

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association Newsletter

May 2015

Circulation 2,500

Stena Pulls out of Dun Laoghaire

The Baths

Neighbours Evening 2015

Association 40th Anniversary

Potholes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 25th May 2015, 8pm

St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre

**ALL MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FROM
SANDYCOVE AND GLASTHULE ARE WELCOME**



info@sandycoveandglasthule.ie

Residents Meeting 24th November 2014

As usual we had an informative and entertaining evening in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre.

John Elliot, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including our local Councillors.

He thanked Liam Madden for the excellent production of the Association's latest newsletter and thanked the volunteers who faithfully deliver the newsletter.

There were a variety of issues raised and addressed in the meeting, some from the newsletter and some from the floor.

Speeding was highlighted as a concern - in particular a crash that occurred at the junction of Albert Road Lower and Hudson Road. Luckily there were no injuries.

A related issue was potholes in the borough. We were given an outline of the various species of potholes in the area and their cause.

Cycling on footpaths was mentioned and in particular an incident on Elton Park.

The problem with flooding was also highlighted.

Antisocial behaviour was a concern of some - in particular along The Metals.

People parking on the footpath causes hardship especially for those in wheelchairs or pushing buggies. Windsor Terrace was highlighted as an affected area.

Among the planning issues raised was a planning permission application for a 70 seater cafe at 52/53 Glashule Road. Concerns were highlighted over potential problems such as shared sewage, open bins, vermin, noise of refrigeration and customers, smoking, parking etc.

Also of concern was the laundry in Jenkins Yard off Hudson Road and in particular noise pollution. The association is making a submission.

The County Development Plan was raised. Some issues here were: listed buildings, open spaces, the pier, the People's Park.

The park at Otranto Place was mentioned. There were plans to redevelop the park. This seems to have stalled.

The nearby diver's club was mentioned and we were informed that this has been in existence since 1963.

Attention was also drawn to the baths and the dangerous narrowing of the road nearby.

A call out was made for anyone with information or memorabilia for local 1916 rising involvement to get in touch with the DLR 1916 Rising Committee.

John thanked all present and extended an invitation to join in refreshments and chat at the end of the evening.

Where are our members?



Map of the area showing distribution of a sample of association members

Committee

Chairperson: John Elliot

Secretary: Liam Madden

Treasurer: Mary Roche

Other committee members
(in alphabetical order):

Patsy Ashe

Sean Coakley

John Conroy

Kay Gleeson

Caitriona McCarthy

Paul O'Callaghan

Bob Waddell



From l-r: Paul O'Callaghan, Liam Madden, Mary Roche, Caitriona McCarthy. Kay Gleeson, John Elliot, Patsy Ashe, Bob Waddell, inset: John Conroy, Sean Coakley



Newsletter Distribution

All our newsletter distribution is done on a voluntary basis. The newsletter is distributed twice a year and shouldn't take long to deliver. It's a great way of meeting your neighbours.

If you would like to help, please email us or talk to any committee member at the AGM on May 25th.

Association Events

May 25th, 8pm: AGM

This is an opportunity to make your views known on issues of importance in the locality. See cover.

Sep 28th, 8pm: Neighbours Evening

This is our third time running this event. It promises to be another enjoyable and informative evening. See page 11 for more details.

40th Anniversary Newsletter

With support from dlr CoCo we will be bringing out a special anniversary edition of the newsletter in September.

Advertising

You will notice advertising at the back of this newsletter and also our new trades ads. This is an effort to defray costs and support local businesses.

If you are interested in advertising with us please email editor@sandycoveandglashule.ie or phone/text Liam on 086 8046938.

Our next newsletter will be published in September.

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.

Membership News

We have an active and vibrant residents association, with many loyal members. However, one feature of our membership is that some residents join the association but do not renew their membership when it next comes up for annual renewal. It is likely that quite a number of residents (quite possibly most) had intended to renew their membership, but with one thing or another just did not get around to it. We might call them lapsed members. The committee has discussed what might be done about this. We have decided on two innovations.



The first is to issue membership cards. On renewal of membership each year members will receive a membership card which shows the year of membership and when membership expires. As well as acting as a receipt for the subscription, the membership card, by showing when membership expires, will act as a reminder to renew. We hope the membership card will also be regarded as a tangible symbol of membership of the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association.

The other innovation would be to provide members with the facility of paying their subscription by standing order, avoiding the need to remember to renew. A standing order form could be part of the membership application form from 2016 onwards. A standing order would be completely optional, but we would encourage members to complete a standing order form.

We hope that the combination of membership cards and standing orders will greatly reduce the number of lapsed members and raise our actual paid-up membership to a number more reflective of the real level of interest in membership of the association.

Members' subscriptions are put to good use to fund the expenses of the association, such as printing the newsletter, holding open residents' meetings (including the AGM and the now annual Neighbours Evening) and fees for planning objections.

