

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association Newsletter



www.sandycoveandglashule.ie

May 2008

info@sandycoveandglashule.ie

Circulation 2,500

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association is thriving and active. 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. The printing of this newsletter is paid for by members' subscriptions. If you are a member, thank you. If you are not already a member, please consider joining. An application form is enclosed with this newsletter.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BATHS UPDATE

"East Pier to Sandycove Enhancement Scheme"

In our last issue, we headlined our front page "O BATHS, BATHS, WHEREFORE ART THOU BATHS?" since we had heard nothing for over a year and a half. Shortly after that, Councillors attended a presentation at the Marine Hotel of the new proposals for the Scotsman Bay shores.



We were very disappointed that we were not invited along to a presentation, if not this presentation which was for Councillors only, at least an immediate follow up to ourselves, Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association, and others like Save Our Seafront, who were to the fore in preventing the handover of the Dun Laoghaire Baths to a private developer for luxury apartments in an eight storey high building. We, like many others, have had to interpret those artist's impressions which appeared in the national media and subsequently in a very similar display of virtual reality artist's impression images on display at the County Hall. Our initial reaction is that there is very little detailed information available. It all looks rather wonderful! We feel at this stage we would not like to comment one way or the other until we receive more definitive details from our local ward Councillors.

See questions to be answered about the seafront proposals on page 2

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS Development Plan 2010-2016

The County Council has given notice it intends to review the existing County Development Plan and to prepare a new County Development Plan. The Council has prepared an "Issues and Options Paper", which identifies the kind of planning issues that the next County Development Plan could address. You can obtain a copy from the Council's website www.dlrcoco.ie or from the Planning Department, County Hall, Dun Laoghaire (between 10.00am and 4.00pm). The document may also be inspected at all branches of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Libraries. The Council will be hosting an information session on Thursday 8th May 2008 at the Assembly Hall, County Hall, Dun Laoghaire 10.00am - 2.00pm, 4.00pm - 8.00pm. The Council have asked for submissions or observations to be sent to **Senior Executive Officer, Development Plan 2010 - 2016, Economic Development & Planning Department, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, County Hall, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin** or to devplan@dlrcoco.ie. The final date for receipt of submissions is Friday, 13th June 2008.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date Thursday 15th May 2008

Time 8 pm

Venue **St Paul's Community Hall**

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

St Paul's modern community hall is located adjacent to St Paul's Church on the corner of Adelaide Road and Silchester 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 GLASHULE ARE WELCOME

The annual Garden and Business Premises Awards will be announced and presented

Unless expressly attributed, the views expressed in this newsletter are based on editorial decisions broadly reflective of the policies decided by the committee of the Association and should not necessarily be attributed to any individual committee member.

URSULA'S BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to the Youth Choir at St Joseph's who performed Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat on 29th and 30th March. Great credit is due to Clodagh Wallace, her helpers and the players who gave all the supporters very enjoyable evenings.

During the winter over 150 brave people -- young and old -- took part in the Fun Micro-Mini Triathlon, as members of the Forty Foot 11 O'clock Club. As a result they raised €25,000 for Action Breast Cancer. Well done to all.

Congratulations to Felix Jones, a local boy and member of Seapoint Rugby Club, who was called up to the Leinster Senior Squad. He played his first match on 1st March against Cardiff Blues.

Toscana secured Best Restaurant Award. Well done.

Langoustine Seafood Emporium opened recently at 19 Sandycove Road. We wish Des every success.

Bacara—Home Accessories—opened recently at 61 Glashthule Road. We wish Pam Rooney success.

Sandycove Physiotherapy and Sports Clinic has moved from Glashthule Road to 14 Adelaide Road. We wish the team continued success.

We are pleased to hear priority roads in the area for resurfacing in 2008 are Summerhill Parade and Islington Avenue. Also, Marine, Burdett and Ballygiheen Avenues are included in the road works programme. We hope all will be done this year!

