

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association Newsletter



www.sandycoveandglashule.ie

Summer 2009

info@sandycoveandglashule.ie

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Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association is thriving and active and exists to promote the best interests of the residents of the area. We regularly publish this newsletter, which is distributed to 2,500 households. Members' subscriptions pay for the cost of printing of this newsletter. 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.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

for the Council elections on 5th June when they call to residents' doors

We have compiled a number of questions for candidates for the Council elections on 5th June when they call to residents' doors. While we are delighted of course to receive their brochures indicating their promises for the future and what they intend to achieve for us over the next five years, a much better evaluation of at least the candidates who have been Councillors is to simply ask what has happened to the promises which were made five years ago. We have been asking residents what questions they would like to be asked and we have listed the most popular. These questions have not been put in any order of significance or importance.

1. Where is the No. 8 bus promised by two Fine Gael Councillors, one now a Senator?
2. Why are the majority of drains still blocked and yet certain Councillors promised they would be cleared?
3. Why is there no overall traffic plan from Killiney to Blackrock?
4. Why are traffic changes carried out in a piecemeal way, i.e. one week we have a one-way in one street and then it is changed, double yellow lines, parking meters etc?
5. Why have you done absolutely nothing about Dun Laoghaire Baths except spend in excess of €300,000, mostly on consultants' fees, and put forward a plan to dramatically alter the Sandycove shoreline?
6. Why do you continually vote at the Council by toeing the party line rather than as an individual, and not vote on the wishes of the majority of the residents e.g. the Baths, clamping, etc?
7. Why do Councillors not act to assist the commercial activities of this area? There should be one/two hours free parking in order to stop a flood of local people going to Dun-drum where they can park, unlike Dun Laoghaire, where traffic attendants hover behind every corner waiting to impose their fines. Are Councillors proud of the fact that Dun Laoghaire is a dying town?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date Monday 15th June 2009

Time 8 pm

Venue **St Joseph's Pastoral Centre**

St Joseph's recently opened modern community hall is located to the left of St Joseph's Church, Glashule, entrance through the main church gates

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 Eamonn's Bookshop, 50 Sandycove Road, Sandycove

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 Father Shay Cullen from Adelaide Road. He recently received the Meteor European Humanitarian Award.

Eagles House, Glasthule is now under new management. Declan McNamara, a young local man, has taken over. We wish him success in this new venture.

Sandycove can be proud to have had a representative at the Special Olympic World Winter Games in 13 year-old local boy Charlie O'Reilly of Albert Road.

Congratulations to Paddy Treanor of Albert Road, founder of Ark Veterinary Hospital, Patrick Street, Dun Laoghaire who received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Stronghold Veterinary Pet Care Awards. Ark Veterinary Hospital was commended in the Awards Programme.

Nigel Dunn is the Litter Warden for our area. Any help residents can give him and any problems you may have, do make contact with him at 205 4700.

Over €1.6 million roads funding has been allocated to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for 2009. Let us hope the promised resurfacing of Marine Avenue and other roads in this area will be included this year.

So many were very excited about the Irish Rugby Team winning the Six Nations Grand Slam. We can be exceedingly proud as the current president of the Irish Rugby Football Union is John Lyons of Sandycove Avenue West.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is expected to implement the "Brown Bins" Organic Waste Scheme by July. A very useful resource and can be processed in Ireland. This means jobs for Irish workers. When these bins are delivered to households you are encouraged to make full use of them.

We hear calls have been made to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council that new planning rules should be introduced addressing the growing problems of temporary hoardings in the Dun Laoghaire area. There have been such hoardings on Castlepark Road and Elton Park for some time. These do not enhance our area.

Again this year the Forty Foot's 11 O'clock Swimmers Group organised a Fun Micro Mini Triathlon, raising vital funds for Action Breast Cancer. Well done. As a result a cheque for €32,000 was presented to the Irish Cancer Society.

