

Reference: Gazebo demolition, Castletown, Celbridge.

In the heart of Castletown estate stood a beautiful little architectural gem of a building called the Gazebo. It was late Georgian/early Victorian and had been fearfully preserved when the modern estate was constructed around it. In May 2007 it was demolished without warning. The Castletown Residents Association has been campaigning for 4 years to have it restored.

On the 18/3/2011 a legally binding agreement was signed between the owners of the Gazebo and Kildare County Council. This was done by High Court judicial review. It is a compromise by the county council that is a big disappointment to Castletown Residents Association.

It is our unqualified understanding at this time that the terms agreed to state,

1. That the owners must either submit for planning permission for the site or, “arrange to record, survey, dismantle, bag and deliver the gazebo to the County Council within 6 months.
2. It further stipulates that any such planning application must incorporate a feature at ground level in the shape of the Gazebo.
3. They must also erect a Plaque relating to the gazebo if planning permission is granted.
4. In addition, the owners must pay a contribution of €15,000 for the reconstruction of the Gazebo within 7 years.

The CRA consider this agreement to be a weak compromise on the part of the County Council and leaves many unanswered questions. For example if the Gazebo is delivered to the County Council in ‘bags’, what will happen to it then? Who will pay for its reconstruction? It sounds incomprehensible to us that such a structure should be ‘delivered in bags’!

Dose this mean that if the owners decide not to develop the site it will remain as a decaying rat infested eyesore and Health and Safety hazard for the next seven years?
Where will the county council rebuild the Gazebo and how much are they going to spend on it? €15,000 will not be enough to build anything like the original Gazebo.

CRA is seeking further clarification and undertakings from the County Manager but remain unconvinced that the present mess of rubble will be properly restored.

All these issues will be discussed at the CRA’s forthcoming AGM of Castletown Residents Association on the 10th May.

Yours sincerely,

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