

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association Newsletter



www.sandycoveandglashule.ie

Autumn 2008

info@sandycoveandglashule.ie

Circulation 2,500

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association is thriving and active. The main object of the Association is to promote the best interests of the residents of the area. We regularly publish this newsletter, which is distributed to 2,500 households. Members' subscriptions have contributed towards 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.

OPTION C—THE PEOPLE'S OPTION

There are not only options A and B—there is an alternative

We comment on the so-called "East Pier to Sandycove Enhancement Scheme"

Your Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association made a submission on the process of preparing a master plan for the Dublin Bay Area. Our submission was four pages long and we have included the main points in this newsletter for your information (see page 6). In addition to the Dublin Bay submission we were asked to make a submission in relation to the East Pier to Sandycove Enhancement Scheme. Busy times for your committee. Again we include our main observations and requests in this newsletter (see page 4). The deadline for this submission was 1st September and we now await a response from the County Manager and our County Council.

It is interesting to note that the County Council has admitted to receiving over 1,100 submissions on the two controversial options being considered for the East Pier to Sandycove project. Intimations are that there are mixed reactions possibly, as purported in a newspaper, in the area of 50/50. However, Save Our Seafront, of whom many residents in this area are supporters, assisted the County Council by collecting in excess of 400 individual submissions of which over 95% were totally against the A and B options and calling for option C. We wonder therefore how is it possible that the total number of submissions received were on a 50/50 basis, particularly since we understand that the first batch of submissions were under 200 thus necessitating the Council to send out their newsletter incorporating a response form. Surely the Council are not treating these submissions formally handed in by Save Our Seafront as one submission as they did in the case of the 15,000 signatures from the last campaign some years ago.

RESIDENTS GATHERING

Date Monday 17th November 2008

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

Charge €5 per person (to cover meeting expenses)

The Gathering 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

If there are any topics you wish to be discussed at the Gathering 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

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

Johann has relocated to 67A Glasthule Road (entrance on Link Road). We wish you continued success.

Congratulations to Rasam on receiving the Best Restaurant, Bridgestone and Georgina Campbell, awards for 2008.

Well done to staff in Cavistons Restaurant on getting the Jacobs Creek award.

Congratulations to Father Shay Cullen (from Adelaide Road) who was presented with RTE International Person of the Year award for his great work with deprived children in the Philippines.

Nuala and David Moisselle of Harold Crescent were nominated for an Emmy award in the "Casting Category" for their work in The Tudors series on television. Although they did not win, residents can be very proud of their work as this was their second nomination in these awards.

Margaret Browne of Albert Road is to be congratulated on winning the inaugural Coastcare Individual of the Year 2008 Merit award.

Beaufort Day Centre were awarded 3rd prize for their achievement in this year's Bealtine Festival. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in co-operation with Network for Older People are the organisers of this exhibition. Well done all.

Kirsty McGarry of Glenageary is the first Irish woman to be honoured as Lady Champion of the world famous Kandahar Ski Club. Well done.

Earlier this year, members of RHSI and An Taisce were present at the tree planting ceremony to remember the late Dorothy Smith. She lived on Elton Park.

Continued success to Anne Marie and her staff, who took over Florabunda sometime ago.

Sandycove Tidy Towns group once again were awarded the "Gum Free Area" in the national competition. Well done to Margaret Browne and her team of helpers.

The Green Schools Committee of the Harold School, Glasthule recently launched its "Ag Siúl to School". This encourages children and parents to use alternative ways of getting to school i.e. walking, cycling or using public transport. It will help to reduce traffic congestion and adopt healthy lifestyle. Well done, boys and girls.



Confusing signs in Sandycove

It's a cul de sac, but it's also no entry. So how do the vehicles coming the other way, out of the road, get there in the first place? We asked a passing parking warden on his way to issue more parking tickets, but he just shook his head. Would you blame him?



More signs in Sandycove: has the M50 come to Sandycove?

Parking changes in Sandycove and Glasthule

Changes in pay and display parking and double yellow lines can be very emotive issues. We urge the Council to please consult in advance with residents and businesses before implementing any new scheme. Enough said.



is Flying



Positive news on the Patton Flyer service. Trevor Patton advises that encouraging talks with the Department of Transport are progressing. The service appears safe, and his company is currently planning to purchase larger buses in the New Year to meet consumer demand. Trevor wishes to thank his staff and customers and Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association for their continuing support, and our local councillors for all their help in supporting a local business.