The support of all members is very much appreciated.

Are you new to the area?

If you'd like to meet some of your fellow residents and find out what's of concern, why not come along to our AGM or our Neighbours Evening? These are on May 25th and September 28th respectively.

Ferry to Holyhead Ends After More Than 200 Years

The Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association notes with great concern the announcement that Stena Line has pulled out of Dun Laoghaire harbour. This is bad news for Dun Laoghaire. The schedule for the Stena Line ferry from Dun Laoghaire had been reduced over recent years. But the latest development now means the end of Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead services after more than 200 years. It is very much to be hoped that the harbour company will be successful in seeking an alternative provider on the route.



Should our Councillors have a voice in planning submissions?

Our Councillors today can influence the strategic development plan, but they have no real voice on individual planning decisions in their area. So the question our association asks is: do the sins of a few in the past warrant all our Councillors being muzzled? All too often residents associations make representations to their councillors on issues that affect the neighbourhood. In many instances, our Councillors actively support their community and make representations to the local planners, only for those representations to fall on deaf ears.

We contend that local communities do need to have a voice about planning in their area; after all we significantly contribute to the Council through our property tax. Our elected officials attend a number of residents associations meetings in the area. At our meetings, members discuss issues of concern and on important issues a vote is taken to illustrate how important an issue is to the community. If our elected officials, who have listened to the debate and have witnessed more than 100 local people overwhelmingly vote on a planning issue effecting their community, make representations on the community's behalf, is it right for them to be so ignored?

This community feels aggrieved that our continuous request for the gym on Newtownsmith Green to be sited within the Peoples Park is a case in question.

There was no proper consultation regarding the positioning of the gym. We argued that an unregulated outdoor gym would act as a focal point for youths to meet at night time, potentially under the influence of alcohol, thereby causing significant noise pollution to residents. Our worse fears were realised; the disturbance level for the properties adjacent to the gym results in many sleepless nights and disturbed days.

We were told that the equipment was robust and vandal proof. It may be robust but it certainly isn't vandal proof. The company that provided the machines have needed to return to collect parts thrown into the sea. We were told that if the gym created a nuisance, the council would reconsider the location of the outside gym. It has created more than a nuisance but our concerns fall on deaf ears.

The benefit of a democracy is that the populace should have a voice. Our elected officials recognise that the outside gym would be better located in an area like the Peoples Park that is locked at night. Every five years we are asked to elect County Councillors to represent the wishes of their electorate. Our association believes in democracy; and we believe our elected Councillors should have the capacity to represent their electorate. If our Councillors truly feel they are powerless, then we have a democratic deficit and a very expensive charade. Perhaps we should be told which it is!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some Events in Pavilion Theatre

Jun 3rd: Soweto Spiritual Singers

Jun 4th: The Matchmaker

Jun 16th: Bloomsday Special Cinema Screenings

Jul 1st-4th: My Fair Ladies starring Des Keogh

Jul 9th: Hothouse Flowers



www.paviliontheatre.ie

Dalkey Book Festival

June 20th-22nd 2014

dalkeybookfestival.org



Bloomsday

Tuesday June 16th: Have a look out for festivities in Sandycove and Glashule - details in traders' windows.



The dlr Bay 10k

The dlr Bay 10k road race will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd August 2015.



www.dlrbay10k.ie

Competition Time!

There are two pairs of tickets to 'The Four Seasons Twice' - Irish Chamber Orchestra in Monkstown Parish Church on Sat 18 July, 8pm.

To enter just email competitions@paviliontheatre.ie with your name and contact number.

Closing date is Friday 12th June, 2015. Winner will be contacted directly. Best of luck!

By entering this competition you are agreeing to be contacted by Pavilion Theatre in the future.

James Joyce Tower



Friends of Joyce Tower Society Officers with the tower's panther (left to right): Seamus Cannon, Vice Chair; Celine Moorkens, Treasurer; James Holahan, Chairman; Sadie Delaney, Secretary

It's great to see the great work of the Friends of Joyce Tower Society continuing in our area. The volunteers keep the tower open to visitors from all around the world every day of the year (even Christmas Day). We were asked to remind everyone that the tower is open from 10am to 6pm and it's free. A review on TripAdvisor would be appreciated.

An interesting innovation dreamed up by James Holahan is the James Joyce Tower Quiz Book. It contains a number of multiple choice questions about the tower, its history and James Joyce. It is aimed at secondary school students. It has already been tested on transition year students from Loreto, Dalkey.



Draft County Plan



We will be making a submission on this plan the full text of which will be published on our website.

Share Your Memories



Pavilion Theatre has been a significant part of our Dún Laoghaire landscape for over a century, first opening its doors in 1903. Those 111 years have seen three very different buildings, three very different Pavilions, all with their own histories, stories and secrets.