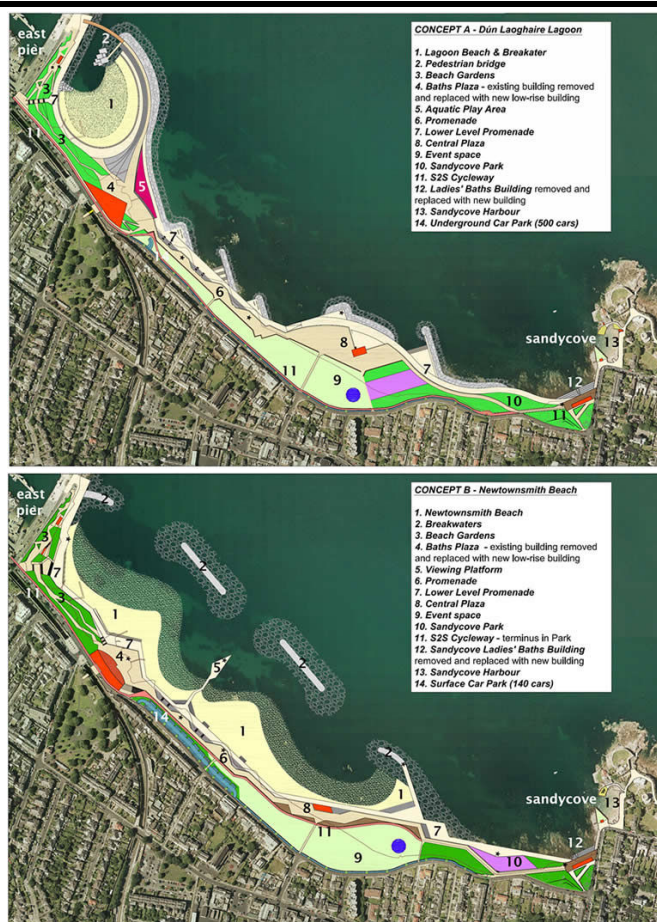
Funds are also provided by the Council for graffiti removal and cleaning and repairing of gullies. If you notice any gully problems in the area do not hesitate to contact the County Hall at 205 4879.

Major John McBride was Second Command of the Irish Brigade in the Boer War. On his return to Ireland he married Maud Gonne and they lived at 8 Spencer Villas from 1914 to 1916.

Questions to be answered about the seafront proposals

Questions residents have at this stage are

- Where is the €129 million required for the more grandiose of the two schemes?
- When will the work start?
- When will the work be completed?
- Will parts of the plan be “cherry picked” and completed first? We worry that certain aspects of the plan, such as a car park for 500 cars might get the “green light” and the other amenity facilities could be put on the “long finger”.
- How will the sea react to the dramatic change arising from the massive amounts of sand required to turn the Scotsman Bay shoreline into a “Brittas Beach”?
- How will the shoreline cope with the removal of the rocks from the area?
- How will our seafront cope with the influx of thousands of cars to avail of the golden sand facilities? Could this be a very large and grand white elephant?
- How will this 100 acre site be maintained? The County Council currently have difficulty maintaining sand and seaweed levels at the tiny Sandycove beach.



One member of our committee said these proposals were like being told you need to buy a new car because your car door is broken. Why not get back to the refurbishment of the Baths to a more modern sea and indoor pool amenity with lookouts and café facilities? Why not re-landscape the whole of the area from Sandycove to the back of the pier and subsequently hand this over to the Parks Department for maintenance who do such an excellent job in our area?

Shortly before this newsletter went to the printers we asked each of our 6 ward Councillors “what is your initial response to the seafront proposals?” The Councillors were very much divided with opinions ranging from “I think it’s very good” to “totally opposed”. But what is even more important is what you the members of the electorate think. Why don’t you let them know. **See page 3 for your Councillor contact details.**

PATTON FLYER UNDER THREAT

As reported in recent editions of the national newspapers, the Patton Flyer might cease to fly and be grounded some time in the future. Rumours abound that this would come about as a result of taxi complaints, Bus Eireann unions etc, but apparently it all goes back to the necessity of a licence and Minister Dempsey appearing to favour some very out of date rules for the regulation of buses.

