building motorways for the sake of building and to ensure that all major Government plans are subject to SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment).

SOME AN TAI SCE HIGHLIGHTS

- FSC Standard for Ireland.
- Nature's Way booklet.
- Another successful Energy Forum.
- A successful breakfast with Eddie Hobbs.
- National Picnic Day.
- Tailors' Hall licensed and open for business.
- Given a wonderful property in Kerry.
- Restored Robert Lyoyd Praeger's Grave
- Green Campus - UCC the first Green Campus in the world.
- Green Schools, Green Homes, Green Communities, Blue Flags, Clean Coast - The successes of the Education Unit continue
- Groundbreaking High court Judgment on a quarry quashed An Bord Pleanála decision, which now has important implications for an un-

Outlining the significance of your donation choice, enclosed in an An Taisce Christmas Card.

We hope that some of these ideas in An Taisce's 'Treasury' of gifts appeal to you as a novel way to support An Taisce and maintain our ongoing contribution to Ireland's built and Natural heritage.

I wish you a Happy Christmas in these trying times.

Charles Stanley-Smith, Chair An Taisce The National Trust for Ireland

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Important

Please note these gifts are intended as symbolic reflections of how your donation supports the work of An Taisce. Where subscriptions do not match required expenditures or critical needs are identified - actual contributions will be allocated where most effective to sustain our operations.

[An Taisce Shop here](#)

quantified number of quarries which obtained registration under 2000 legislation without legal justification and procedure.

THANKS

I would like to thank you our members, for you continued support and trust that you continue to believe strongly in the importance and value of the work that we are doing. So many of you contribute in so many ways – many of you with the most generous resource of all – your own personal time and commitment. I would also particularly like to thank those who responded generously to our membership Christmas appeal letter and to those of you who bought gifts from our new An Taisce webshop – all of which will help us continue our work. Remember these shop gifts will continue to be available in the New Year for birthdays, anniversaries, special holidays and events.

Finally I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a hopeful New Year.



These pictures were taken by Westmeath members Jack O'Sullivan and Dalia Smestoriute of the Tullynally estate in the current snow. Just to put you in the mood.

Natural Environment Unit News

The Natural Environment Team is made up of Anja Murray, Camilla Keane and our dedicated volunteer Aisling Jackman. 2010, the International Year for Biological Diversity, has been an exceptionally busy year in the Natural Environment office.

To celebrate this UN-designated year we ran a training seminar on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services in Tailors' Hall which was a hugely successful event attended by over 80 people. The seminar included talks on the importance and value of pollinators to Irish agriculture; the carbon sequestration role of Ireland's peat bogs; and the value of wetlands and freshwater fisheries resources in Ireland.

Most of the participants are involved in a range of community and environmental initiatives so it was particularly useful event to collectively strengthen our understanding of biodiversity and ecosystems services and the legal and policy framework for biodiversity conservation. In the afternoon we went on guided field trips to Dublin Bay SPA and to the Liffey valley head bog in the Wicklow Mountains.

Our 'Nature's Way' booklet on biodiversity and ecosystems services was produced in the spring and the entire 10,000 copies of the first print run have been disseminated all over the country at events and education centres, aided no doubt by the wonderful illustrations by the Oscar nominated 'Cartoon Saloon'.

During the year, we also fed into the drafting of the next National Biodiversity Plan and gave detailed comment on the draft Plan, though we are still waiting for this to be approved and published by government. The plan lists actions to be taken by government departments and agencies to conserve biodiversity, including actions for improved regulation of forestry; protection of wetlands; measures to control alien invasive species; education and awareness; financing nature conservation and integrating biodiversity considerations in to decision making. The Plan fell short in many areas though, such as measures to protect Natural Heritage areas (NHAs); commitments to set conservation objectives for Natura 2000 designated nature conservation sites; hedgerow conservation measures and habitat mapping for Ireland.

The Department of the Environment also published draft European Communities (birds and natural habitats) Regulations in August in response to prosecutions against Ireland for failures to implement European nature conservation laws properly. We made a detailed response to the regulations also and will be pressing for strong regulations that ensure full compliance with European nature laws.

We continue to actively pursue improvements in Irish forest management and regulation, responding to afforestation licences referred to us, appealing consents that are likely to damage sensitive habitats and species or degrade water quality; compiling a comprehensive review of the Irish forestry licencing system; feeding into the national consultation on forest policy review; and sitting on the Forest Policy Review Group set up by the Department of Agriculture and Food as a representative of the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership.

