

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter



www.sandycoveandglasthule.ie

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The Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association is a thriving and active residents association which represents residents in the Sandycove and Glasthule area. The main object of the Association is to promote the best interests of the residents of the area. We regularly publish this newsletter, which is distributed to 2,500 households in the area. The printing of this newsletter is paid for by members' subscriptions. If you are not already a member, please consider joining. If you are a member, thank you and please remember to renew your subscription, which you can do at the forthcoming AGM. An application form is enclosed.

The Baths Saga

What is happening now?

We await the deliberations of our 6 ward Councillors on their plans for this neglected site.

As yet we have not been approached for submissions from the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association – nor has Save Our Seafront.

There is no point in making submissions until such time as we are made aware of the funding the Council have at their disposal.

Zero euro means nothing happens.

One million could clean up and landscape the site, continuing the "Yellow Brick Road", provide seating and a lookout point - not a bad alternative.

Stealth Taxes

or Recycling and Waste Charges ?

No doubt those residents who have been good citizens and visited the Ballyogan recycling and dump site will have been shocked to be faced with a €20 charge. It was previously €12 - a 66% increase and with inflation running at 3%!

What do our 6 local ward Councillors have to say?

We await the notification of our annual waste charges. Many of us also await on our credits for 2005! Is there an administration problem?



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date Thursday 30th March 2006
Time 8 pm
Venue Presentation College, Glasthule

(entrance to the left of Presentation College opposite St Josephs Church)

If there are any topics you wish to be discussed at the AGM please tell us by emailing info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie or writing to The Secretary, Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association, c/o Mount Carmel, Sandycove Road

As well as the usual formal business of the AGM this will be an opportunity for residents to hear about the latest developments in the area, to ask questions and to express their opinions

ALL MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FROM SANDYCOVE AND GLASTHULE ARE WELCOME

URSULA'S BITS AND PIECES

DOG DIRT is still evident on our roads. This ruins the appearance of our area and is not fair to those who do their best to keep the area to a standard so we can enjoy walks. Dog walkers, please do your part by cleaning up after your pets. Do people realise humans can pick up disease from animal's faeces, which does not have to be fresh to infect. Poopa scoops are available free of charge from the County Hall in Dun Laoghaire.

BACKYARD BURNING Many people burn waste in their back gardens (I am sure no Sandycove and Glasthule residents do this). This "backyard burning" as it is known is mistakenly seen as a way of keeping waste out of overflowing landfill and feel it is not harmful to the environment. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nearly all uncontrolled low-temperature burning of waste releases toxic pollution directly into the air without treatment or filtering.

Provence Restaurant, Martello Terrace closed its doors last year. We are now glad to welcome a new team with a new name **MARTELLO RESTAURANT**. We wish them success.

SANDYCOVE AND GLASTHULE TRADERS—their Christmas decorations were worthy of praise. Well done to all involved.

Eden Park Recycling Centre

The recycling centre at Eden Park, which opened in mid-December, is proving very successful. There is a continuous flow of people using the facilities. The Association congratulate the Dun Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council on the well set out centre. This incorporates CCTV. We hope this will ensure no dumping. This must be a great relief to residents nearby. The Eden Park recycling centre is open from Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. It closes at 4 p.m. except on Friday at 2 p.m. and Saturday at 3:30 p.m. The centre accepts paper, plastic bottles, *many types* of plastic packaging (but not all), tetra pack cartons, aluminium and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, blankets, clothes, curtains and bed linen.

STOP PRESS: As we go to print bags of recycling were left outside the railings on **SUNDAY 5TH MARCH**—a closed day. Have the people responsible no **CIVIC PRIDE**? As there is CCTV we expect they will be **NAMED** and **SHAMED**.



What? No more litter bins and no machines to provide dog scoops?

What do you think of that?

At a meeting of the Dun Laoghaire Area Committee on 23 January 2006 Councillor Jane Dillon Byrne proposed a motion "that this County Council double the number of litter bins along Newtownsmith, on to Bulloch Harbour in 2006." The County management replied: "The provision of litterbins in the County is managed by Parks Department and Environment Department as part of litter control programme. There are a number of bins in Newtownsmith — Bulloch area and these are emptied on a regular basis. In recent times these bins have been used by certain members of the public who opt to use such facilities for household waste disposal. The public also can play their part in controlling litter by disposing of minor items of waste in their own household bin if a litterbin is not located conveniently."



At the same meeting Councillor Dillon Byrne asked the County Manager to install machines which provide the public with paper and board dog scoops to improve the cleanliness and hygiene off the walking areas in the town of Dun Laoghaire. The reply given was: "Pooper-scoopers are available at County Hall, Dun Laoghaire and in the Dundrum office, free of charge. There are currently no plans to provide machines to dispense these in other areas."

So, no more litter bins along Newtownsmith to Bulloch Harbour in 2006 and no machines to provide the public with paper and board dog scoops to improve the cleanliness and hygiene off the walking areas in the town of Dun Laoghaire. What do you think of that?

All the information in this article is available on the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council website www.dlrcoco.ie.

