

# Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

May 2012

info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

Circulation 2,500

Sandycove and Glasthule 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 can be downloaded at [www.sandycoveandglasthule.ie](http://www.sandycoveandglasthule.ie).

## DANGER:

### OIL RIG ONLY 6KM OFF SHORE

Oil and gas company Providence Resources may be granted a Foreshore Licence to drill for oil and gas just 6 kilometres off the coast in Dublin Bay near Dalkey Island.

The Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association has called on the Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan to convene a Public Inquiry regarding the possible granting of a Foreshore Licence. The Minister has not convened a Public Inquiry.

See Page 4.



Picture of an oil rig not far from land

## AGM

**Monday 14th May 2012 at 8 pm**

Venue St Joseph's Pastoral Centre

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

There is no admission charge for this meeting. We will however gratefully accept membership subscriptions for 2012.

This will be an opportunity for residents to hear about the latest developments in the area, to ask questions and to express their opinions.

There will be a talk on Neighbourhood Watch by An Garda Síochána.

ALL MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FROM SANDYCOVE AND GLASTHULE ARE WELCOME

If there are any topics you wish to be discussed at the meeting please tell us by emailing [info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie](mailto:info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie) or writing to  
The Secretary,  
Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association,  
c/o Eamonn's Bookshop,  
50 Sandycove Road,  
Sandycove

Paul O'Callaghan, Chairman, introduced himself, and welcomed all to the meeting. He introduced the Secretary and Treasurer. He also welcomed Councillors Melisa Halpin, Patricia Stewart and Stephen Fitzpatrick – Councillors John Bailey and Jane Dillon Byrne had to attend another meeting and came along later in the evening. Cllr. Cormac Devlin sent his apologies.

He thanked Liam Madden as editor of the **Newsletter** for his excellent work in producing the current Newsletter, and his work in developing the website. He encouraged all to get in touch through email with any queries about the neighbourhood.

He thanked all **distributors** of the Newsletter, and asked for more volunteers to help in the distribution.

The **restoration of the Sandycove Garden** seems to be going ahead, and Cllr. John Bailey has been in touch regarding new proposals for it. However, there seems to be a misunderstanding between the Council Parks Dept., Cllr. Bailey and long term advocate of the Gardens, Imogen Stuart, over a sculpture she wishes to donate for the site. Consultations will take place to sort out the matter.

Paul welcomed all the **new businesses** to the area, and asked all to support their local shops, particularly at Christmas time. He announced a Special Award for "Choice" on their excellent window display for BloomsDay.

The **Harbour Board's Master Plan** was briefly discussed and the Association's submissions to the Plan were mentioned. The building of the Apartments seems to be a priority. It was stated that Planning Permission would have to be sought before anything in the Plan could go ahead. It was also mentioned that Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council intended to create a Local Area Plan for Dun Laoghaire, and submissions would be requested shortly for this Plan.

John Conroy gave a very informative presentation on the **Outdoor Gym** proposed by the Council. He showed a large map of Newtownsmith with the site selected which is at the extreme end near Marine Parade, and is overlooked by Seabank Court and other properties in that area. The exercise equipment is large, and suitable for adults. Most local residents were canvassed and asked for their opinion. Most were against placing this equipment on Newtownsmith. The reasons given were that the gym is unsuitable for a residential area, as such equipment can attract anti-social behaviour at night. The equipment is made of galvanised steel which is considered most unsuitable for an area that is covered in salt spray and sea water many times a year. The first proposed site is prone to flooding from the sea and from heavy rain.

It was stressed that the residents are not against the installation of this gym, but felt it should be in a secure area that can be locked at night. Residents at the meeting were most annoyed that, yet again, no one in the locality had been consulted. Many spoke of the health benefits of the gym which will cost 35K. However after a rather heated discussion with Cllrs. Stewart and Fitzpatrick wanting the gym to be installed on Newtownsmith, and the vast majority of residents decidedly against, a vote was called and the decision was 3 for the gym and the vast majority opposed the installation on Newtownsmith.