As word went around Sandycove and Glathule, residents were quite outspoken and disgusted that the Patton Flyer might no longer pass through the streets of our area to and from the airport. "It is like a clock" said one resident. He stated that you knew it was exactly 5 past the hour when the Flyer heads through Glathule for the airport and quarter to the hour when it returns in the direction of Dalkey.

This excellent and professional service to and from the airport from 4am until late at night has been widely welcomed. We wish Trevor Patton well in his endeavours to retain this service.



The No 8 Bus

While the return of the No 8 bus is welcomed, it does not serve Sandycove and Glathule. And, indeed, there is a total of only 7 No 8 buses on weekdays and none of at all at weekends. And so, therefore, we say "O No 8, No 8, wherefore art thou No 8?"

Georges Street to Reopen

We understand that plans are afoot to open up Georges Street for traffic. Apparently, some of the business community feel that this will restore what retailers call "footfalls" to main street and increase sales. We wonder. What many would say is really needed is adequate 1 to 2 hour parking.

Clamping

At the last County Council meeting Councillors voted to introduce clamping to Dun Laoghaire. While this clamping penalty will only be imposed on motorists who have failed to pay for their third fine, we wonder if this is just the precursor to all-out clamping as has happened in Dublin and indeed under the Dun Laoghaire Harbour Board's jurisdiction.

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LOCAL ELECTIONS JUNE 2009

Even at this early stage, we would bring your attention to the County Council elections in June 2009. Between now and our next newsletter no doubt you will receive electoral information and handouts from our local ward Councillors. If you remember, prior to the General Election, our newsletter carried a questionnaire and the answers candidates gave to us on issues concerning our area. We intend doing the same for the local elections in a future issue. We earnestly ask you, therefore, to please send us in any issues you feel are of relevance to our area and we in turn can take this up with our local Councillors. At the top of this page we have listed our six local County Councillors. We also have five Deputies (one of whom will certainly disappear at general election time when Dun Laoghaire becomes a four seater) who you can contact at Leinster House.

HUDSON ROAD PLAYING FIELD Brothers Win Action

While the future of the playing fields on Hudson Road has had national media coverage, the outcome is still pretty much up in the air. Obviously, we are anxious that these grounds be retained for sporting facilities for use in our area. This in effect is the only green space available in this part of Dun Laoghaire. Your Association is trying to obtain a copy of the legal advice which was provided to the County Manager, Owen Keegan, prior to his seeking the variation to retain the fields as sporting facilities and the subsequent advice he got not to defend the variation was presumably from the same County Council legal advisers. The majority of Councillors voted with the County Manager's proposal and many of them would now appear to have egg on their face and are looking foolish indeed through no fault of their own.

LAW AND ORDER



Thanks to Garda Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald and his team for their work in helping to maintain order at Sandycove Beach and along the seafront. We look forward to continued cooperation in 2008. Superintendent Fitzgerald is pictured here with Committee member Bob Waddell.

Residents are warned to be on their guard to callers who ask to inspect utilities such as water pressure, ESB and gas meters. Some of these callers are plausible but bogus and will steal from you in what has been dubbed "yellow jacket crime".

Green Coast Management Plan for Sandycove Beach for 2008

The Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association was recently asked to comment on the Green Coast Management Plan for Sandycove Beach for 2008. We were glad to be invited to comment but surprised that we were given **only two days** in which to prepare our comments.

We said that the biggest problem on Sandycove Beach is the consumption of alcohol by rowdy groups and the subsequent intimidation of visitors to the beach during the peak season. The local Gardai make regular visits to the beach but this does not stop the vandalism, intimidation and nuisance, in particular to families with small children.