New County Manager

The new Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Manager, Owen Keegan, will be faced with many difficult issues, not least among them how to properly deal with the efficient recycling of waste at reasonable cost to residents, bringing order to the traffic of Dun Laoghaire in a way which fairly meets the needs of local residents and resolving once and for all what is to happen to the Dun Laoghaire Baths site.

In reply to a letter from the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association, the Association has received a letter from Mr Keegan in which he states that he would be delighted to meet the Chairperson of the Association at "some stage in the future" to discuss any issues of concern to the Association. We look forward to this meeting.

Are there any issues which residents would especially like to be raised with the County Manager? Please let us know at the AGM.

TRAFFIC

It is often supposed that it is impossible to develop a consensus to solve traffic problems, the issues are so fraught. But we must not give up too easily. As a contribution to the debate there follows a summary of the key points raised in recent submissions by the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on the subjects of traffic management and parking.

There is an urgent need for a coherent overall traffic plan for Dun Laoghaire, including the Sandycove and Glashule area.

Traffic management has a significant impact on the lives of residents. There is a vital need for full and proper consultation with residents prior to the implementation of any changes for traffic management purposes. If the County Council wishes to make any changes, the Council should inform residents well in advance of such changes and give residents every reasonable opportunity to make representations regarding such changes before any decisions are made.

The main traffic problems in the locality are **congestion caused by parked vehicles** and **danger to pedestrians caused by speeding traffic**. The solutions to these problems are as follows.

Congestion caused by parked vehicles: The creation of one-way roads where demand for residents' parking plus normal volumes of two-way traffic causes the capacity of the road to be exceeded. It is an unavoidable fact that in certain streets the layout of the houses and gardens does not allow for off-street parking and so the residents have no alternative but to park their cars on the street. This need should be recognised and appropriate allowance made. It is not necessary for every street in the locality to provide for two-way through traffic. The fact that most streets in the locality are primarily residential streets, the principal purpose of which is to allow access to the houses on those streets, should be acknowledged.



The pay and display scheme must include proper provision for parking by residents – that is spaces to park in, not double yellow lines to stop us parking outside our houses. Residents' permits should be reasonably priced and should be valid in all parking bays throughout the scheme. Residential

parking needs should be better provided for by allowing parking by permit holders in all parts of the controlled parking area – there should not be parking bays which are prohibited to permit holders. The increasing tendency, even in or very close to predominately residential areas, towards "permits not valid" signs is unacceptable.

With reference to parking requirements in the planning context, frequently an allocation of one space per dwelling for new developments is inadequate in the light of current levels of car ownership.

Danger to pedestrians caused by speeding traffic: Again, recognising that it is not necessary for every street in the locality to provide for two-way through traffic, appropriate traffic calming measures should be put in place to discourage excessive speed in residential streets.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GARDEN AND BUSINESS PREMISES AWARDS

Our judges were very impressed with the work by gardeners, hanging basket and window box enthusiasts, and local traders. Selection of prize winners was again this year quite a task. These will be revealed at our AGM on **30th March 2006**.

NEWTOWNSMITH GREEN ART PROJECT

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has announced the launch of a new temporary piece of public art. The work, entitled "Saoi", by artist Seamus Kennedy will open from 7.30 pm on **22nd March 2006** on Newtownsmith Green and will be on show for 6 weeks. By day the artwork will look like boulders cast up from the shore and as dusk approaches, and throughout the night, each boulder flashes with colour. Details from Ciara King, Public Art Programme Administrator, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at cking@dlrcoco.ie.

We wish Save Greystones Harbour well in their campaign

Conferences on Dublin Bay

Save Our Seafront are holding a conference on The Future of Dublin Bay - How can we protect the Coastal Environment and Public Amenities? on **1st April 2006** at the Kingston Hotel, Dun Laoghaire from 10am to 5pm. A wide variety of campaigns will be speaking at the conference. All concerned individuals or groups are invited to attend, either for the full day or part of the day. Admission is free. Details from 087 4115015 or nsarratt@gmail.com.



Dun Laoghaire **Green Party** TD, Ciaran Cuffe, will host a conference on the future of Dublin Bay on **8th April 2006** in the Kingston Hotel in Dun Laoghaire from 10am to 4pm. The Conference will discuss transport, environmental and planning issues in and around the Bay. The issues will range from wildlife protection to the need for good planning and design in new developments. All are invited to participate in the conference. Details from 284 6060 or visit www.DublinBayFutures.org.



Among those at a recent community awards ceremony at County Hall were (from left) Claire Waddell, Margaret Browne, Bridie, Jim Ellis and Tom Byrne of the Parks Department

RESIDENTS GATHERING IN DECEMBER

A well attended and lively residents gathering was held on 1st December 2005. Our Chairperson, Ursula Maguire, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She gave a special thank you to the newsletter distributors and said that more distributors were always welcome.

New members of the Committee were welcome, and those interested were encouraged to contact existing Committee members before the AGM. Our Secretary, Kay Gleeson, who keeps us organised was thanked.