Cavistons Restaurant is now also open 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Continued success to Peter Caviston.

We wish success to Glasthule DIY who are open on Eden Road.

All roads in the County are being cleaned. Road sweepers will visit main traffic routes each week or fortnight and residential areas each month. Contact Street Cleaning Section of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Phone 205 4817 to check when they will be in your area. Parked vehicles prevent proper cleaning. Residents can help by having their cars removed on the day cleaners are with you.

Dog dirt is still a problem. DO NOT be afraid to draw attention to anyone who does not clean up. Leaving dirt after animals is dangerous to health. Is it really fair for those who do clean up to arrive home and have to clean up after others outside their gate?

A very interesting evening was enjoyed by a packed hall in St Joseph's Parish Centre dealing with the habitat of the area and the important benefits of composting. This was organised by Sandycove Tidy Towns with the support of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Well done to Margaret Brown and her team.

OUR COUNCILLORS

One must ask the question, do our current batch of Councillors have any powers? Very little apparently judging by the total non-involvement in the decision on the overnight resurfacing of the Williamstown seafront site between Blackrock and Booterstown. At the recent County Council meeting in Dun Laoghaire, it was announced that cutbacks across the board in relation to the number of staff employed, curtailment of part-time staff and a definite embargo on the hiring of staff will have all kinds of effects. Just a thought that €300,000 spent on the totally non-productive plans to completely change the layout of our seafront would have gone a long way towards alleviating some of these cutbacks. In order to assist our County Manager to maintain at least the basic support services of the area, we ask readers to let us know any thoughts you might have on monies that can be saved. How about a cutback in the remuneration and expenses of our Councillors?

Candidates, posters and plastic ties

Do you know that hundreds of plastic ties still adorn many light poles in our area from the last General Election? We appeal to the County Council and European Parliament candidates to respect Sandycove and Glasthule. The Tidy Towns committee are appreciative of those parties which have not spoilt Sandycove Village with their posters and plastic ties. We urge residents to note, and ideally photograph, posters outside their premises now so we can identify those who do not remove plastic ties. Again, we ask, why not a specific colour for each political party?

ILLUMINATED ADVERTISING SIGNS

Dun Laoghaire County Council came up with the idea of erecting numerous advertising signs throughout the County. We were told this would generate some €10,000,000 in revenue over 10 years. It all seemed like a very good idea in one way until we walked through Sandycove and Glasthule and realised that already our pavements are littered with signs and objects of all types including ESB poles, traffic light poles, stop, go, turn left, telephone kiosks, many flower tubs advertising for various shops, etc, etc (some of which can be seen in this picture). We have talked to a number of residents whose eyesight is not the best or who are confined to a wheelchair and they say it would become a nightmare. Surely, there must be better methods of raising funding for our area without imposing even more restrictions on our pavements. We understand that one of our local ward Councillors has been effective in cutting out any proposed signs for our area but we will have to be ever vigilant.



No More Rust-Coloured Monument Outside Meadows and Byrne

Residents who walk, cycle or drive along the seafront to Dun Laoghaire Station or Marine Road will surely, with great delight for many, notice the disappearance of the rust-coloured monument which was located in front of the Meadows and Byrne store. So far, we have heard of no complaints! Everyone we have talked to says, please County Council, don't bring it back!

LOCAL ELECTIONS JUNE 2009

A list of Councillors who will be putting themselves up for re-election and new faces who have made themselves known to us.

John Bailey (FG), Richard Boyd Barrett (People Before Profit, SOS), James Coyle (Independent), Cormac Devlin (FF), Jane Dillon Byrne (Labour), Gene Feighery (Green), Stephen Fitzpatrick (Labour), Brian McNally (Sinn Féin), Mary Mitchell O'Connor (FG), Peter O'Brien (FF), Tom O'Higgins (FG), Shane O'Neill (Independent), Trevor Patton (Independent), Angela Timlin (Labour), Brigid Timmons (Independent).