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

East Pier Bandstand Shelter Collapses



On the afternoon of Tuesday 9th September the long awaited and partially renovated shelter adjacent to the bandstand (shown in the inset above) on the East Pier collapsed. Residents who were on the pier at the time said that just after 3pm they heard a loud crack and the whole structure collapsed. We must be thankful that the area was still sealed off as a construction site and no injuries occurred. We have endeavoured to find out from Dun Laoghaire County Council and the Harbour Board exactly what happened but still await details. As one wry local resident said, "you know, I think that bandstand and shelter had been up for almost 100 years and although the shelter was rusting and the glass had disappeared from the roof, it has withstood the worst of gales". On that particular day there was no severe weather whatsoever! We would be interested to hear what happened. Residents are very disappointed and they are looking forward to the total refurbishment of these East Pier landmarks which traditionally have been a part of Dun Laoghaire Pier and many were hoping that when the bandstand and shelter were complete, the weekly band recitals would recommence.

LOCAL ELECTIONS JUNE 2009

Prior to the last County Council elections we asked the candidates to respond to questions in respect of issues affecting our area. This time around we are considering asking each of the candidates what they have achieved for the area in the last number of years. We will consider publishing their responses in the newsletter in or about March or April 2009. Through the grapevine we have heard of a number of new candidates and we hope to provide some information on these in our next issue. Could it be possibly a time for change and some new blood in our council ward area?

We wonder would residents like to follow a lead of Shankill, Loughlinstown etc. where the candidates agreed not to smother their lampposts and any other edifice they could find with their posters. Most people found the Lisbon Treaty Poster Campaign an abhorrence for so many councillors and politicians going overboard on presentation of their physiognomy rather than the issue of the yes/no vote. What do you think?

Councillor Contact Details

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Waste collection

The Assistant Dublin City Manager wants to control collection of waste, saying "household waste is a vital public service". At the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council meeting on Monday 13th October in County Hall, Marine Road arguments were hot and heavy and the 28 councillors were divided. Councillors asked the following:

Why were our bins sold off to private companies for €1?

What is to stop Greenstar and Panda increasing prices in January 2010 (only 14 months away)?

And we hear that SIPTU says that if the County Council outsource waste collection charges may almost double.

SEAFRONT SPECIAL FEATURE



A local artist records for posterity part of Scotsman's Bay. If certain aspects of concepts A or B, as commissioned by our six local ward councillors, come true this area will become a Brittas Bay. Only Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association, Save Our Seafront and our local Green Party councillor have totally opposed this from the start and advocated plan C.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUBMISSION BY SANDYCOVE AND GLASTHULE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ON EAST PIER TO SANDYCOVE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

At a General Meeting of the Association, open to all its members, held on 15th May 2008 the proposed options for development of the seafront were debated at length. The unanimous view was that neither of the Concepts presented in their current format were acceptable. In short the proposals were viewed to be:

Over ambitious, to the extent that there was no foreseeable way of realising either plan financially or practically.

Not relevant to the central aspiration of the community, which is to revitalise the site of the Dun Laoghaire Baths; not to dilute and disperse resources and energy to the entire area stretching to Sandycove.

Even the Specialist Consultants themselves doubted the feasibility of creating a sand beach area behind the breakwaters. It most likely would be washed away.

The excessive development of the foreshore would devastate the existing ecosystem, and its natural beauty. (It is nevertheless widely known that the existing Newtownsmith coastal park derives from man-made intervention and reclamation.)

Residents do not want the proposals seen as a vague menu for cherry-picking portions in isolation. For example, we would be totally opposed to the provision of the underground car park in isolation (or at all)!

The members wished they had been presented with 'Plan C', that is a modest proposal focused on the Baths site.

We do believe it is possible to develop a realistic Plan C, and would offer the following views on what that might contain:

A focused development around that land stretching from the East Pier to the eastern wall of the Baths site.

The development would carry the route of the Yellow Path from the Newtownsmith Park through the Baths site to connect with the East Pier. This would divert walkers down from the roadside to this park at the East Pier, and other points.

A modest development in and around the existing Baths Building to include as far as practical retention of the street level Entrance Pavilion. The development would contain a café and public display space, and could further contain a leisure based activity such as a Seaweed Spa. It is not necessary to construct indoor swimming facilities on the seafront.