Another huge achievement this year was the completion of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Standard for Ireland, which is a forest management standard that all FSC certified forests in Ireland must comply with. It is a voluntary standard, much like organic certification for food, and was developed by environment, social, and economic interests in forestry. It has taken many years to complete this standard and has been a fraught and controversial initiative, so we are relieved to have seen this through to the completion of a standard that we can have confidence will improve the standard of environmental performance of certified forestry operations.

Water quality has also been a major issue in 2010 with the completion of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) management plans for Ireland's seven River Basin Districts. These plans set out detailed action for all sectors to improve water quality, including measures for waste water treatment, agriculture, forestry, water use, management of rivers. The overall objective is to achieve 'Good Water Quality' by 2015. An Taisce, along with SWAN, the Sustainable Water Network, have been very active in the drafting of these over the past few years. Although we were still unhappy with the final draft plans, we are confident that our input and efforts this year resulted in some improvements to the final plans.

In October, Anja went to Brussels along with Charles Stanley-Smith and five other representatives of the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership to pursue a number of pertinent environmental issues with European Institutions. Whilst there we met with European departments and officials in DG Mare, DG Environment, DG Energy, and DG Agriculture. We met the spokesperson for the Environment Commissioner, the Sustainable Development Observatory and several Irish MEPs. The trip was extremely useful and productive and we would like to thank the European Commission representation in Ireland for inviting us and hosting us on this trip.

Another area in which we have been particularly active is commenting on proposed developments where they are likely to impact on protected habitats and species and on water quality. This has included very many upland wind farm developments through 2010.

We have had input into the government's drafting of Green Procurement Policy; into the introduction of a system of inspection and monitoring of septic tanks and other on-site waste water treatment plants; and into the development of a National Waste Policy.

We are also running a major research project on the role of wetlands for flood attenuation as part of catchment based flood management strategies. The study will include an evaluation of the quality and quantity of flood attenuation services provided by different types of wetlands in Ireland and a review of the potential of wetlands to deliver measurable and cost effective flood prevention services in Ireland. We will have the results of this study next year and will certainly be letting you know more through the ezine.





NATURAL HERITAGE OFFICE STAFF



Camilla Keane

CAMILLA KEANE

I studied Environmental Science at Trinity. In October 2008 I started a part-time internship with Anja in the Natural Environment Office., spending the rest of my time working at the Dublin Cookery School. Luckily for me I was taken on to replace the previous Natural Environment Research and Casework Officer at the end of January 2009 and I have held that post ever since. In June 2010 I started a part-time two year MSc in Rural Environmental Conservation and Management at UCD.

ANJA MURRAY

I am an environmental scientist, ecologist, and policy analyst and have been the Natural Environment Officer with An Taisce since 2005. My expertise includes forestry policy and management, hedgerow ecology and management, environmental education and communication, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Currently I am seeking greater integration of biodiversity in all sectors, including planning, forestry, water quality, flood management as well as pushing for improvements in Ireland's policy and practice. I research natural environment issues and policy and am a strong advocate for Ireland's natural environment. I am on the Government's Forest Policy Review Group; the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Ireland steering group; the Biodiversity Forum and until recently Comhar; and manage the IEN Biodiversity policy project; I sit on the Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board; and am active in the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership. I own the other dog sometimes seen around Tailors' Hall, and Tito is a great favourite with everyone who meets him, and in what little spare time I have I am renovating an old cottage.



Anja Murray

Biodiversity needs to be at the heart of every decision made by government - it is not just a luxury add on for the good times"
Anja Murray

An Taisce Energy Unit News

Elizabeth's greatest success this year has been to be invited to sit on the Department's Renewable Energy development Group along with our Honorary President Prof John Sweeney and our Chairperson, Charles Stanley-Smith. We hope that these roles will allow An Taisce to be a catalyst for change for more sustainable energy policies. In the past year, Elizabeth reviewed the public service obligation levy that supports the unsustainable burning of Ireland's peat resources. We aim to address, reduce or eliminate the levy. We will be producing an energy statement for the organisation and work started this autumn in establishing the working groups to develop this for publication in 2011.

Elizabeth has made many submissions on energy policy in County Development Plans in co-operation with An Taisce's "This Place Matters" project, and has led a number of public discussions and talks on these issues through the network of Local Associations and through attendance at a number of conferences.