COUNCILLORS' REMUNERATION

In talking to residents, we were quite amazed by the fact that many seem to be under the impression that Councillors carried out their duties on a voluntary basis. Well perhaps we should bring the following to your attention.

We have been informed by the Council that the annual Councillor salary is €25,208.45, made up of 2/3 salary and 1/3 meeting attendance allowance and a Councillor must attend 80% of meetings to claim the full allowance. The Chairs of the 6 strategic policy committees receive an allowance of €6,000 per annum in addition. There is an annual conference allowance of up to €4,287.45 covering expenses incurred. There is a telephone allowance of up to €600 per annum. The Councillors have access to the County Hall car park when on Council business. The Cathaoirleach receives a 12 month allowance of €37,847 to cover expenses, including a car. The Leas Cathaoirleach receives a 12 month allowance of €7,343. A new taxable allowance was introduced in 2007 for the Chair of the County Development Board of €6,000 per annum. Most Councillors are appointed to various other bodies by virtue of their status as Councillors. These other bodies include organisations like, just to take a few examples at random, the Dublin Regional Authority, Dun Laoghaire Harbour Board, the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Tourism Company, the Eastern River Basin Authority, the Lord Edward Fitzgerald Memorial Fund and the Southern and Eastern Assembly, as well as numerous others. The Council was not able to tell us what payments are made to Councillors for membership of these bodies, but we have found out that the Councillors who are also members of the Dun Laoghaire Harbour Board are paid an **additional** €13,000 per annum.

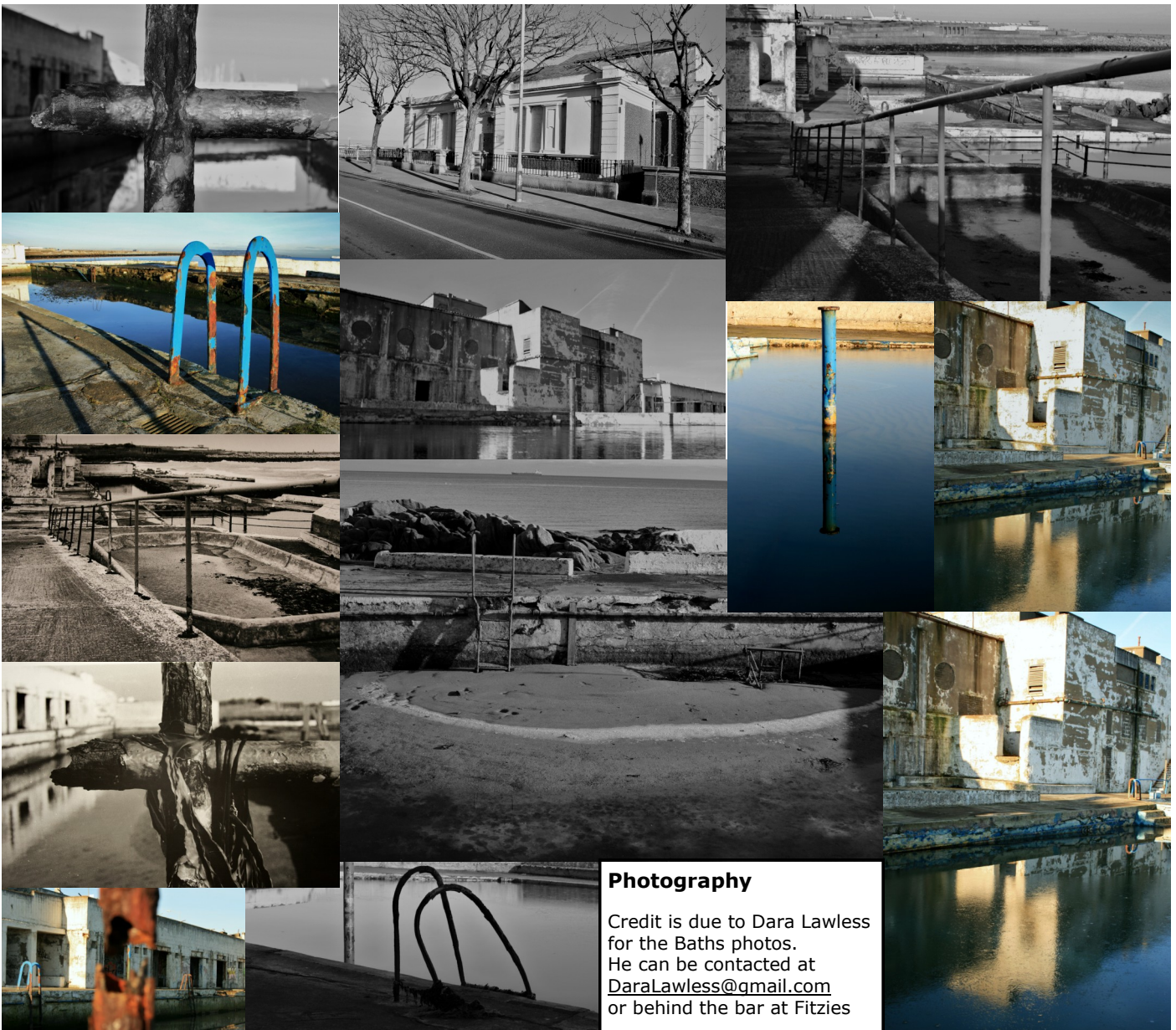
Call for investigation into Council's finances

