

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association Newsletter



www.sandycoveandglashule.ie

May 2010

info@sandycoveandglashule.ie

Circulation 2,500

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 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.

So, what's happening about the Baths?

New plans any day now?

We understand a new plan is to be announced this month and it will not include high-rise apartments or fanciful artificial beaches, but at the time of going to print we do not know what it will include and the whole thing seems to be shrouded in mysterious secrecy. There is no certainty that the plan will include restoration of a swimming pool to the Dun Laoghaire Baths site. Hopefully, whatever is proposed will be realistic and achievable and will not involve the waste of time and money of the original high-rise scheme or the so-called Options A and B. Of course, whatever the plan we can expect finding the money to fund the plan to be a problem.



Please support your local businesses

In Sandycove and Glashule, all on a street of one kilometre (shorter than Grafton Street in Dublin):



Butchers, grocer, supermarket, hairdressers, pharmacies, car sales garages, cake shop, bakery, bookmakers, auctioneers, public houses, beauty salons, florists, curtain and drapery shop, boutiques, wine merchants, dentists, doctors, bookshop, veterinary surgeon, post office, restaurants, cafés, late night shops, fish and chip shop, solicitors.

Have we left anyone out? Please let us know.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date Monday 24th May 2010

Time 8 pm

Venue **St Joseph's Pastoral Centre**

St Joseph's 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

Guest speaker: Architect James Howley will give an illustrated talk about notable local buildings

Former Committee member James Howley of Howley Hayes Architects will talk about some of the conservation work carried out by his practice to St Joseph's and other historic buildings they have worked on in our local area. These include - the Killiney Obelisk, the Town Hall Clock Tower, the spire of St Michael's, the Bandstand on the East Pier and others.

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

ALL MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FROM SANDYCOVE AND GLASHULE ARE WELCOME

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15TH JUNE 2009

Our chairperson, Kay Gleeson, welcomed a packed house to St Joseph's Pastoral Centre for the Annual General Meeting of Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association on 15th June 2009. After introducing the Committee and welcoming new committee member, Caitriona McCarthy, she went on to report on the various issues covered over the past year.

Parking, yellow lines and the new one-way system, which is causing particular problems throughout the area.

Hudson Road Field: Ben Dunne was expected to present his plans for his fitness centre soon. Kay suggested that those interested should try to visit some of his existing centres to see how they looked and functioned.

Draft Development Plan was on display in the County Hall. It was suggested that residents should have a look at it and lodge any opinions before 3rd July.

Patton Flyer: Trevor Patton had still not obtained a licence. He had been offered one with the proviso to forfeit four stops, which would not make the business viable.

Baths: This issue is still unresolved. The County Manager seems determined to treat the Baths in the context of an overall seafront development. All most people want is a modest restoration of the Baths.

Anti-social behaviour: With the arrival of the summer this has reappeared yet again. It was agreed that this needs to be curbed as much as possible with a strong and regular Garda presence.

Kay Gleeson welcomed the three councillors who attended the meeting and congratulated them on winning their seats at the recent elections. She commiserated with Gene Feighery on losing her seat. She had been a great help to the Association while on the Council.

Councillors. Jane Dillon Byrne, Richard Boyd Barrett and Cormac Devlin each gave a short talk outlining their hopes and aims for the next five years. They all agreed to keep the Association informed on any relevant matters.

Bob Waddell then introduced the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award". This was to be awarded posthumously to Eamonn Gunn in recognition for all the mostly anonymous work he had done for and in the area over many years. It was accepted by his son, Dermot, who gave a short acceptance speech.

The Garden and Business Awards were then presented.

Community Garden Award: The Sandycove Bathers Association

Best Garden: Colette Fitzpatrick 6, Upper Eden Road

Best Presented Commercial Premises: "64 Wine" and Quinns Undertakers

The Chairperson then opened up the discussion to the floor and a large amount of topics were covered during a lively and good humoured evening.

Concern was expressed that Stena Line appeared to be winding down its services to and from Dun Laoghaire. There is now only one sailing a day at lunchtime. Jane Dillon Byrne surmised that Stena might be intending to run just a tourist ferry at the port from 2011.

Several residents wondered why Sandycove Avenue West was still two-way while Lower Albert Road, which was never a problem, had been made one way. It was pointed out that traffic unable to get down Albert Road was now increasing the traffic at Elton Park. People also protested at the excessive amount of yellow lines all round the shops in Sandycove.

The continuing lack of progress on the Baths issues was the cause of much debate. The Council seems intent on building a car park rather than redeveloping the Baths. This has to be resisted. Cormac Devlin was quizzed closely on his stance on the issue.