Water sampling should be carried out on a weekly basis and the results displayed on the notice board. Excess seaweed, pictured here, and the piling up of sand should be dealt with on a regular basis. Parking must be organised so that the ambulance and fire brigade services have instant access to the beach and the Forty Foot, if required.



Why is the construction of the lifeguard's hut taking so long? Will it be completed in time for the summer season of 2008?

The County Council replied that unfortunately there is no way to stop gangs drinking alcohol completely, but the Gardai have increased their presence in the area and have adopted a "zero-tolerance" policy with regard to the public consumption of alcohol and fines for the breach of this bye-law have increased hugely in the past year. The County Council told us that water quality sampling is done each week during the bathing season from June to August and results of these samples are posted on the Sandycove notice board each week. We were told that the lifeguard's hut was nearing completion and that delays had been due to difficulties with the contractor beyond the Council's control. They also said that beach maintenance staff endeavour to move seaweed as soon as it becomes a nuisance.

FESTIVAL OF WORLD CULTURES

We are looking forward to again welcoming the very successful Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Festival of World Cultures. Over the last number of years this has been a tremendous success along with the poetry festival in April. Litter control, Gardai vigilance and overall event organisation was appreciated and brings much needed activity to Dun Laoghaire. However, we did hear from a number of residents on the seafront that tidying up left something to be desired in some areas.

Geothermal heating

The growing awareness of the need to cut CO₂ emissions because of the, by now accepted, link with global warming is encouraging many people to examine their lifestyles and, in particular, their homes to assess what might be done to cut CO₂ emissions and encourage more sustainable energy usage. This is now evident in the Sandycove and Glashule area with several households

engaged in installing sustainable energy solutions. We have seen for example a house on Marine Avenue, and also a house on Glashule Road, installing a geothermal heating system, and there are others in the process of doing so. Geothermal heating involves taking heat from the ground water and using that energy in the ground water to heat the house. A borehole is drilled 150 metres into the ground - that is 30 metres deeper than the height of The Spire on O'Connell Street! A pipe carrying a

saline solution is placed down into the borehole, returning back to the surface. The saline solution is passed through a heat exchanger inside the house, where the heat it has gathered in the ground is extracted, and used to heat the central heating water, which usually will pass through an underfloor heating circuit. Because of the efficiency of the heat exchanger (basically a big fridge in reverse), 1 kWh (a unit of electricity) extracts 4 to 5 kWh of heat from the ground.

Lighting at Newtownsmith

Councillor Jane Dillon Byrne told us that she recently asked the County Manager about the public lighting scheme at Newtownsmith, which appears unable to withstand the exposed weather conditions and continually has a number of lights not working, and that the Council replaces the existing standards with a more robust variety of lamp. A senior Council engineer replied that the ornamental lighting at Newtownsmith coastal pathway has been functionally problematic since installation with the high outage levels, particularly after windy and wet weather. The two pin inserted socket holder lamp shakes free of its holding due to the lamp heat and the wind with consequential outage and wire cover melt, short circuit etc. A meeting with the manufacturer's agent, the Council and the Council's public lighting maintenance contractor is scheduled. It is hoped to replace the flawed lighting with a more modern alternative with greater security and longer-lasting lamp life. If this is not feasible then replacement with a different lantern will be investigated, ordered and installed in due course. We trust the County Council will not incur additional costs.

CONGRATULATIONS

Footpaths, traffic lights and bus stops

From time to time, through necessity, we have to be critical of our Councillors and our County Manager and County Council officials. However, it is nice to be able to congratulate Councillors and officials for jobs well done to improve the amenities in our area. We would like to include amongst those to highlight the large investment in renovating corner footpaths with tactile pavements and lowered to facilitate wheelchairs and pushchairs. Likewise the traffic lights near the Link Road and Newtownsmith junction. Also Bus Eireann have carried out further improvements to the majority of bus stops in our area and, indeed, in some cases have added shelters. However, Bus Eireann, can we not have timetables fixed to the new yellow bus stops to give some indication of the approximate arrival of our transport service?