We hear that the Department of the Environment has been called on to investigate the financial affairs of the County Council following criticisms raised by the local government auditor. The concerns partly relate to the Cherrywood Science and Technology Park joint venture scheme. Issues raised in 2006 were still not addressed in the latest report.

County Development Plan 2010 to 2016

We urge residents to make submissions before 3rd July 2009. Plans are on display now in the County Hall. Your Association is making a submission. We look forward to hearing your views at the AGM.

Outrageous and pathetic neglect by the County Council over the last 40 years and still nothing happening



Photography

Credit is due to Dara Lawless for the Baths photos. He can be contacted at DaraLawless@gmail.com or behind the bar at Fitzies

The key features of the recommendations of the County Council Baths Sub-Committee, consisting of our local ward Councillors, in relation to the development of Dun Laoghaire Baths were (1) to retain the existing building with a modern extension, if required, to accommodate proposed public amenities, including swimming facilities, but not including high-rise or residential development and (2) that any infill development is limited to providing adequate sea defences and (3) that to reduce the scale of any development project the area between the East Pier and the Baths is prioritised for upgrading and renewal. Therefore it came as a surprise to us that none of these key features are included in the draft County Development Plan. The draft plan says **nothing** about retaining the existing building **or** accommodating public amenities (apart from "improved pedestrian linkage to the east pier") **or** provid-

ing swimming facilities **or** prohibiting high-rise or residential development **or limiting** any infill development to providing adequate sea defences **or** reducing the scale of any development project by prioritising the area between the East Pier and the Baths for upgrading and renewal. Councillor Gene Feighery put a motion to include in the Development Plan the features recommended by the Baths Sub-Committee. This motion was supported by Mary Mitchell O'Connor, but not by our other local ward Councillors and the motion failed. What is the County Council's agenda? What became of the views expressed by thousands of residents who made their voices heard through signing the petition and attending the largest protest marches in the history of Dun Laoghaire? What has become of democracy? You may wish to ask any election candidate who comes looking for your vote.