Bob Waddell requested a vote on whether residents wanted no election posters put up in Sandycove. It was generally agreed that while poster- ing was probably needed it had been excessive during the recent election.

Several speakers praised all the continuing good work of Margaret Browne and her team in Tidy Towns.

There were yet more pleas for the return of the old route of the Number 8 bus. The ludicrous situation was pointed out that it was not possible to take just one bus from Sandycove to St. Vincent's Hospital.

The discussion ended on an entertaining and light-hearted note with a debate on the pros and cons of the rust coloured sculpture that may possibly be re-erected in Dun Laoghaire. Ted Courtney labelled those who disliked the sculpture as "unwashed heathens".

With this ringing in our ears the meeting broke up for some refreshments and further chat.

Following the meeting the Chairperson wrote to the ward Councillors on behalf of the Association to record the main matters of concern raised at the meeting and to urge the Councillors to become involved in resolving the concerns. The matters noted were: seafront development, including the Baths and car parks, the one-way system at the bottom of Albert Road and the drastic effect on local business, flooding in the village, the Patton Flyer, the No 8 bus, anti-social behaviour in Sandycove and Glasthule, Sandycove Beach and the Forty Foot in the summer, Stena Sealink being down to just one service a day, the derelict state of the Otranto Place garden, blocked drains, the state of roads and footpaths, excessive coverage of election posters, and, finally, traffic generally and at Sandycove Avenue West in particular.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010 24th May 2010, 8 pm,
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre**

URSULA'S BITS AND PIECES

Since the last newsletter so much has happened, some relevant and some a bit old. I ask you to forgive me if any reader feels I did not mention some happenings.

We can all agree Sandycove and Glashule is the place to be. Many "Great Places to Eat Awards" have been received from well known food writers. When any of us are out for a night or just a "cuppa" we can be happy to support our eating houses and coffee places. Many of our retail premises have been recommended for their goods. Well done to all. Be sure to tell your friends about our great area.

Moving to some items of past interest, actor Dan O'Herlihy and his brother Michael (Styx), director of series "Hawaii Five O" spent their young lives in Villarea Park.

Wally Hayes of Glashule was the driver of the last No. 8 tram from Nelson Pillar to Dalkey. Did you know that the No. 8 tram left the city centre on average every eight minutes?

We must record thanks to Father Billy Farrell for his great report of our 2009 AGM in the St Joseph's newsletter last year.

Best wishes to Dr Niall Webb on his retirement.

Continued success to Daniel's Restaurant, celebrating its 21st birthday during the past year.

Congratulations to Rachel Treanor from Albert Road - winner of the Sandycove Tidy Towns Group award - "Your Litter Poster".

Continued success to Bloomsday Flowers, Sandycove Road under new ownership of

Inese in late 2009.

Also "Something Special" who have relocated from Glashule Village to Sandycove Road.

We welcome The Flower Company to Glashule Village.

The shop at the DART station is open again, known as "Smiles". It is operated by Rehab Organisation which provides training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. It is worthy of your support.

Betty Allen looks after young children which includes after-school care. During the last year she completed 25 years of good work. Congratulations on your Silver Jubilee in business.

Margaret Browne with some help ran a very enjoyable event in St Joseph's Centre on St Patrick's Day. As a result over €4,000 was raised for the "Forgotten Emigrants in London". We cannot praise Margaret enough for the interest and support she gives the forgotten emigrants.

St Joseph's Youth Choir under the direction of Clodagh Wallace presented a very enjoyable musical "The Light of the World" in the Harold's School's new hall. They were helped by a group of eight year olds from Harold's School for the children's scene. It is interesting to note this musical is the work of John Breen who grew up in Devitt Villas.

Congratulations to the Forty Foot 11 O'Clock Club members who once again participated in a Fun Mini Triathlon (including swimming in icy cold water in the Forty Foot). They raised €32,000 for the Irish Cancer Society - Action Breast Cancer.

Flooding in Glasthule Village Councillor Contact Details



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Taking Bins off the Street

It has been mentioned to our Committee that a lot of people are not taking their bins off the street after they have been emptied. We have been asked to request residents who do not already do so to please take their bins off the street after they have been emptied.