On average the energy unit receives about 3 energy applications for comment each week. These are considered in conjunction with An Taisce's Planning Office and Natural Environment Office. We also attended the oral hearing on the North South Interconnector. Oral hearings are time and resource intensive for us and with the inclusion of windfarms of greater than 25 turbines into the Strategic Infrastructure Planning Act it is likely that more applications will result in oral hearings.

With the establishment of a strategic network within the energy sector in 2009, long term relationships have been built during 2010. These relationships are bearing fruit already in that An Taisce's voice is being heard and listened to regarding development in Irish energy policy. For example we were invited to participate in Eirgrid's Grid 25 project working group which convened for the first time this autumn.

One of the most successful network initiatives has been the continued development of the Energy forum, which first met in November 2009. The aim is to bring together key individuals in a position to effect change in their respective fields. The second meeting of the energy forum took place in November this year at Croke Park with a theme of Public Consultation and Community Gain. Thirty key stakeholders from the energy, planning, community (farming, environment, local) and academic sectors attended. The goal was to emerge with two viable models of the areas to include in future planning legislation. These are now being designed as a result of comments and output of the forum.

Elizabeth has seen communication with the membership and external bodies as a prime objective and publishes a quarterly newsletter and is working extensively on the energy pages of the website to present a user-friendly and attractive modern forum of information.

One unpredicted outcome of the good relationships fostered by Elizabeth in the energy industry has been fundraising where in co-operation with Lorraine our fundraising manager events such as our Energy Business Breakfast addressed by Eddie Hobbs held in October has raised a useful amount of funds for An Taisce.

All in all a busy and constructive year in 2010

ELIZABETH MULDOWNEY

I have a masters from NUI Galway in Economic Policy focussed on energy and before coming to work for An Taisce worked for SEAI and carried out the first IBEC energy costs survey and report. I have also worked as a consultant in energy management to a wide variety of companies. I work from home but regularly visit Tailors' Hall accompanied by Wetherby, my old English sheepdog.



Fundraising Unit News

Fundraising this year was challenging, as we imagined it would be in the current economic climate. However, we continued to get incredible support from our members and we did garner new support from some great organisations and continued our relationship with others.

We received funding support this year from The Community Foundation for Ireland in the form of a grant for research into Ireland's flood plains and developments on same. Anja Murray has already begun work on this research with the support of a tailored group of participants. The work would not have taken place without the support of The Community Foundation for Ireland and we are very grateful that they can see the necessity for this project.

We developed an excellent new relationship with Avoca Handweavers. They came on board in support of the inaugural National Picnic Day, supplying a gorgeous picnic blanket for An Taisce's use on the day at a reduced cost to An Taisce. The blanket went on sale at €50, though the same size blanket in Avoca costs €69. Avoca are committed to continuing this fundraising effort and the blanket is now on sale via the An Taisce Shop on the website <http://shop.antaisce.ie>

An Taisce also ran a fundraiser in the Guinness Storehouse in October, when the energy sector came out in force to hear broadcaster Eddie Hobbs deliver his inimitable views on Ireland and our energy consumption and production. We were delighted with the support this event received, which included Bord na Mona, Eirgrid and Coillte as well as many other organisations. Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland who, although they could not attend on the day, sent a generous donation to An Taisce.

Christmas time is busy as ever. Many thanks to everyone who have donated and supported the organization variously throughout this year, and in response to our Christmas appeal letter. The ongoing generosity and practical engagement and support of An Taisce members is the lifeblood of the organisation and we would not be in a position to continue our work without your support. Sales from an Taisce's symbolic gift shop and on-line donations, a new initiative for us this year are most appreciated, and we hope you have enjoyed this. They will be available for anniversaries, birthdays, special events and holidays in the New Year.

Again, many thanks to all for their support.

LORRAINE HACKETT

I have been working Part-time with An Taisce for over a year. I am a Sligo native, and studied at Dublin City University, where I received a degree in Communications Studies. Following this, I worked in television production before going travelling in Australia and Asia. When I returned to Ireland, I worked with The Sunday Business Post. My volunteer work with depression charity, Aware led me to look to the non profit sector for my next employment, and I spent a year as the Corporate Fundraising Manager for the Dublin Simon Community before coming to An Taisce last August. I am married and expecting my first child.



Lorraine Hackett

Property Unit News

The aims of the Properties unit are to provide examples and advocacy of best heritage conservation practice and environmental sustainability, without which we would not be able to hold aspects of our prescribed status under the planning act. We provide access to heritage sites and amenities and raise awareness and educate about the issues of caring for our built and natural heritage. Our properties also provide a focus for volunteerism, community development and growth of our civil society.