Historic Boyd Barrett Baths Connection

We thank Brian McAteer of Dundela Avenue for bringing this to our attention. A report of the General Purposes Committee of the Dun Laoghaire Borough Corporation discloses that in 1937 the Corporation "felt that the existing baths were insufficient and unsuitable" and "decided to examine the question of providing for Dun Laoghaire on extensive and modern lines, a completely new baths scheme". They limited the proposed expenditure to £100,000 and a public competition was held. The winning scheme was designed by Basil Boyd Barrett, who as it happens was the great uncle of Richard Boyd Barrett, Chairperson of Save Our Seafront.

Peoples Park

Congratulations yet again to the staff in the Peoples Park whose beautiful and clever mix of colours does the heart good in these depressing times. The Peoples Park, gardens and fountains are, of course, situated in the Sandycove and Glasthule area and residents are justifiably proud of that fact. If only some other parts of Sandycove and Glasthule looked as well – see photos below of developers' neglected investments.

WASTELANDS

Parts of Sandycove and Glasthule are becoming a neglected wasteland. Our photos show parts of our area which were bought by developers.

The top photo shows two, sadly no longer, garden centres, Harry Byrnes and Mackeys. Planning permission was approved, but no sign of anything happening.

The middle photo shows the property and gardens which were the residence of the late Mr O'Cearbhaill. These have been lying here for many years now on a corner of Elton Park. Again, we understand planning had been granted, but to date nothing is happening.

The bottom photo shows two houses just around the corner from Link Road on the seafront. The gardens of these houses, both back and front, are worse for wear. One has been used for an office business and the other appears to be empty. Yet again, nothing happening here.

Tidy Towns

There will be a tidy up each Saturday throughout the summer in order to foster a community spirit for everyone to pull together and make our area a better place to live. If you want to become involved phone Margaret Brown at 086 3442533.





SANDYCOVE VILLAGE

Sandycove Village now has 18 retail businesses. With the recent opening of The Butler's Pantry and New Lisa Life, Sandycove Village is becoming a shopping area in its own right with a supermarket, ATM machine, wine shop, restaurant, book shop, furniture auction rooms, public house, ladies boutique, hairdresser, beauty salon, and a curtain and upholstery shop, apart from doctors and dentists. We are delighted to welcome new investment in the village.

We welcome The Butler's Pantry to Sandycove. Many residents attended the open house party in March of this year. We wish the owner, Eileen Bergin, now with 7 branches, and staff every success for the future. We also welcome Lisa Murphy to Sandycove. New Lisa Life beauty salon opened in March of this year. Pictured here from left to right are Camilla Byrne, Siobhan Whelan and, of course, Lisa Murphy herself. We wish them both well in their business. Residents of the area, no doubt, with The Butler's Pantry and New Lisa Life are now going to eat and look very well!

Albert Road One-Way Traffic System

The one-way system at Albert Road, which has been put in place for a 6-month trial period, is having a serious impact on businesses and employment in the local area according to local traders who have strongly urged the County Council to reverse the one-way system decision.

The majority of Sandycove businesses are up in arms over the unilateral introduction of one-way from Sandycove Road up to Hudson Road adjacent to Charles Fitzgerald Pub. This has meant in effect that traffic can no longer come down and enter the village of Sandycove but must either turn left and come up via Glashule village or right around by Elton Park. We of course are more than aware that the traffic situation is a highly sensitive topic and what suits some does not suit others and we have always tried to avoid taking sides. It really does get back to the presentation of an overall traffic plan from Killiney to Blackrock. A piecemeal attempt always runs into problems e.g. Sandycove seafront was full parking at one time, then a white line, then double yellow lines and, of course, who can forget the attempt at cycle paths with concrete slabs all the way up both sides of Avondale Road. It cost €250,000 to put this down and another similar amount to remove it.