The Residents Association asked the County Manager to update us on the progress of investigations into the continuing episodes of flooding in Glasthule Village during the frequent heavy spells of rain of the last few summers. We asked why this flooding is much more severe than in the past and is there any prospect of work beginning to rectify the matter? We received a reply from a senior engineer at the County Council which acknowledged that property flooding in any location is unacceptable and the Council is "endeavouring to implement drainage relief works in such cases on a priority basis as soon as practicable, subject to finance being available". The reply acknowledged that the recent unprecedented flash flood events have highlighted deficiencies in the drainage network, particularly in older areas of the County such as Glasthule. The engineer outlined the investigations which have been carried out to find out the cause of the problem and it appears that there is no particular cause such as substantial silting or large obstructions. In conclusion, it seems that extensive works will be needed to improve the network of pipes and we await news of developments, which, of course, will be "subject to finance being available".

Upgrading The Metals



Crêpe Man:

New on the scene in Glasthule - Paul Walshe from a well known Glasthule family and his crêperie



The County Council has secured some funding for upgrading The Metals walkway between Dalkey and Dun Laoghaire. The Council invites input from the public on what works should be carried out and the consultation period expires on 14th May which will be during the distribution of this edition of the newsletter. We hope that many of you have or will take the opportunity to send your views to the Traffic Section at County Hall (traffic@dlrco.ie). The types of improvements envisaged seem to include new pedestrian crossings, improved signage and partial resurfacing. One of the main concerns about The Metals is the risk to public safety resulting from anti-social behaviour and worse. High quality maintenance, effective lighting, CCTV cameras and frequent Garda patrols would all be steps in the right direction, but regrettably it is unlikely that the limited funding secured will go far in this direction.

What has your Residents Association achieved in the last 10 years?

- Regular newsletters delivered to 2,500 homes
- Twice a year residents meetings which are always well attended – believed to be one of the best attended regular residents meetings in Ireland – a “must be there” event for Councillors and often for TDs – with a wide range of interesting speakers
- Monthly committee meetings throughout the year
- Responsible for the Denis Burton Memorial which has been included in the local heritage guide
- Built up relationships with County Councillors and in particular our 6 local ward Councillors and our 5 TDs (3 of them Ministers and one a party leader)
- Attendance at every County Council meeting to keep abreast of key decision making affecting our area and to keep our profile with Councillors high
- Participation in various County Council forums and committees
- Built up good and beneficial working relationships with County Council officials
- Ongoing liaison with local Gardai
- Liaison with neighbouring residents associations and participation in the Dublin Bay Task Force
- Fought and won the “Battle of Dun Laoghaire Baths”
- Planning submissions with key objective of retaining two storey height limit on the seafront and in the village – constantly watchful monitoring of planning applications
- Made detailed submissions over the years on seafront plans
- Continually and proactively bringing to the attention of the County Council matters which cause concern like traffic problems, litter and graffiti
- Actively supported Sandycove shopkeepers in their campaign to restore Lower Albert Road to two-way traffic



- Inaugurated the “Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award” first awarded posthumously to Eamonn Gunn
- Initiated the annual garden and shop front awards



St Joseph's Church

Many of you will have noticed the hoardings that were erected around St Joseph's towards the end of last year. These were put in place for reasons of health and safety following the discovery that the cast iron crestings on the ridge of the church had become structurally unsound. Structural damage was also found at high level in the stone turrets, shown below, that flank the main entrance to the church. A programme of conservation works has been drawn up and tendered and repair works are due to commence shortly. One of the biggest challenges is providing safe access to work on the turrets and to remove the crestings for repair or replacement. To achieve this an enormous scaffold will be erected on the south side of the church. Taking advantage of this scaffold the fine cast iron gutters and downpipes will also be overhauled and the high level stained glass windows taken down and repaired as was completed last year on the north side of the church. The cost of the work will be significant, however, it is all essential and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has offered a sum of €12,500 towards the work, which is a measure of the architectural importance of the church.



Last Autumn's Garda Open Day

The public were invited to an open day at the Dun Laoghaire Garda Station. Residents were introduced to finger printing, a talk on drug abuse, breath testing, the Garda mounted team, the CCTV centre and even the detention cells!



Churning up of Seafront Green

We wrote to the County Manager about the destruction of the grass area in front of Marine Parade Road where the artist compound for the Festival of World Cultures has been located. It is a muddy quagmire where the ground has been so compacted that it is a complete and utter eyesore. This is despite the appointment of a landscape contractor to level and reseed the grass. The reseeding has been unsuccessful every year and the whole area looks most unsightly. The ground here has never had the chance to recover as it is used for the same purpose every year. We asked the County Manager to consult with the Festival organisers to ensure that this damage to the area does not continue. The County Manager replied acknowledging that the Council's efforts to restore this area following last year's Festival have not been successful but stated that this was primarily due to very wet weather conditions that caused significant damage. The County Manager asked the Festival organisers to consider the issue and to see if it would be possible to review the use of the seafront area with a view to minimizing damage to the grassed area in front of Marine Parade Road.



