

Locals fear alcohol fueled vandalism will destroy the last remaining relics of Old Palmerstown Church

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Vandals having drug and drink fuelled sessions at the site have been blamed for destroying relics that date as far back as the 1600s

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One of the last remaining relics at the old Palmerstown church

South Dublin locals are "angered and frustrated" as one of their ancient churches is getting destroyed by vandals.

Old Palmerstown Church has been the victim of vandalism for years but it seems that some of its last remaining relics may disappear altogether if the defacing continues.

Alan Hayes, Chairman of Palmerstown Community Council told The Echo:

"I'm angered and frustrated at the the blatant vandalism taking place there in recent times.

"This old church and graveyard is hundreds of years old. There are, and were headstones, from the 1600s."

The heritage site is owned by the South Dublin City Council, who Hayes believes let the old church become derelict and damaged over time, accusing them of being "happy for it all to fall away."

The Chairman said the major damage to the run-down site was caused by vandals having drink and drug fueled sessions in the secluded area.

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He said:

"Vandals were accessing the site for drink and drug sessions, and it was reclaimed by the hard work of various people in the community."

The locals would like to see controlled access to the site, along with high walls and CCTV but they don't have the right or the money to do this.

The Council leader believes that encouraging local school tours and sight-seeing visits might make the church less appealing to those who wish to wreak havoc on the cherished site.

Hayes also called on the gardai to take a stance against the vandalism and for other important factions to take the matter seriously:

"It's now time for the gardai to protect the area . . . and the South Dublin City Council to hasten the great work they started a few months ago."

The councillor warned:

"Once this is gone, it's gone forever.

"Please visit the area because the more good people spending time there, will deter the vandals and thugs from congregating."



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