

CASTLETOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

EGM UPDATE

RESIDENTS VOTE AGAINST THE FENCING OFF OF CASTLETOWN ESTATE WOODS

On Tuesday 23 November, a Special Meeting (EGM) was called by Castletown Residents Association, following the launch of a Part 8 process by Kildare County Council, under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, **to erect a fence around the wooded area, which is the public green open space of Castletown housing estate.**

The proposed fence would prevent access to the woods, except through limited access points, during limited times. While the CRA has engaged in ongoing discussions with KCC and the OPW on the issue of the fence, it has now become clear that the Council wishes to proceed with a proposal that would allow residents to access the woods area under KCC and OPW terms only.

At the EGM, a large turnout of residents and all the six local area councillors debated the issues relating to the proposed fence, after which two votes were taken.

- The first vote asked **whether residents wished to withdraw a previous mandate** given in 2007 to the CRA **to negotiate** with KCC and the OPW on a proposal for a fence. This vote was carried by a huge majority of 98% with only 4 people voting against it.
- The second vote was **to authorise the CRA to oppose the proposed erection of a fence in any shape or form.** This vote was also carried by a huge majority of 98%, with only 4 people voting against it.

Once the results of the votes were announced, the existing CRA liaison officer (with KCC and the OPW), stood down from the role. A new subcommittee was subsequently formed to take the issue forward, and has now become active in opposing the erection of a fence. This committee is being chaired by Fintan Monaghan from Woodview.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

It is expected that KCC will shortly publish its plans for the fence and seek submissions from the public. **Once this happens, the new committee members (and volunteers), will be calling to the doors of all Castletown residents seeking individual submissions opposing the fence.** It is intended that all of these submissions will be lodged with KCC, and made available to all 25 Councillors who will have the final vote on this matter.