Spoilt for Choice

Did you realise that Glashule and Sandycove have become a gourmet's delight? Among the eating establishments are Juggy's Well, No 64, Caviston's Tribes, Rasam, Fitzgerald's, Daniel's, Odells, Martello and Toscana. Many awards have been presented to them. Please support your local businesses.

Glashule Buildings Centenary Celebrations

Glashule Buildings celebrated its centenary last autumn. Residents and guests gathered for a day of celebrations to mark 100 years of these



local landmark buildings the residents of which (some of whom are pictured here) are renowned for their strong community spirit. The Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association was pleased to support the Glashule Buildings Centenary Celebrations with a financial contribution.

History of Glashule

St Joseph's, Glashule is compiling a history of the parish in Glashule (an area with very similar boundaries to the area covered by our Residents Association), the famous people who have graced the parish, the people who have made their name in literature, sport or other aspects of life. This history is in danger of being lost to future generations unless it is recorded now. Residents who have stories, information or photographs of past events that might be of interest are asked to contact Cyril Carden at 280 3397 or 086 1684336.



Elton Park

Regrettably the site at Elton Park remains an unbelievable eyesore – see photos. We wonder when building will start.

FESTIVAL OF WORLD CULTURES

The annual Festival of World Cultures, which is Ireland's largest intercultural event, will this year mark its 10th anniversary and will take place on 23rd to 25th July. Last year's festival was as usual a great success. We look forward to another enjoyable weekend and hope for ideal weather.



Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Committee

Chairperson: Kay Gleeson, Secretary and Treasurer: Eamonn Buckley, other committee members (in alphabetical order): John Conroy, John Elliot, Liam Madden, Caitriona McCarthy, Paul O'Callaghan and Bob Waddell.

GLASTHULE OPERA

Following its inaugural festival last year, the Glasthule Opera returns to the Pavilion Theatre from 16th to 20th June at 8 pm each evening with Bizet's "Carmen" and Gluck's "Orfeo and Eurydice".

Albert Road

For some extraordinary reason the powers that be decided to make Lower Albert Road one-way. However, believe it or not the direction of traffic was

made out of Sandycove Village, not into the village as you might expect. Within a couple of weeks businesses in the village advised the Residents Association of a 25% drop in business. We are glad to say that common sense prevailed and following on a number of representations by your Association and the business people involved the decision was reversed and Lower Albert Road is once more two-way. Pictured here is well known entertainer and comedian Noel V Ginnity celebrating the return of the two-way system.



Residents Association Committee Members Making Significant Contribution

Our Chairperson, Kay Gleeson, continues to be a member of the executive of the Community & Voluntary Forum. She has also been invited to join the Steering Committee on rebranding of Dun Laoghaire. This project will last three years and it is hoped will revitalize and enliven a sadly neglected town. Kay is also a member of the County Development Board. In addition, Residents Association Committee member Paul O'Callaghan is now on the County Council's Strategic Planning Committee.

OBJECTS OF THE SANDYCOVE AND GLASTHULE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The objects of the Association are to promote the best interests of the residents of the area to be served by the Association and:

(a)	to promote a sense of community and neighbourliness among residents of the area
(b)	to promote the preservation and improvement of the area as a suburban residential area
(c)	to monitor issues and problems affecting the area
(d)	to promote public interest and participation in issues affecting the area
(e)	to provide a forum for open discussion of issues affecting the area
(f)	to make representations in the interests of the members of the Association as a whole to all levels of government, other public authorities, organisations and persons whose decisions and actions may affect the area
(g)	the publication from time to time of a newsletter for purpose of informing members and residents generally of matters of common interest
(h)	to co-ordinate the activities of the Association with organisations having similar objectives
(i)	to promote cultural, educational and recreational activities for the residents of the area

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.

County Development Plan

2010 – 2016

**These are the key points made
in a submission by the
Association to Dun Laoghaire
Rathdown County Council**

In our previous submission we requested that consideration be given to the affording of village status to Glashule and Sandycove Villages. It is important to identify the characteristics which define the built heritage of the villages and to afford that some status in the control of development. In particular the issue of appropriate building height needs to be considered in the village core and the surrounding area. We note the introduction of a 1km Coastal Zone, and other measures pertaining to tall buildings, but reiterate that building heights should not exceed 3 storeys maximum in the area. Buildings proposed in residential areas should respect the scale of the built context.