GLASTHULE OPERA

Glasthule Opera was founded by local resident Anne-Marie O'Sullivan to establish an annual festival of opera in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. The entire focus of the festival will be on having the best of our very talented young singers from all over Ireland perform in a manner which is accessible to all music loving people. The first festival will begin in June 2009 at the Pavilion Theatre. To launch Glasthule Opera it will present, this year, its "Inaugural Opera Gala" at the Pavilion Theatre on Sunday 15th June at 8pm. A concert of arias and ensembles from "Carmen", "La Traviata", "Rigoletto" and much more will be a taste of what's to come in the festival. Booking at Pavilion Theatre 231 2929.

Has Anne-Marie O'Sullivan the answer to the use of the Baths?



PLANNING NEWS

The Crossroads Committee must be pleased with the recent decision by An Bord Pleanála to turn down the development for the old school building at the junction of Adelaide Road and Eden Road.

We also note that planning permission is again being sought for the area adjacent to Link Road and fronting onto Newtownsmith, pictured here. We examined these proposals and are pleased that, while two perfectly good houses are to be demolished, the proposed replacement buildings appear to keep within the height restrictions. We will be watching this development.



ST MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL, DUN LAOGHAIRE

While Council planners have rejected the application to build an 8 storey apartment block on the site of the hospital car park, the threat to St Michael's still remains. Some Councillors, however, are stating that St Michael's is now safe. But we still feel (on the basis of other hospitals being scheduled for closure while in the process of building new operating theatres) that we must continue to be vigilant, to endeavour to maintain in the long-term St Michael's Hospital for Dun Laoghaire as a hospital offering A&E facilities, in addition to the other work that it does.

FUTURE PLAN FOR DUBLIN BAY



The Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association, with assistance from some local residents, made a submission to Dublin City Council in November 2007 in response to a request for submissions on proposals for a future plan for Dublin Bay.

These are highlights of the submission.

The entire Dublin Bay region is a public amenity and therefore increased access and usage of amenities such as beaches, cycle and walk ways, water sports, fishing etc should be foremost. Such development is welcome and acceptable provided there is no development on the sea side of the DART and no vehicular usage. We are particularly opposed to privatisation of the foreshore area whether by sale or lease, and we do not accept residential development on the seaward side of the DART line in the Booterstown to Dun Laoghaire frontage. We believe it is totally unacceptable to permit private residential developments on such public marine resources such as the Carlisle Pier, the public baths sites, and Bullock Harbour.

The Dublin Bay Bill 2007 provides for the establishment of a Dublin Bay Authority. That Authority should be accessible with representation from all the relevant stakeholders including residents associations such as Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association.

The plan for an 8-storey residential development on the site of Dun Laoghaire Baths, which was withdrawn by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council after overwhelming public protest, was intended to raise substantial revenues for the County Council and private developers. The vision and motivation for exploitation and development of Dublin Bay amenities should not be for profit, but to leave a great legacy for future communities.

Infill of the scale proposed may have extreme unforeseen effects long term. All development proposed must contain (in an integrated planning way) the necessary public amenities and infrastructure. All amenities developed should take into account local community needs and interests and must include provision for people with disabilities.

In conclusion we wish to be included and participate in the process of defining this vision and plan for Dublin Bay.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26th April 2007

Ursula Maguire, Chairperson, opened the meeting by welcoming the large attendance present, including local Councillors and candidates for the forthcoming General Election.

Apologies were received from Eamon Gilmore TD, and Councillors Cormac Devlin and Mary Mitchell O'Connor.

A moment's silence was held on behalf of all deceased members of the Association, including Nancy Bourke and Leo Dolan.

As this was the last residents' meeting to be held in Presentation College, which was due to close at the end of June, Ursula Maguire thanked Jim Murray, Principal, and Secretary, Kathleen Maher, for their kind co-operation during past years. As St Paul's Parish Centre was recently officially opened, it was hoped to hold the next residents' gathering there.