The site of the pools and gardens be comprehensively re-planned as a Seaside Park, to include sitting areas, playground, and possibly (in line with many other locations) a short term seasonal sand beach, beach volleyball, etc.

A breakwater be constructed similar to that in the Concept A, but much smaller in scale. That might be without a sand beach but with a swimming facility such as a tidal pool constructed in concrete within the protection of the breakwater.

County Councillors' responses to our submission

This email was sent to our 6 ward Councillors on 7th October 2008:

Dear Councillor. You will have received a copy of the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association submission on the baths site and Scotsman's Bay – a copy is attached. We would be pleased to hear from you as a current ward councillor your stance on this submission on a scale of 1 to 10, viz totally in agreement, totally against or whatever.

At the time of going to press we had received 5 responses out of 6.

We received a detailed response from Gene Feighery which, in effect, reiterated the Green Party submission on the baths site made 3 years ago, and which was in concurrence with the submission by Save Our Seafront and Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association published in a previous edition of this newsletter.

Mary Mitchell O'Connor made specific comments. She agrees with many aspects of our submission. She says we need a more modest development, with maritime gardens and public toilets. She was not sure about retaining cold sea baths and does not like the concept of the beach.

Tom O'Higgins stated he was "in accordance" with many points raised and it was "the general feedback" he had received.

Jane Dillon Byrne was generally favourable to our submission.

John Bailey told us he was very pleased with the content and layout of our submission.

It would be remiss of us if we did not draw your attention to the fact that the wishes of our 6 ward councillors, as we have seen from past experience, at times have little or no influence when it comes to decisions pertaining to our area. While they might say they agree with the feelings of the majority of residents, they seldom, if ever, can assure us that this has the backing of the majority of their party colleagues. If this comes to a vote our 6 ward councillors can be outvoted 22 to 6.

We must therefore ask again for our local councillors to speak on behalf of their parties. "Where do you and your colleagues stand on the Baths and Scotsman's Bay proposals?" We ask this because we are aware of at least a number of councillors who are still in favour of apartments or hotel development.

We must also ask since the proposal C, which was agreed to by the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association, Save Our Seafront and the Green Party and after 3 years now appears to be more or less accepted by the councillors, why was it necessary to set up a committee of local councillors which took over a year to discuss bringing in an outside consultancy firm which has cost, we have heard, close to €170,000 of taxpayers' (that is your the residents') money. We have been told by Councillor Feighery that she has legal advice that there are legal restrictions which forbid development on the site of the baths which makes us wonder why so much money has been spent on consultants' fees for options A and B. Our plan C was free.

Save Our Seafront said: "From the outset Save Our Seafront has taken the initiative on the baths and seafront issue. Our views are well known. We will continue to be in the forefront."

DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2016

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council intends to review the County Development Plan 2004-2010 and prepare a new County Development Plan. The Council is to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of the review process and for this purpose is to also prepare an environmental report on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the new plan. At the time of going to press the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association was preparing a submission to the County Council in time for the deadline for submissions of 3rd November 2008. We intend to publish highlights of this submission in the next edition of this newsletter.

GLASHULE OPERA



Glashule Opera is well and truly launched. The Pavilion Theatre was packed on Sunday 15th June last for the gala launch of Glashule Opera. The night was organised by Glenageary resident Anne-Marie O'Sullivan, who is Head of Vocal, Opera and Drama Studies at D.I.T (and who is pictured here at the launch with Minister and local TD Mary Hannifin). The night was the first step in starting an opera company in this area. Five wonderful young singers – 3 of whom had come back from abroad for the occasion – took part. They were sopranos Katy Kelly and Sarah Power, mezzo-soprano Raphaella Mangan, tenor Carthaigh Quill and baritone Brendan Collins. The evening was a taster for a full-blown opera festival which will take place next year. Moliere famously said, "Of all the noises known to man, Opera is the most expensive".

DUBLIN BAY TASKFORCE

Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association were invited to become part of the inaugural meeting of the Dublin Bay Taskforce sponsored by the Dublin Regional Authority. Kay Gleeson, Chairperson and Bob Waddell attended. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bronwyn Maher. The committee was made up almost totally of County Council and Docklands Development personnel.