Other items discussed : Deirdre McGrath brought up a favourite topic of the reinstatement of the **No. 8. Bus**, or at least a bus that would go as far as St. Vincents Hospital, which could connect with the proposed Blue Line. Cllr. John Bailey said that Dublin Bus had absolutely no intention of providing such transport. Deirdre McGrath also mentioned the **bad parking** by non-residents on Elton Park who create problems for residents trying to access their own homes. Cllr. John Bailey announced that the owners of the vacant site had been served with a dereliction order. They have to provide proper and secure hoardings around the site.

A representative from Dogs UnLeashed asked for support for their cause in changing the current bye-laws which dictate that **dogs have to be on a leash** on beaches and in most public areas. There was not general support for their cause, and it was said that not all dogs are licensed, and many were unruly. The Councils' Bye-Laws are up for review early next year, but it was felt that small beaches like Sandycove should be a no-go area for dogs.

The local **Tidy Towns Committee** was congratulated for achieving three Awards recently. Warren Fisher of the Committee asked for householders to keep the outside of their own premises clean and tidy, and so help the work of Tidy Towns.

A question was asked if the **Library** project was going ahead, and Cllr. Halpin said it was dependent on Government central funds.

A resident brought up the cost of **visitors parking permits** for residents in parking zones. Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne had proposed at a local area meeting that the present zoning system for parking should be reversed as she felt that it was discriminatory in the Dun Laoghaire area.

A resident asked if anything was happening at the "**Pres**" **field**, and agreed that he would contact Ben Dunne to see if the field could be used for the community pending the upturn in the economy, and his own plans for the site.

Paul concluded the meeting by thanking all present for their attendance – residents and councillors.

## The Maritime Museum Reopens

After six years of extensive and very expensive renovations the Mariners Church at the end of Haigh Terrace, Dun Laoghaire, opened on Tuesday 3rd of April.

The present exhibition includes:- The Baily Optic, taken apart in the 1970's, when the lighthouse in Howth was modernised and reassembled in the Museum by the staff of Irish Lights, in their own time; A collection of Irish Life boat models from early rowing and sailing boats to more modern boats: The sinking of the "Leinster" in 1918 with the loss of over 500 lives including many Post Office workers; the story of Dun Laoghaire and Dublin bay; A fully rigged Dublin Bay Waterway dating from 1890.



Titanic Diver Rory Golden with members of the National Maritime Museum of Ireland

All the work has been carried out on a voluntary basis by a passionately dedicated team of enthusiasts aided by the staff of the FAS scheme.

The Museum is open 11.00am to 5pm Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays. Adults €5, Families €10, Children and concessions €3.

[www.mariner.ie](http://www.mariner.ie)

## Survey of Local Businesses

A survey was commissioned to examine how the traders in the area perceive the economic and retailing environment, the services and facilities in the area, the impact of local initiatives including festivals.

### Summary of results

#### Economic environment and trading conditions

- 41% of respondents indicate that they had a downward trend in business activity in 2011
- 47% have reduced their numbers of staff - more than 50% held their staff levels
- 78% of respondents have been hit by increased costs
- 66% of traders experienced increased rates valuation -

## Security Grant Scheme for Residents Aged 65+

The Sallynoggin Neighbourhood Watch currently operates a grant scheme for security features for those aged 65 or above which provides personal pendant alarms, motion sensor lighting and smoke & carbon monoxide detectors all free of charge. This scheme is now being widened to include Sandycove & Glasthule and residents have been invited to apply.

To avail of the grant scheme call James McCann on 085 7125541 or email [sallynoggin.nw@ireland.com](mailto:sallynoggin.nw@ireland.com) who will arrange an application form for you.