Hudson Road Sports Ground

This photo shows the Hudson Road sports ground, held on lease by the Presentation Christian Brothers and recently sold to Ben Dunne for a leisure centre. A local Ward Council-



lor assured us some years ago that this would not pass into private hands! Members of your committee have visited Ben Dunne and have seen at first hand his other two leisure centres at Carlisle on Kimmage Road and Northwood in Santry. Buildings are one storey, very well equipped and the committee members who visited were impressed. However, we would urge the local residents if they have any apprehensions to please visit Ben Dunne's other premises to see whether you would be for or against. Mr Dunne assured us that when going for planning, he would hold a presentation of what was planned in one of the halls in our area. We look forward to that. We hear that planning permission will be applied for in 4 weeks time.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AT BULLOCH HARBOUR

We are delighted to hear that Green Party Councillor Gene Feighery, supported by the other ward Councillors, has had a successful motion put which establishes that Bulloch Harbour will remain safe from the type of desecration which was planned for our Dun Laoghaire Baths and enthusiastically supported by the majority of Councillors some years ago.

The County Manager proposed to zone Bulloch Harbour for waterfront development and harbour related uses which, believe it or not, could have included pubs, nightclubs, hotels, shops, offices, certain types of industry, advertising structures, residential development, residential institutions and travellers' accommodation. The new zoning is to improve coastal amenities which will allow open space, sports clubs and restaurants.

GLASTHULE OPERA

Summer Nights at the Opera

Anne-Marie O'Sullivan, the founder of **Glasthule Opera**, has advised us that *La Bohème* will be performed at the **Pavilion Theatre** on 23rd, 25th and 27th June. This opera is considered by many to be Puccini's most popular and tells the story of youthful love, loss, poverty and joy. The evenings in between, 24th and 26th June, will see a double bill of the Irish premiere of *The Wandering Scholar*, Gustav Holst's last opera which is a comedy set in a farmhouse in the French countryside, and also Vaughan Williams' opera *Riders to the Sea* setting to music J M Synge's powerful play – very much part of Irish theatre history.



BROTHERS RETURN TO GLASTHULE

The photo shows 8 members of the Presentation Brothers religious community, from 4 different nationalities, who we are delighted to see in residence in their newly refurbished Presentation House here in Glasthule. They are, in the front, Brothers Raymond Dwyer, Mark Fitzpatrick, Andrew Hickey and Majella Burke and, in the back, Brother Valerius Sandow, Mr Everaldo Ferreira, and Brothers Eunan Page and Barry Noel. Brother Philip Carroll is missing from the picture. The Brothers' Education Office, Vocations Office and Communications Centre are based in the house. The gardens have been newly laid out and no doubt Brother Eunan will be in his element as he attempts to out-do our Peoples Park! Congratulations on the very tastefully done front wall and wrought iron railings.



Confused?

Implications of new proposals for Sandyrove seafront

The mere fact that the majority of Councillors have given their approval for a renovation of our seafront area from Sandyrove Beach to the back of the East Pier has instilled a degree of apprehension among residents in the area.

Look what happened in the Williamstown area to the open space along the foreshore that is used for circuses. Recently the Council moved in and converted the whole area to hard surface, which potentially could be used as a car park.



Is this what the Council has in mind for a part of the area called Sandyrove Green, stretching from Dun Laoghaire Baths to the Link Road and further in the direction of Sandyrove?

The majority of residents have no objection to the wonderful cultural festival of which is held each year. They certainly raised huge objections to the state our seafront park was left in after the fun fair. Even today, almost a year after that event, large tracts of ground are bare on dry days and a muddy field when it rains.

Of course, the Council no doubt will say that covering a large area with concrete will prevent this desecration to the area when it is used for events.

Residents are asking what's wrong with the present wonderful open park in which, not only during the months of summer but during the year, people are walking and relaxing – a real breath of fresh air for residents, visitors from all over Dublin, Ireland and, indeed, abroad to enjoy.

No fun fairs at Newtownsmith

Following representations by the Sandyrove and Glasthule Residents Association regarding the damage caused by the fun fair at Newtownsmith last summer, we have been informed that the County Council has reviewed its policy regarding the fun fairs on the site and decided not to stage them at Newtownsmith for the foreseeable future.

