

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE FENCING OF OUR CASTLETOWN WOODS



In November 2010 we, the residents of Castletown estate, were informed by Kildare County Council that a Part 8 Planning Permission Process would begin shortly. If granted, this would allow the OPW to erect a fence, complete with service gates, along the wooded area of Castletown housing estate, restricting our access.

After many delays, the plans have now been published and are available for everyone to view in the local library until July 7th.

At a residents' EGM on 23rd Nov 2010, 98% of those present objected to the fence and the subcommittee of the residents association was tasked with opposing the fence. In our campaign we have drawn up a submission for this objection, the grounds for which are shown overleaf.

Over the coming weeks we will be calling to every door in the Estate looking for your support to

Save Our Space.

Castletown Resident Association

1. The wooded open space pertaining to this part 8 is reserved as public open space. (See condition 20 in planning ref no. 845/76 issued 9th December 1977 by Kildare County Council). Consequently unfettered 24 hour access, as a legal right, has been and is enjoyed by the residents of Castletown since the foundation of the estate. This proposal would extinguish this legal right.
2. This proposal allows for the lease of our wooded area to the OPW. By so doing, the legal entitlement to at least 10% open space would be compromised.
3. The lack of the minimum requirement of open space infringes our personal property rights.
4. The proposal to incorporate service gates implies that vehicular and other commercial traffic would access through Castletown estate. This would constitute a health and safety hazard to residents and in particular to children and would result in inappropriate increases in noise pollution and a related reduction in our quality of life.
5. The vista of the woods would be seriously affected by the erection of the fence, and it is a reasonable expectation that the vistas enjoyed heretofore should continue.
6. The proposal states that the access will “be opened and closed in accordance with the Office of Public Works management structure of Castletown Demesne”. This does not specifically guarantee access or the opening and closing times.
7. By incorporating access to the natural woodland the original planning for Castletown estate was visionary in its outlook. It created permeability within estate to allow the residents to filter into a natural environment thereby increasing their wellbeing. This proposal would totally undermine that plan.
8. We totally reject that any agreement was made on our behalf regarding any part of the part 8 proposal.