The seafront on Newtownsmith, and extending through Sandycove is an amenity for the entire County. We have previously urged that the area be afforded the protection of an Architectural Conservation Area with a view to the control of development to ensure appropriateness. This has not been done. On review of the current Draft Plan, there is an obvious anomaly that the stretch of shore to the east of the Baths Site, and the area of park at Otranto Terrace are candidate ACAs, but Newtownsmith and the green in front of Marine Parade Road are not.

The Draft Development Plan document refers to intensification of the usage of public space; and also refers to hard landscaping. What specific plans are there for the green space in front of Marine Parade Road and Newtownsmith? There must not be any further encroachment through provision of parking. What range of activities will be allowed on the green in front of Newtownsmith: circus, fun fair, concerts? The fun fair has caused physical damage to the green area, and also nuisance to residents. The licensing of such events must be set out in Development Control, as should the maximum number of days and activities which will be allowed on the green in front of Newtownsmith.

A Coordinated Traffic Management plan is essential for the area from Dun Laoghaire to Dalkey, not a piecemeal, area by area approach as heretofore.

The future of the Presentation Playing Field must be safeguarded and not be allowed to be lost to development. Our society requires that adequate social and recreational facilities be maintained for the young. To ignore this invites delinquency and societal decay. We note that the Field is zoned: 'Open space with ancillary



active recreational facilities'. However we would request that a Specific Objective also be marked for the land: for the protection of sports grounds/facilities.

The community has demonstrated its opposition to the commercialisation of the Dun Laoghaire Baths site. It is important to pursue a sustainable and reasonable approach to the site. Whereas we are supportive of the enhancement of the Baths site and the improvement of connectivity between Newtownsmith and the East Pier, it is not appropriate to preemptively insist that any scheme for enhancement should also 'provide adequate sea defences', and we would request that this be removed. The costs of such works will place an undue burden on the development of the Baths, and create a justification for overdevelopment of the site to offset those costs. We reiterate our opposition to a commercial or private development of the Baths. It must remain in public ownership.

We have previously stated that proposed commercial development of the Carlisle Pier will also continue to be strongly contested by the public, as it is seen as a removal of community amenities for private profit. We note that there is reference to this development still, and desire for an exceptional landmark building on Carlisle Pier. Please clarify whether within the plan there is a public space provision. Please indicate the type of activity that will be allowed in this building and specify the maximum height allowed for this building.

There is furthermore proposed designation of the ferry port for future development, and it is stated that the Harbour Company would produce its development plan in conjunction with the County Council. Surely it is the role of this Development Plan to set out the planning objectives, for landowners to then comply with. We do not accept that the County Council should accept the demise of the ferry port so quickly. Economic realities are rapidly changing, air travel is going through upheavals both economically and environmentally, and if the current operators withdraw, options for a vital piece of infrastructure for Dun Laoghaire should be maintained (unlike the old railways which were abandoned, later to be reactivated).

The development plan points to the Council's desire to develop the beaches. What does this in practice really mean/allow? The Sandycove and Glashule

Residents Association is opposed to further development of the sand element of the shoreline, as illustrated in publicly displayed 2008 schemes (Concept A & B), wishing to retain the existing shoreline.

The development plan points to the Council's desire for the provision of viewing lay-bys in areas of recreational amenity and where there are views and prospects of special interest. Car parking for walkers should be provided where possible. What in practical terms does this allow – reclaiming green space for parking? We are opposed to any such lay-by provisions on the green space along Marine Parade Road and Newtownsmith.

It is vital to the commercial core of Dun Laoghaire that the Shopping Centre be reclaimed. It is also vital to the commercial core that the cost of parking be reduced (including a '1st hour free' policy); the number of traffic wardens be reduced; and additional parking be provided. We suggest that directional parking signage be introduced that indicates the number of spaces available in the shopping centre car parks, as you see in Dublin and many locations. We are opposed to the provision of additional car parking on the shoreline. It is a pity that the Boylan Centre was sold off, as it could have been developed as an agent of urban regeneration for the George's street zone (possibly as the main central library). The core will be further sacrificed by opening up new development on the Harbour Company's lands.

The environment within which this Development Plan is being framed has changed utterly. It is now a time for careful consolidation. Gone is the time to be 'developer led.'

The folly of the Celtic Tiger's pandering to developers is all too obvious. Vital pieces of social amenity and infrastructure (green spaces, school halls, Boylan centre, golf clubs) have been lost in the 'slash and burn' rush to overdevelop and make money. Existing businesses have suffered as the traditional commercial core has been neglected and its economic strength diluted by inappropriate developments of false Town (shopping) Centres, and car based retail parks. It behoves the County Council to reinforce the commercial core, not to spin off in new unsustainable directions; and to preserve the recreational and green lungs cherished by all.