The Baths

The Chairperson reported that the Committee had met monthly and had addressed problems, especially the Baths. The hard work by Bob Waddell and John Elliot, with backup from David O'Neill and Kay Gleeson, on the Dun Laoghaire Baths campaign was acknowledged with thanks, as was the support for the campaign from many residents. Committee members had been in the public gallery at every meeting of the County Council when the baths were debated. **From now on the Committee would have a representative at every monthly Council meeting.**

Local issues and events

The Association had successfully objected to the planning application for the site at the corner Link Road and Newtownsmith. Other potential developments, such as Adelaide Stores, the Old St Paul's School, and St Brendan's Youth Club were being monitored.

There were many roads and footpaths which needed to be repaired. Information had been received from the County Council that Marine Avenue and Islington Avenue were scheduled for repair. How soon we wonder?

During the year the Association had made submissions to the County Council on traffic management, parking control and beach management.

Difficulties were encountered in Glashule when the water had been cut off for two days and circulars had not gone to all the houses affected. We had complained but have not received a satisfactory answer.

The Glashule traders were congratulated on the Christmas festivities.

Our children's art competition had been very successful and Chris O'Malley was thanked for organising this.

A Christmas pantomime

Bob Waddell presented his "Christmas pantomime" on what happened during the successful Dun Laoghaire Baths campaign which had led to the very welcome decision of the County Council that the options to be explored should exclude high-rise apartments. He talked us through the events of the year and reminded us of the significant involvement of the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association in the successful campaign. There followed a very lively debate on the baths campaign during which many residents spoke.

The Councillors get their say

The meeting was attended by several Councillors, three of whom stayed for the whole meeting and at this stage, after a break for refreshments, those three Councillors were invited to speak. See what the Councillors said below this article.

Bob Waddell questioned the funding for the baths. Would Fine Gael give central funding if in power? Councillor Bailey stated they would. Baths will keep youth from crime.

And the residents have their say

A plea was made for proper facilities for the disabled at Sandycove and Glashule Dart Station. Currently, there was going to be a lift on only one side. Councillor Regan said he would take this up with Iarnrod Eireann.

Disappointment was expressed at the new number 8 bus route. **Strong feeling emerged from the meeting that there should be a number 8 service for Sandycove and Glashule.** Possibly some of the number 8 buses could be directed to pass through. Perhaps a number 8A?

A suggestion was made that when planning application is made to the Council for development at St Brendan's youth Club a proviso could be made to accommodate the club.

It was observed that provision of brown compost bins was hoped to be a priority soon.

In concluding the meeting, the Chairperson thanked all residents for their contributions and hoped many items raised will be looked into by the Councillors present.

Community Gardai

We were grateful for the attendance of representatives of the Community Gardai at the meeting to talk about their work and crime prevention issues. Sergeant Paul Roche was accompanied by his colleagues Garda John Paul Durkin from Dun Laoghaire Garda Station and Garda Marie Barry from Dalkey Garda Station.

Sergeant Paul Roche addressed the meeting and explained that the Community Gardai were available during the daytime and evening to deal with non urgent matters that required extra attention. He said that recently there had been relatively few burglaries and thefts in the area. He gave a number of tips on crime prevention. Sergeant Roche particularly mentioned the recent ATM skimming scam and advised residents to be alert to warning signs that ATMs had been interfered with.

There was considerable discussion about some recent crimes in the area and a lively question and answer session developed. Among the issues were burglaries, assaults, the need for surveillance cameras, and concern about groups of youths hanging around in an intimidating manner.

It was announced that in a future newsletter there would be a special focus on neighbourhood watch and what could be done by residents to help prevent crime.

Fiona O'Malley TD spoke passionately about the "catch-22" which residents faced in finding parking near their homes. She demanded that the Council address this problem.

What the Councillors said

Councillor Mary Mitchell O'Connor paid tribute to the Community Gardai who had come to Harold school. She was sorry to hear of the loss of St Brendan's Youth Club. She had been very happy for Harold School to host the awards ceremony for the children's art competition and thanked the students for helping to hang up the entries. She said that the Council committee on the baths was at an early stage and she emphasised that we do not want high-rise. She

acknowledged that there were parking problems in many areas. The lights on Newtownsmith were a great addition. She said that it was important that Presentation College was not sold without consultation and that it must be kept for educational use.

Councillor John Bailey then spoke. He announced that the Eden Park recycling facility would open shortly and would be a great asset to the area. He said that the Department of Education should purchase Presentation College. Other

educational properties have been sold for non-educational use and this must not happen to Pres. Moreover, the playing fields on Hudson Road must remain for sporting use.

Our Chairperson congratulated Councillor Eugene Regan on becoming a senior counsel. Councillor Regan said that his legal experience has been helpful in dealing with many problems in the Council. He said that the original Baths plan was the then manager's plan. The adjournment in

July for three months was vital as a vote at the July meeting could have carried the manager's proposal. Efforts by the public have made people aware and he was happy to play his part. The situation now has changed, and the group of area Councillors are working hard for the benefit of all. Funds have to be found to do what we want. He mentioned that Dublin Bus wanted a number 8 bus route that could be profitable and this was the new route. The number 59 bus will continue on its present route.