## Local Business on BBC 2 Antiques Show

Sandycove Fine Arts recently featured on BBC's "Antiques Road Trip". The photo shows antiques expert Mark Hales from the show with shop owner Fiona O'Reilly.



## Parking in Sandycove & Glasthule



Newsreader Reporter Bob Waddell with Gerard Maguire of 64 Wine in front of his window of parking tickets



Pet Parking in Sandycove. This resident is not worried about getting a parking ticket

After his campaign to highlight parking and trading difficulties in Glasthule, Gerard Maguire of 64 Wine is hopeful that there might be a breakthrough.

more than double the equivalent in Dun Laoghaire

- 44% expect a downward trend in business activity in 2012, and a further 13% expect no change, giving a total of 57% who expect no improvement.

There can be little doubt that further cessations of trading will happen. There are, however, some traders (19%) who expect a good outcome for 2012, and this gives some comfort.

#### Council and Public Services

A perception of failed parking control is the outstanding feature of the survey of public and council services, with over 94% considering it bad (78%) or fair (16%). Over 93% considered political representation bad (48%) or fair (45%).



## Danger: Oil Rig Only 6km Off Shore

Oil and gas company Providence Resources may be granted a Foreshore Licence to drill for oil and gas just 6 kilometres off the coast in Dublin Bay near Dalkey Island.

There have been serious health and safety fears about a potentially explosive gas leak 240 kilometres off the coast of Scotland.

A similar leak 6 kilometres from Dalkey Island could be expected to trigger the evacuation of all the residents of Sandycove and Glashule and neighbouring areas from their homes.



Picture of an oil rig on fire – it can happen

Nowhere in Ireland has any company yet been allowed to drill this close to the coast. In Norway - renowned internationally for its safety standards in the oil and gas industry - drilling is not allowed anywhere near this close to the coast for safety reasons.

The area around the site of the planned rig is a "Special Conservation Area" and is home to rare species of birds,

mammals and fish. An oil spill could cause unthinkable damage contaminating Dublin Bay for many years to come. The recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has cost billions to clean up and there is mounting evidence of damage and disease to marine life.

If oil or gas is found in Dublin Bay – and Providence Resources says the chances are very high – we can expect rigs, pipelines and full-scale industrialisation of one of the most beautiful stretches of Ireland's coast.

The Irish State will receive no royalties from any oil or gas – a national asset would be given away free of charge. Providence Resources will be under no obligation to supply any oil or gas to Ireland.

This is obviously a matter of very grave concern about which we wish all residents to be fully aware. Many view this issue as being many times more important than Dun Laoghaire Baths which united residents in 2005.

The Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association has called on the Minister for the Environment to convene a Public Inquiry regarding the possible granting of a Foreshore Licence. The Minister has not convened a Public Inquiry.

## Understanding Local Politics!

At the Residents Meeting on the 14th November 2011, the topic that dominated the meeting was the opposition of residents to the proposed location of the Outdoor Gym Equipment on the green. (See page 2).

There were concerns that:

- this unregulated outdoor gym would act as a focal point at night time potentially causing significant noise pollution to residents
- located in such an exposed position, the equipment would deteriorate and rust, with the salt in the sea spray
- the area selected which already suffers from flooding would further encroach on the green space. (See photo below.)



Our elected ward Councillors promised to take the matter up with the Council, and to represent their electorate's voice. What does it say about democracy, if having persuaded our elected Councillors, they can so easily be ignored?

At the heart of our local challenges, it appears to us, lies a structural 'democratic deficit'. Over the years various local Councillors, past and present, have been lobbied on local issues facing our community. Many of these Councillors are hard working and well meaning, and whilst their political leanings on issues may differ, no more so than community at large, you get the impression that on the big issues, they try hard to represent the wishes of the community.

The Gym issue in itself is not the point of this article. However, we would advance the argument that it is not a coincidence that so many protests and movements that we witness today are focused on the common theme of demanding more direct and local democracy. The apparent lack of a credible democratic accountability creates radicalism, as people despair of a lack of democratic voice. This for most civic minded people is worrying.