In addressing the meeting, we stated how disappointed we were that not alone were members of Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association not on the committee but neither were there any representatives from any of the other residents associations around the Bay. We commented that while the various indigenous animals, birds and fish were represented by specific

organisations, residents associations were not in any way represented and we asked for this to be reconsidered. Dublin Docklands Development Authority and Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company have agendas of their own and these do not always fit in with the quality of life and the wishes of the majority of residents around the Bay. They state that they hope to come back within 9 months with specific proposals. Here again, they appear to be taking on consultants from the continent. Do we not have that type of expertise here in Ireland?

Another of our requests was for a moratorium on all development around the Bay until the new development plan for the Bay is brought together. We will keep residents up to date through our newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUBMISSION BY SANDYCOVE AND GLASTHULE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION IN RESPONSE TO DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL'S "FUTURE PLAN FOR DUBLIN BAY"

The residents of Sandycove and Glasthule are excluded from the Necklace of Villages as described in the proposal. Our area forms a large part of the coastal area on the south side of Dublin Bay and there must be consultation and engagement with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Fingal County Council as part of the democratic process. The Sandymount Residents Association, for example, and other relevant associations were represented as participants in the process and we request similar inclusion and representation. We are fully aware that our area is used as an amenity for a very significant portion of the wider city, being an intensively used access point to the amenity that is Dublin Bay. We therefore feel fully justified in calling for our inclusion as a stakeholder in the formulation of a Vision for Dublin Bay.

It is essential that an Independent Strategic Environmental Assessment for the entire Bay area be commissioned as a prerequisite to any final draft of the Plan, in accordance with EU guidelines. This of course must include Dun Laoghaire and the Sandycove area. We would also like to point out that any vision for Dublin Bay should extend to Bray so as to complete the entire amenity area.

This will ensure the development of a model of best practice in working with all the stakeholders to ensure an equitable outcome both for the environment as well as communities in the region.

While we welcome the proposal in the section on "Confronting Climate Change" that flood prevention measures should take the form of a bay-wide approach rather than local-scale developments and would like to see this taken on board as a matter of urgency, the BAR-RAGE option is a 'Trojan Horse' for the reintroduction of the concept of an Eastern Bypass motorway. This is completely unacceptable, as has been repeated over and over again. The overall impact of such measures may have

serious impacts outside the area. This reinforces the need for our input and participation in the planning process.

The entire Dublin Bay region is a public amenity and therefore increased access and usage of amenities such as beaches, cycle and walkways, water sports fishing etc should be foremost. This is welcome and acceptable provided there is no development on the sea side of the DART and no vehicular usage. We are particularly opposed to privatisation of the foreshore area whether by sale or lease, and we do not accept residential development on the seaward

relevant stakeholders including residents associations such as Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association.

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



The 7 options proposed for the port area are premature pending the recommendations and outcomes of the Independent Strategic Environmental Assessment. Infill of the scale proposed may have extreme unforeseen effects long term. Residential development on brownfield sites within central Dublin is welcomed instead of uncontrolled spread of population to westwards into adjoining counties. All development proposed must contain in an integrated plan the necessary public amenities and infrastructure. These amenities must go hand in hand with residential development. All amenities developed should take into account Community local

side of the DART line in the Booterstown to Dun Laoghaire frontage. We believe it is totally unacceptable to permit private residential developments on such public marine resources as the Carlisle Pier, the Public Baths Sites, and Bullock Harbour. Such developments are being considered, and would directly conflict with the concept of public access to the Bay as a regional resource.

The Dublin Bay Bill 2007 provides for the establishment of a Dublin Bay Authority. Formulation of any policy with regard to Dublin Bay is premature pending the future establishment of the Dublin Bay Authority. That Authority should be accessible with representation from all the

needs and interests and must include provision for people with disabilities. The development proposed must contain provision for schools, public halls clubs, sports facilities and access for the community.

The decision to locate a Regional Incinerator down wind of a proposed community of 50,000+ people raises questions as to the ability to achieve the coordinated planning necessary as envisaged in the draft 'Vision.'

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

A.G.M. 2008

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairperson: Kay Gleeson

Secretary: Eamonn Buckley

Treasurer: Bernadette Comerford

Committee: Maurice Coleman, John Conroy, Ted Courtney, John Elliot, Ursula Maguire, Paul O'Callaghan, Bob Waddell

May 15th was a rare, warm summer's evening when our Annual General Meeting took place in St Paul's Community Hall. The room was packed with a very well attended meeting that spilled out onto the garden outside.