2010 has been one of our busiest years. The Tailors' Hall tercentenary project has been in full force. This project was started on the Hall's 300th anniversary with the aim of making sure this unique building will still be standing strong on its 400th. Much of the work has revolved around developing a sustainable use for the hall as a licensed venue for events and meetings. To this end we have incorporated a limited company to manage the hall. We have carried out much work to comply with fire safety. We now have a wine and public dance licence for the building and are a recognised venue for marriages and in June hosted the first marriage ceremony in the Hall since 1773. We are preparing for a special restaurant licence and have implemented HACCP in the kitchens. We have also continued the urgent renovation and energy conservation projects and this Christmas sees Tailors Hall bedecked not with holly but scaffolding for the completion of the north side re-roofing and insulation project. Remember you can help with the funding requirements for this and a number of other projects by giving a virtual gift from our Treasury gift range click on treasury gifts to give a Bangor blue slate, plant a tree and much more.

Work has continued on the Boyne Navigation in partnership with the Inland Waterway of Ireland Association, and the restoration works at Oldbridge are nearing completion and planning is underway for the next phase of the restoration.

Rough Island in Co Donegal is due for a haircut and a new profile in the new year, as a felling licence and NPWS licence have been obtained and the appropriate assessment requirements of the EU Habitats Directive has also been addressed so as to enable us to remove the non-native sitka spruce. The spruce will be replaced in line with a conservation planting plan to recreate native forestry on the island.

On the Browne Clayton Monument in Co Wexford repairs are being made to the lightning conductor and we are applying for grant aid from the World Monuments Fund to provide interpretation, carparking and landscaping of this replica of Pompey's Pillar in Alexandria, Egypt .

The Howth Courthouse Sustainable building project continues with meetings to look at future use and development and Kanturk Castle has been subject to a pilot geophysical and archaeological study to reveal more of its secrets.

A number of new acquisitions have been worked on during 2010. In County Kerry, An Taisce has been given a lovely vernacular farmhouse with 6 acres of biodiverse woodland leading down to the coast. A habitats assessment and a historic building assessment are being completed and a management plan for this property is being drawn up. Another three properties, one in Co Kilkenny, one in Co Cork and a further Co Kerry property are also being assessed and we are working hard with potential donors, lawyers and tax advisors to establish sustainable futures for these properties.

Overall our aims are to build capacity to employ professional staff, and to train volunteers and staff in heritage conservation and to increase income from donation, grant aid and businesses – all with the ultimate view of conserving our built heritage and inspiring appreciation for it. We aim to ensure health and safety at all An Taisce sites and build up a portfolio of property to enable us to make use of economies of scale, we also continue to campaign for legislative protection for our heritage property management and ownership.



JOHN DUCIE

I became a member of An Taisce in 1979. while I was a





A working Party on the Boyne

student. I have served the Trust in various roles including Vice Chair and Hon. Vice President. I stepped down from the board of management in 2008 to take up my current post as properties and conservation officer.



John Ducie

I am an advocate of a further provision in law for An Taisce and am very strongly involved in the international networks such as INTO and the ENNHQ. Among my proudest achievements are the founding of the Tree Council of Ireland in 1983, and the Irish Garden Plant Society in 1982 and above all being the proposer of the Plastic Bag Levy in 1997.



Lightning damage to Brown Clayton Monument

I am a professional horticulturist, garden historian and landscape designer and I am the chair of the Heritage Garden and Designed Landscapes Committee and am on the steering committee of the National Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

Planning Unit News

Both the Heritage office, Natural Environment and Energy offices remain heavily engaged on planning applications and appeals. During the boom years we made submissions on a least 3000 planning applications annually. Around 270 decisions annually were appealed to An Bord Pleanála with the original decision being overturned on appeal typically on over 80% of our appeals.

Despite the economic downturn we are still overwhelmingly busy. An Taisce is the only Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Ireland to have been given a formal consultation role under planning legislation. An Taisce is active in this role through our staff and volunteers in Tailors Hall and through a number of local associations who makes submissions and recommendations on planning applications and take appeals on decisions that affect a range of considerations: including scenic areas, architectural heritage archaeology and nature conservation and IPPC licenses as well as major infrastructure applications, such as Energy, Transportation which are decided directly by An Bord Pleanála. An Taisce's submissions leverage the wide experience and knowledge of many of our members and our small compliment of professional staff and focus on the longer term strategic impact of the decision.