Do you have stories to share? What are your memories of Pavilion Theatre? Are there old ticket stubs, posters, show programmes, newspaper clippings or photographs sitting in a shoebox in your attic? What are your memories?

This spring, Pavilion Theatre are working with writer and designer Kate Heffernan to explore the multiple histories of this very special Dún Laoghaire icon. You are invited and encouraged to share material and memories that will become part of the fabric of a permanent exhibit at the theatre.

If you have things you would like to share, Kate would love to hear from you. You can contact her by email (kate@kateheffernan.ie) or post (c/o Pavilion Theatre, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin).

New Hockey Pitch Underway at Rathdown

Construction has commenced on the development of a floodlit hockey pitch on the Rathdown School campus. The facility, a joint initiative with Monkstown Hockey Club, is due for completion in time for the new academic year this September. The facility will be utilised by a number of local primary schools, as well as for hockey camps and training camps for representative teams.

Congratulations

A recent meeting of the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network elected PPN representatives to various county structures. Two of our committee



members were elected: Paul O'Callaghan to the Planning Strategic Policy Committee of DLRCOCO and Kay Gleeson to the DLR Community Development Committee.



Unholy Holes

John Dillon

Something is afoot in Dun Laoghaire. The streets beneath us are cracking and crumbling at a rate never seen before in the 60 odd years I have lived in the Borough.

This dissolution process has thrown up a completely new genus of pothole which is speciating so rapidly that it already contains four distinct species:

1. Gutter Potholes

Found around grilles and other metal access points on the road. The packing material seems more prone to erosion than the metal it surrounds causing a "mott and bailey" effect.

2. Central Line Potholes

Found where the two sides of the tarmac meet in the centre of the road, at the apex of the road's camber.
Cause: to be determined.

3. Linear Potholes

Where access ditches to long sections of large pipe have been dug; later, after the ditch has been refilled, it has for various reasons collapsed to well below the level of the surrounding road.

4. Conglomerate Potholes

Where two or three of the above meet prior to any single one getting deep by itself. Together they form a massive rough indentation across the road's surface.



At least two of the above are to be found throughout the borough on most roads big and small whether heavily used or not.

These potholes don't just damage our suspensions they also distract our attention, especially the gutter potholes as they are so well disguised that you are shudderingly upon them before you realise they are there. Next time you travel that road you're on the look out for them and not just the other traffic.

As an earth scientist I can say that the usual culprits, physical and

chemical erosion, while probably aggravating factors are not the root cause of the problem because

- traffic if anything has reduced since the credit crunch and
- Dun Laoghaire has one of the lowest rainfall levels in the country.

Thus, if we exclude earth shifts, rock eating worms or any other outlandish cause, all that remains is a structural problem within the roads themselves. If this is indeed the case then it will take a team of civil engineers who have come across this problem before to deal with it.

The fire fighting filling of individual potholes one by one is not going to solve this situation - time to get the experts in.

Cruise Ships

Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company in conjunction with dlr County Council are planning a development for the harbour. Figures of up to 20 million euro have been mentioned in order to facilitate large luxury cruise ships. As a matter of interest these cruise ships can be up to 300m long and 72m high. Liberty hall is close to 60m. It is interesting to note that apparently there are plans for a parking place for over 40 coaches. It is unlikely these coaches will be dropping people up to Dun Laoghaire main street which is crying out for development.

It is said that dlr County Council are taking over the harbour board. Quite a number of county councillors indeed have said that they're very concerned that if this development didn't wash its face that losses could be incurred by dlr Co. Co. The harbour, including its piers, is of vast importance to Dun Laoghaire and environs. Residents must be vigilant that what ever happens in the harbour is positive for Dun Laoghaire and the rejuvenation of Georges Street Upper and Lower.

At a well attended meeting of Save Our Seafront on April 30th it was decided to campaign:

- to ensure that the plans for a new cruise berth are shelved.
- to protect our harbour from inappropriate development and to bring our harbour under direct democratic control of the elected members of the council, and by extension the people of the county.

A 292m long, 60m high Cruise Ship



The Baths

The plans for the redesign of Dun Laoghaire Baths have now been completed. Believe it or not these include a cafe. There will also be artists studios and a gallery. Instead of a baths or a pool on this site the harbour board are proposing a floating pool in the harbour identical to the one in Berlin which is inland where people do not have access to the sea. It was public opinion galvanised by our association and Save Our Seafront which saved this site from a high-rise luxury apartment development.

Quick Quiz

Can you identify these people? The answers are in the newsletter!



New Businesses

Welcome to Baker Street bakers, The Cookbook Cafe restaurant and Carluccio's restaurant which have recently opened in Glashule village.



Roy Watchorn
(right) and Matt
Boland of Baker
Street



John Healy and
Audrey McDonald
outside the
Cookbook Cafe



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