Ursula Maguire, in her last AGM as chairperson, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and then asked for a minute's silence in memory of the residents who had died in the past year. She welcomed two new members who had been co-opted to the Committee, Bernadette Comerford and Maurice Coleman. David O'Neill, who had resigned from the Committee, was thanked for his contribution to the work of the Residents Association.

The night was made even warmer by a heated discussion on the two concepts for development of the seafront offered by the County Council. General opinion was that there should be a third more modest option offered. The Councillors present, John Bailey, Jane Dillon Byrne, Gene Feighery, Mary Mitchell O'Connor and Tom O'Higgins all made contributions to

this debate, as did Bob Waddell and Ursula Maguire.

Outgoing Treasurer, Paul O'Callaghan, read out the Balance Sheet for the year with a closing balance of €2,445 in the current account.

A general discussion then took place. Litter was an important concern and Margaret Browne was particularly praised for all her efforts in keeping Sandycove and Glashule litter free.

Mary Craig instigated a long discussion on the fate of the Patton Flyer. She said there was a real chance that this valuable service could be stopped in the near future as the Flyer did not have a route licence despite such a licence being applied for nearly two years ago. A list of signatures from all present was handed up to be used in the event of a public appeal to the Department. All public representatives locally have been urged to use their influence in the speedy granting of this licence to Trevor Patton.

The loss of the No. 8 bus travelling through Glashule into Dublin was again raised. This is a constant complaint but Dublin Bus does not seem to hear of it.

Imogen Stuart again brought up the poor state of the gardens at Otranto Place in Sandycove. When originally planted the gardens looked very attractive.

Parking was once again the subject of general concern and, once again, no obvious solution was forthcoming.

The evening concluded with a medley of great music from Brendan Glennon and Jimmy Kelly.

Thank you, St Paul's

The Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association would like to formally record their appreciation for the use of the magnificent St Paul's Community Hall for the last two meetings of the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association. Both meetings were extremely well attended and lively meetings. Thank you.

Garden and Business Awards

Best small garden: Dolores McMahon, 2 Marine Avenue.

Best large garden: Presentation House.

Best group display: Glashule Buildings.

Best shop front: Bacara.

Best restaurant: ODELLS.

Community award: Christmas lights in Glashule - Nell Fitzgerald of Juggys Well and butcher Noel Kavanagh accepted this award

We appreciate traders' continued support of these awards. This year Centra and Fitzgerald's Pub sponsored the prizes.

Serious flooding in Glashule Village



Noel Kavanagh Butchers, Alan Connolly Hairdresser, The Punnet Fruit and Veg, Grace and Harvey Showrooms and Cavistons were all affected. There has been a problem in the village for a number of years and it is to be sincerely hoped that the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will take action to prevent a recurrence. Winter approaches!

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Community and Voluntary Forum

At a recent meeting of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Community and Voluntary Forum an application by the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association for a grant towards part of the production costs of this newsletter was discussed and the Forum recently informed us that funding and support for our newsletter was approved in the amount of €750.

The Community and Voluntary Forum works to ensure that the voice of the community and voluntary sector is heard and taken into account in the ongoing development of the County. It assists groups in promoting their membership and developing mutually beneficial linkages with other organisations. Its membership consists of over 400 organisations representing a wide range of interests such as local community groups, environmental and heritage groups, social services and enterprise groups, sports and youth groups and many others.

Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association is a member of the Forum and attends all meetings, taking an active role. Our chairperson, Kay Gleeson, is a member of, and the Treasurer, of the Working Group of the Community and Voluntary Forum. For the avoidance of doubt Kay Gleeson was not involved in the Forum's decision to award us a grant.

“Seachange”



Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is to present a video by artist Patricia McKenna based on a temporary artwork which she created on Sandycove Beach in September. The video will show in the Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT), Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire between 11 am and 4 pm on Saturday 8th November. For the artwork, Patricia created brightly coloured gelatine pieces, loosely based on fish and other forms, that were placed on the beach at low tide. They gradually dissolved and drifted out to sea, leaving no trace of the work. Pictured here is the temporary artwork together with the artist (in the centre) and others, including our Kay Gleeson and Bob Waddell (on the left) and, next to Bob, Ciara King, County Council Public Art Programme Administrator.

TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION 2008

We publish below the marks awarded by the adjudication committee on the area of Sandycove. Overall, well done to residents of Sandycove. As you can see from the marks, there are areas which require some improvement and Margaret Browne of the Tidy Towns Committee calls on all residents to be particularly observant in relation to dog excrement which has apparently increased in recent times. It is worth noting that under the heading of “Litter Control”, we had a better result than Westport!

	Maximum possible mark	Sandycove 2008 mark
Overall development approach	50	34
The built environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and natural amenities	50	26
Litter control	50	35
Waste minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	20
Residential areas	40	25
Roads, streets and back areas	50	26
General impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	255

A Look into our Newsletter Archives

On trawling through our archives, we came across a copy of the January 1999 newsletter edition no. 1— almost 10 years ago. This newsletter was four pages in length, in black and white and with no photos. We have come a long way! Residents might be interested to know that the topics which were covered in the newsletter included the Seafront, dog excrement, traffic, planning applications and a tribute to our former postman, Denis Burton.

NEWSLETTER

January 1999

No.1

INTRODUCTION

The Sandycove Seafront Residents Association is becoming more active again. A new committee was elected last March and has been meeting monthly, to discuss a number of both new and long standing issues. These meetings are carefully recorded in detailed minutes, which may be inspected by any members of the association.

In addition to making the contents of our meetings accessible, we have decided to prepare and circulate this newsletter. There are two main reasons for this. The first is to let our members know the various issues we are considering, and to invite members to suggest others which they consider to be important. The second reason is to encourage other Sandycove residents to join the association, and take an active part in our activities.

It is our hope that the Newsletter will help to raise membership numbers and focus the committee's efforts on the main issues which affect our area. To have a meaningful resident's association, feedback is required from the wider membership, so that the committee may act on a wider mandate than merely their own judgement.

Most resident's associations only become active when the amenity of the area is threatened by a major change, and at such times, great commitment and energy emerges from the community to campaign against the threat. Once a particular issue has been resolved successfully or otherwise, there tends to be a dropping off of residents activity as campaign fatigue sets in. At the moment there is no major issue, but rather a great many minor issues, which when considered collectively are a significant threat to our area.

Sandycove is a beautiful place, and its popularity seems to be growing every year. It is the main point of access to the sea for a large area of the south city, and attracts large numbers all the year round but particularly in the summer. Despite the ever increasing numbers of people, cars, tourist coaches, dogs, swimmers, scuba divers and canoeists, and the problems associated with lager louts and drug abusers, the infra-structure has been totally neglected by the County Council.

The parks and open spaces along the seafront are neglected, toilets closed, pavings, benches and railings poorly maintained, and lighting and litter bins almost

non-existent. In the People's Park and Marley Park, the Council has shown that it can provide public amenity space of the highest quality. It is time that we started to demand that equal attention and financial commitment be focused on Sandycove, which must surely be one of the most popular and heavily used parts of the county.

A large and active association will not only have influence due to the weight of local opinion, but will also be able to make helpful suggestions about the most important issues at stake.

SANDYCOVE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Sandycove Residents Association was formed under the chairmanship of the late Michael Scott in 1975 when a very carefully considered constitution was drawn up. This defined the geographic boundaries of the membership, which are shown on the attached street map, and set out the objectives. It is worth summarising these for the benefit of those who are unfamiliar with them.

- To maintain and improve the natural amenities of the area.
- To prevent any deterioration of the present residential and suburban atmosphere and character.
- To take all possible measures to serve the interests of the residents of the area.
- To take united action when necessary, in all matters of common interest to the residents and the association.

A few years ago, the association split into two parts, the Sandycove Seafront Residents Association and the Sandycove Residents Association, with the geographic split roughly as shown on the map. There were at the time reasonable grounds for this split, although it has subsequently led to a decline in activity of both associations. It may be desirable to return to a single association. However, this is a fairly major issue and should be addressed by the wider membership of both associations rather than their committees. Either way, we would welcome your comments and ideas on this matter.

SANDYCOVE SEAFRONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FESTIVAL OF WORLD CULTURES

There appeared to be an overwhelming satisfaction with the cultural festival which had to suffer through some appalling weather on the Saturday but with excellent weather on the Sunday, and the festival received very favourable media publicity which no doubt will help bolster the fortunes of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