To assist us in learning for the future from this experience, we would appreciate each Councillor, who has not already done so, telling us exactly what they did about the Gym issue after the residents meeting, what representations they actually made, what response they got from Council officials and how they reacted to that response.

# Submission to Dun Laoghaire Planning Department

Re Dun Laoghaire Local Area Plan: Pre-Draft Consultation  
*This is an abridged version of the submission made on behalf of the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association. The full text can be found on our website.*

We have long argued that Residents Bodies such as ours offer the Council a forum for the exchange of ideas, and a conduit from the members of the association to the council body.

The route to a successful Local Area Plan is through dialogue and consultation. We believe that many of our members would make their own submissions themselves, but we offer the following points having the benefit of listening to them over the years.

## **Glasthule and Sandycove Villages**

In our previous submissions on the Development Plan we requested that consideration be given to the affording of village status to Glasthule 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 stories maximum in the area. Buildings proposed in residential areas should respect the scale of the built context and should not exceed the height of their neighbouring properties. Buildings on the seafront should be subject to greater scrutiny in this regard, and in the particular context of Newtownsmith.

Despite very welcome investment and works to alleviate flooding, Glasthule Vilage and the area of Link Road was again flooded recently. Admittedly, the night in question was exceptional, but we trust that the issue will continue to be monitored and appropriate action taken.

## **Newtownsmith Park**

The green area of Newtownsmith should be preserved intact. Recent developments of parking, and the outdoor gym (undertaken despite significant local opposition) illustrate that the park will be eventually severely compromised by an accumulation of individually minor encroachments. It is necessary to state specifically that there will be no reduction in the green area of Newtownsmith Green, because it provides a clean blank canvas upon which the community can express itself, play, congregate and socialise.

## **Dun Laoghaire Baths Site**

Specific Objective should look further than the enhancement schemes as currently envisioned by the Dun Laoghaire Baths Sub Committee. The objective should be specifically and definitively the construction of Public baths on this site. We welcome the new design concept for the baths site to provide public access facilities, including and most importantly the sea water swimming facility. The continuation of the Newtownsmith Park walk across a new breakwater, and the integration of the present substandard area at the base of the East Pier into a new continuous flowing design is



very welcome. However we hope that the reference to 'Children's bathing/paddling pool' does not mean that that is the limit of its usability. The design of the water facility is fundamental to the overall reason for doing this development. It should not be so limited, it must be for an adult bathing facility. If necessary, there is ample scope to reduce the extent of the Terraced Recreation area, to provide more scope for water.

## **Presentation College Playing Field**



Presentation College Field should be incorporated within the LAP area (is currently bounding it). A Specific Local Objective SLO be attached seeking to see it developed for Recreational usages, and protection of Sports facilities. The future of the Presentation Playing fields must be safeguarded and not be allowed to be lost to development. The current owner purchased the site at a premium, outbidding local sports club in the process, and is currently seemingly happy to 'sit' on the site. 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'.

## **Public Transport**

The borough is well served by the Dart as a prime connector to the centre of Dublin. However the older members of the Community have difficulty with the distance between stops and the very limited route taken. There is much support for the Bus System, and in particular the No. 8 Route which was cancelled. This issue raises itself time and again at our open meetings. Whilst we know that this is not a strictly Planning Issue, we must raise it at each opportunity since it is part of the linkage from the area under discussion to the City Centre, and also to St Vincent's Hospital. It is part of the sustainable infrastructure of the area, and would promote greater economic linkages through the spine of the LAP.(Section 12).

## **Parking**

There is currently a gross over-policing of parking in Dun Laoghaire, allied to a deficit of available convenient parking. This is cited again and again as a disincentive for business in the town. The current provision of an initial cheap rate for parking in the Shopping Centre (which does not seem to be publicised effectively), is rendered useless by the hiking of charge to 10.00 after a couple of hours. A recent 'spur of the moment' decision by this writer to go for a coffee with a friend bumped into in Easons, led to a 40.00 euro fine. The council need to decide: harvest fines with the 3 different types of ticket issuers, or promote the economic activity of the town, it is that simple.