Our submissions focus on wider public interest considerations and the desire to see best international practice followed. We consistently emphasize the importance of building and maintaining communities, reducing fossil fuel consumption and the protection of biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape as an irreplaceable resources. While having a positive impact on the decision making process, An Taisce's involvement serves to highlight a systemic national failure to meet National or local policies and targets in land use, resource management and heritage protection, particularly through appeals made to An Bord Pleanála.

When An Taisce appeals a local authority decision to An Bord Pleanála, it is based on a concern not just for the impact on a particular site, but also on wider planning policy considerations. Far from considering the intervention of An Taisce which results in the overturning of a planning decision as some type of "victory" as often portrayed in local media, we remain fundamentally concerned that the original decision frequently shows a failure of the local authority to comply with national policy or even its own development plan. Regrettably then local authorities instead of addressing these failures, oftentimes simply just repeat them. This means there is a constant burden on us to maintain a monitoring role, particularly on repeat decisions by local authorities which ignore a previous refusal by An Bord Pleanála.

The lax Irish planning system has resulted in the European court of Justice judgments for failing to comply with Birds, Habitats and EIA directives and a significant amount of our work has been against development adversely affecting SACs and SPAs. Some of the most significant of these cases relate to proposals in Co Galway and on the banks of the Shannon river and lake system. Despite a judgment by the European Court of Justice clarifying that retention of unauthorized development for a development which should have been subject to EIA prior to construction is not permitted under the EIA directive, we are finding that An Bord Pleanála is not consistent in refusing these retention applications. For example: Our appeals were upheld in three cases: quarries in Cavan and Wicklow and a racing track in Carlow, but the Board allowed retention for other quarries in Counties Clare, Mayo and Monaghan and for an asphalt plant in Galway.

Vigilance is essential. With the memories of the dreadful floods at the end of last year still fresh in our minds, it is interesting to note that the largest single category of our appeals which resulted in overturns of original decisions was for housing schemes in flood risk areas and houses in areas with high water tables where the septic tank would create a public health risk.

Some of the largest single developments overturned by An Bord Pleanála have been for office park, retail, or warehousing in locations with poor accessibility to public transport in the Greater Dublin Area or around the urban centres. This includes five major cases in Co Meath granted in contravention of the Meath Co Development Plan, a retail park in Annacotty Co Limerick and a number of warehouse and commercial developments in Co Galway.

Country house landscapes have also occupied our attention with major applications for Carton Demesne, Farnham Demesne and Tinnerana being refused, and other developments being reduced in scale. In over 20 cases An Taisce appeals have resulted in the refusal on grounds of excessive height of significant variation of schemes in Dublin city centre including on the Quays, O'Connell Street, Thomas St area and affecting the setting of major buildings including the Four Courts.

Despite the dramatic fall in planning applications the need for an independent watchdog for the planning system has never been greater. A number of highly ill conceived proposals are currently being put forward as a solution to the current economic situation like the Casino in North Tipperary, the Ski Slope in Dundalk or the Chinese Trade Centre outside Athlone.

An Taisce receives no State or public funding for the execution of its regulatory burden in the planning process. Examining planning applications, and making submissions within legal deadlines requires considerable effort, administrative cost as well as the direct legal fees for appeal. Larger appeals to An Bord Pleanála and infrastructure projects are involving increasingly lengthy and complex Oral Hearings for example the oral hearings in 2010 for the Corrib Onshore Gas Pipeline ran for more than 5 weeks and the M20/N21 ran for several weeks.

An Taisce also needs to take an active role in pursuing follow up compliance and enforcement in permitted development, and this is an onerous task also. In the future with the implementation of the new Quarry provisions in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 a major effort from An Taisce will be required to address this. 2011 will be busy for us.

If you would like to support this aspect of our work please consider a gift from the treasury range click on treasury gifts to give a symbolic gift to cover the cost of lodging a planning appeal to An Bord Pleanála. We can't continue without the support we get from our members and supporters.

A full podcast interview with Ian can be found by clicking [here](#) or from the home page of our website.

IAN LUMLEY

I first got involved in An Taisce as a student taking part in an An Taisce education project on the medieval town of Waterford. I then moved on to volunteering, gaining experience in planning issues and particularly focusing on car based development, the knocking of mediaeval walls etc. I have been working for An Taisce now as heritage officer for more than 10 years and my twin passions are climate change and sustainability.



Ian Lumley

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,
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