Car Parking Proposal for Newtownsmith Rejected by Councillors

At a recent County Council committee meeting proposals were presented by officials to build car parking bays on the seafront side of Newtownsmith, near to Link Road. Councillors decided to reject the proposal. Concerns were expressed that these parking bays would set a precedent and eventually the whole seafront would become one big car park.

STILL A MYSTERY AT THE EAST PIER

Are we facing into yet another eyesore on our beautiful East Pier? The renovated bandstand pavilion, which is located almost half way down the East Pier on the upper deck overlooking the bandstand seems to have disappeared altogether.

AUTUMN RESIDENTS MEETING **17th NOVEMBER 2008**

Our Autumn meeting was held for the first time in the O'Sullivan Hall in the new St Joseph's Pastoral Centre. All were in agreement that it was a handsome new addition to Glashule.

In attendance were Councillors John Bailey, Jane Dillon Byrne, Gene Feighery, Mary Mitchell O'Connor and Tom O'Higgins.

In her new post as chairperson, Kay Gleeson welcomed the sizeable crowd with a special welcome for Fr Bill Farrell the new curate for St Joseph's.

In a short introductory address, Kay reported on the work of the committee over the previous six months. Submissions had been made for the Seafront Development Plan, The Dun Laoghaire Development Plan and the Dublin Bay Task Force on which Bob Waddell gave a short talk.

The meeting was then opened to the floor and in the course of an entertaining and informative evening many topics were introduced.

As well as the perennial concerns of traffic, parking, litter, lack of No. 8 bus etc, several new topics were mentioned.

Particularly of interest were the plans for Ben Dunne to build a fitness centre on the field at Hudson Road. The committee promised to contact Mr Dunne to discuss our concerns directly with him.

The floods in Glashule during the summer were also raised and residents suggested several reasons for this. The Council officials were still investigating.

Finally, the evening ended in the usual way with a glass of wine and some interesting chat.

The Committee at the Peoples Park:

Paul O'Callaghan, John Elliot, Kay Gleeson (Chairperson), Ursula Maguire, John Conroy, Eamonn Buckley (Secretary) and Bob Waddell. Bernadette Comerford (Treasurer) and Ted Courtney are unfortunately absent from the photograph.



"Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Community Award"

Following on from our highly acclaimed stone bench and table memorial at Sandycove in memory of the late Denis Burton who was our postman in the Sandycove and Glashule area for over 20 years, your Committee have decided on another award which we would like to initiate, namely the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Community Award". We were pleased and honoured indeed that the Denis Burton memorial has appeared in the Honour and Memory Book prepared by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Each year, we would ask residents to propose in writing an individual or organisation who they felt in the Sandycove and Glashule area merited this special community award. If there is a worthy recipient the individual or organisation to be honoured will be announced at our AGM. At our last residents meeting, the name of Eamon Gunne, a retired Garda Sergeant who lived in St Helens and a person who was very much involved in the local community, was mentioned. Since then we have been amazed at the number of people who have come forward and brought to our attention the wonderful works that Eamon became involved in for the betterment of this area. Your committee, after much deliberation and discussion, are proposing that Eamon Gunne will be posthumously awarded the first Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Community Award. We intend presenting this award to members of Eamon's family at our AGM in June. We are asking you, the residents, to propose nominations for future awards and we would ask you to send us your proposals either by emailing info@sandycoveandglashule.ie or writing to The Secretary, Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association, c/o Eamonn's Bookshop, 50 Sandycove Road, Sandycove.



Glashule Buildings Centenary

Your Help Needed

Glashule Buildings will be celebrating their centenary in September 2009. The organisers of the

centenary celebrations would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any old photos, stories or history of any kind relating to the buildings. Photos will be carefully kept and returned. Please send to Leone Shine, 39 Glashule Buildings, Glashule.