## **Sandycove**

The former Sandycove Baths buildings should be developed for Marine based activities, such as currently operated out of the semi derelict existing buildings (diving, canoeing etc). The buildings also offer the potential for a summer time coffee shop (or a lock-up for furniture for a mobile coffee vendor to set up an al fresco café).

## **Sutton to Sandycove Cycleway**

The recently reported scheme for the S2S is grossly unreasonable in terms of the proposed physical works particularly the section from Sandymount to the Gut, and the costs as reported are unjustifiable. It appears that greater consideration will have to be given to the route of the S2S, in choosing certain compromises to reduce the negative impact on the shore (eg. The route diverting via Booterstown Marsh from Merrion Gates to Blackrock Park, and from Blackrock dart station to Seapoint via the road). There is also the possibility of linking to the Metals.

## **Conclusion**

We look forward to the next stage of the consultative process. We would hope that you would table an array of the ideas proposed in the pre draft consultation, even if they are in apparent conflict, so that the public can take in the full breadth of possibilities and creative productivity of their community.

Yours faithfully  
PAUL O CALLAGHAN

## Dates For Your Diary

### Official Opening of Maritime Museum

5th June

### Bloomsday

Bloomsday (**June 16th**) will be celebrated in Sandycove & Glashule and Dun Laoghaire for that week.

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association will give a prize to the Best Window display on the day.



### Dalkey Book Festival

15-17 June

[www.dalkeybookfestival.org](http://www.dalkeybookfestival.org)



### Summer of Heritage

30th June - 2nd September

### Promenade Cafe Theatre

27th/28th April - Raccoon

25th/26th May - Songs of Joyce

15th/16th June - The Life and Music of Edith Piaf

[www.promenadecafe.com](http://www.promenadecafe.com)



### ISAF World Championship Junior Sailing

12th-22nd July

### dlr Fusion

dlr Fusion, hosted by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, is an initiative of the Social Inclusion Unit that



is taking place over the weekend of the **28th and 29th July 2012**. It will be held in the People's Park, Dun Laoghaire, and aims to be a diverse, vibrant, fun-filled weekend that promotes diversity and enhances integration at a local level.



The dlr Bay 10k road race will take place on 6th August 2012 at 10am.

The route will start near Dun Laoghaire DART station and take in Seapoint, Monkstown, Sallynoggin, Glenageary, Sandycove and Glashule.

[www.dlrbay10k.ie](http://www.dlrbay10k.ie)

### Flower Show

County Hall on 11th-12th August

### Model Railway Exhibition

County Hall on 18th-19th August

### Ukulele Hooley

18th - 19th August

Peoples Park



### Mountains to the Sea Book Festival



This very successful Festival which launched in 2009 will take place on 4th to 9th September.

[www.mountaintosea.ie](http://www.mountaintosea.ie)

### Tidy Towns Competition 2012

We would appeal to everyone for all areas to be kept tidy and litter free. Check out the Sandycove Tidy Towns & Coastcare Group

[www.sandycovetidytowns.com](http://www.sandycovetidytowns.com)



### Glashule Opera

During the week of September 17th **dlr Glashule Opera** will put on Verdi's final opera - his comic masterpiece, **Falstaff** at the Pavilion Theatre in Dun Laoghaire.

[www.glashuleopera.ie](http://www.glashuleopera.ie)

### Get to Know your Neighbours

Watch out for the Residents Association stand in Glashule village on **Saturday 12th May**. Come and say hello and pick up some information about our neighbourhood evenings and local cultural visits.