Ursula Maguire thanked all connected with the production of the newsletter, and, in particular, all who delivered it, and asked for more volunteers to help distribute future editions.

It was stated that there was no further news on the Dun Laoghaire Baths site, other than that a committee of local Councillors were considering all aspects. There was good news regarding Presentation College which was to remain in educational use. There was no news about the future of the sports field at Hudson Road.

Paul O'Callaghan presented the Treasurer's report which was accepted.

Ted Courtney was elected a member of the Committee. Ursula Maguire thanked Paul Martin who was leaving the Committee for all his hard work over his period of time on the Committee. All officers and other members of the Committee were re-elected.

The awards for the best gardens and best business premises were presented. These were reported in our last newsletter. All sponsors of the awards were thanked.

When the meeting was opened to the floor, many items were discussed – traffic, parking, pay and display, the appearance of double yellow lines on many roads locally and the general opposition to car clamping; litter and dirt on the streets of the area; the present whereabouts of the No 8 bus and its disappearance from the direct route from Dalkey to Dublin.

There was a long discussion on planning projects, in particular the former Post Office site on Adelaide Road; the site of St Brendan's opposite it; the site of the Hall of St Paul's Church; Barkel Motors; 1 Rosmeen Gardens; and the ongoing opposition to work being carried out on a house in Coldwell Street. Mary King gave a short presentation on the local opposition to plans proposed for Kilmarnock House in Killiney.

All Councillors present and prospective candidates for the General Election contributed to the general discussion.

Ursula Maguire closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

RESIDENTS GATHERING IN NEW ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY HALL

There was standing room only at the residents' gathering held on Thursday 22nd November 2007 for the first time in the new St Paul's Community Hall which was opened earlier last year. Due to the closure of Presentation College we were delighted at the invitation of the Committee of St Paul's Community Hall to have the use of their wonderful facilities. In spite of the change of location we had an excellent attendance and indeed we were joined by some new members.

One of the main topics which arose at the meeting was the extreme annoyance at the non-existence of the No 8 bus in the Sandycove and Glasthule area and the fact that even when it did run it was only seven times a day and not at weekends.

There was much discussion on the traffic problems in the area and again the Councillors and County Council were exhorted to come up with the long-awaited overall traffic plan from Killiney to Blackrock. At the moment changes seem to be made in a very piecemeal fashion, including the introduction of double yellow lines, one-way streets and indecision whether or not to open up the main street through Dun Laoghaire.

Anna Comerford of the Crossroads Committee spoke on the history of the old St Paul's Hall, which was built in 1911 and rounded off by updating residents on the actions taken to prevent an unacceptable building on the site of the hall.

Members of the Association Committee spoke on subjects such as their attendance at the recent Active Citizenship Conference (a two-day event) and the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council were congratulated for their initiative in holding the conference. Mention was made of the A to Z services booklet available at County Hall, which lists all the services which are available from the County Council and the relevant contact phone numbers. Residents were urged to make sure they registered for voting at the next election.

It was decided at the meeting that the Association should make a submission to Dublin City Council on proposals for the future of Dublin Bay and a special sub-committee was formed for this purpose. Highlights of the Association's submission can be seen on page 5 of this newsletter.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS

We take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the 50 plus residents of the area who distribute twice yearly our newsletter to some 2,500 homes in the area of Sandycove and Glasthule. It is an essential task for our communications strategy and we notice that the majority of residents are very pleased to receive a copy of our Association's newsletter.

Would you like to volunteer? It is not an arduous task and takes up, at the most, one hour of your time twice a year.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Your current committee consists of Chairperson Ursula Maguire, Secretary Kay Gleeson, Treasurer Paul O'Callaghan and committee members Eamonn Buckley, Maurice Coleman, Bernadette Comerford, Ted Courtney, John Elliot, David O'Neill and Bob Waddell.



Margaret Browne and John Plant are pictured here tidying up in preparation for Tidy Town inspectors.