The first of the neighbourhood evenings will take place on **Monday 1st October** in St. Joseph's Parish Centre at 8 o'clock. This will be an opportunity to meet your neighbours and to hear the life narratives of people who love living in the area.



# Our Local Elected Representatives

## Councillors

### John Bailey (FG)



jbailey@cllr.dlrcoco.ie  
086-832 4523

**Clinics:**  
**Mon:** Bakers Pub  
12-1 Except Bank Holidays

### Cormac Devlin (FF)



www.cormacdevlin.ie  
cdevlin@cllr.dlrcoco.ie  
(01) 275 0786

**Clinics:**  
By Appointment Only  
**Tue:** McCormack's Pub  
Mounttown 18:30-19:00

### Jane Dillon Byrne (LAB)



jdbyrne@cllr.dlrcoco.ie  
086-607 8150

**Clinics:**  
none

### Stephen Fitzpatrick (LAB)



sfitzpatrick@cllr.dlrcoco.ie  
086-781 4519

**Clinics:**  
none

### Melisa Halpin (PBP)



www.melisahalpin.ie  
mhalpin@cllr.dlrcoco.ie  
086-380 5793

**Clinics:**  
91 Lower Georges St,  
Dun Laoghaire  
**Mon:** (Except Bank Holidays)  
10:00 - 13:00

### Patricia Stewart (FG)



www.patriciastewart.ie  
pstewart@cllr.dlrcoco.ie  
086-829 1002

Available to meet  
by appointment

## TDs

### Sean Barrett



ceanncomhairle.oireachtas.ie  
sean.barrett@oireachtas.ie

**Clinics:**  
none

### Richard Boyd Barrett (PBP)



www.richardboydbarrett.ie  
Richard.Boyd.Barrett@oir.ie  
086-781 4520

**Clinics:**  
91 Lower Georges St,  
Dun Laoghaire  
**Mon:** (Except Bank Holidays)  
10:00 - 13:00

### Eamon Gilmore (LAB)



eamon.gilmore@oir.ie  
(01) 618 3566

**Clinics:**  
47a Patrick Street,  
Dun Laoghaire  
**Mon:** (Except Bank Holidays)  
9:30

### Mary Mitchell O'Connor (FG)



www.marymittelloconnor.ie  
mary.mittelloconnor@oir.ie  
(01) 618 3302

**Clinics:**  
By Appointment Only  
**Mon:** Blackrock  
**Tue-Thu:** Dáil Eireann  
**Fri:** Glasthule

Perhaps our local representatives can tell us what this is all about:



## Useful Numbers:

Dun Laoghaire Garda: (01) 666 5000  
Samaritans: (01) 872 7700  
St. Vincent de Paul: 086 3447631  
Citizens Advice: (01) 2844544  
DL Doc: (01) 663 9869  
Emergency Services: 112

## About Us

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

- 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.



**SGRA Committee L to R:** Mary Roche, Bob Waddell (newsletter reporter), Patsy Ashe, John Elliot, Paul O'Callaghan (chairperson), Kay Gleeson (secretary), Caitriona McCarthy (treasurer), Sean Coakley, Liam Madden (newsletter editor, webmaster), John Conroy.

## Newsletter Delivery

We would like to thank those who help with the distribution of the newsletter. With 2,500 to deliver we could always do with a little more help.

If you would like to be involved please get in touch at the AGM or email us.

## Newsletter History

The first newsletter was published in 1999. You can find previous editions archived on our website. It's interesting to see what issues have changed (and what issues haven't) in that time.

Thank you to all contributors to the Newsletter, past and present. We look forward to your future comments and contributions.

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.

## Association Area

The association represents the residents in the area bounded approximately by

- the seafront in the North,
- the Metals in the South,
- Lower Glenageary Road in the East and
- Castlepark Road in the West.

### Become a Member of SGRA

1. Download application form from our website
2. Pay at our AGM on May 14th 2012 or post form (address on form)
3. Only 15 euro (or 22 euro for a family)