

# Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association Newsletter



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

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

## Flooding in Glashule Village

Only recently flooding occurred again in Glashule and many businesses were badly flooded. Business people are running out of patience and who would blame them. Readers of our May Newsletter will know that the Residents Association asked the County Manager why the continuing episodes of flooding in Glashule Village during the frequent heavy spells of rain of the last few summers is much more severe than in the past and is there any prospect of work beginning to rectify the matter? The County Council's reply said that the Council is endeavouring to implement drainage relief works on a priority basis as soon as practicable, subject to finance being available. The reply acknowledged deficiencies in the drainage network and it seems that extensive works will be needed to improve the network of pipes. In May we said we awaited news of developments and you may not be surprised to learn that half a year later that is still the case.



**The Baths: 5 years since people marched and where are the Baths? They are still derelict. Nothing ever seems to happen.**

At the time of publishing our May Newsletter we understood that a new plan was about to be announced and it would not include high-rise apartments or fanciful artificial beaches, but at the time of going to print we did not know what it would include and the whole thing seemed to be shrouded in mysterious secrecy. You may not be surprised to be told that as we put the finishing

touches to this November Newsletter we understand that a new plan, which has been seen by Councillors but not (as we go to print) the public, is about to be announced and it will not include high-rise apartments or fanciful artificial beaches, but again we did not know exactly what it will include.

**It may be that by the time of our Residents Gathering on 15<sup>th</sup> November all will be revealed and residents will be able to form a view, but surely not parking on the baths site or expensive "sea barriers".**

## RESIDENTS GATHERING

Date Monday 15th November 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

Charge No admission charge for this meeting

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. There will be no guest speaker at this meeting.

**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](mailto:info@sandycoveandglashule.ie) or writing to The Secretary, Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association, c/o Eamonn's Bookshop, 50 Sandycove Road, Sandycove

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

Chairperson, Kay Gleeson, welcomed a packed house to the annual general meeting in St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre on Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>. She welcomed the four Councillors in attendance: Mary Mitchell O'Connor, Jane Dillon Byrne, Stephen Fitzpatrick and John Bailey.

Committee stalwart, Ursula Maguire, has retired from the committee and Kay thanked her for all her hard work over many years. She also welcomed new member, Liam Maden, to the committee.

Due to the continuing recession the pace of development in the area has slowed considerably and consequently there was less for the committee to do during the past year.

On behalf of the Association a donation was made to the Glashule Buildings Centenary celebrations. Anne Farrell from the Buildings thanked us and said the money was used for plants and flowers to add to the already excellent display on the site.

Members of the Committee met with Ben Dunne in 2009 to discuss with him his plans for the field in Hudson Road. Subsequently after studying his proposed plans for a health centre and gym it was decided not to object. However these plans have now been withdrawn and we await any further developments.

Kay apologised for a mistake in the last Newsletter when Colette McClatchy should have been credited with the best garden for 2009.

Two business awards were awarded this year.

Charles Fitzgeralds Pub (Best frontage)

Rococo (Best shop front)

Best Garden Award. Kay remarked that she had had little time this year to inspect all the gardens in the area and that she would be more industrious in 2011. The award went to: Jennifer Looby of 1, Devitt Villas.

When the meeting was thrown open to the floor two main topics were on residents minds

## 1. The derelict site in Elton Park

What, it seems, will become a more frequent problem due to the downturn in the property market is undeveloped sites. The one at the corner of Elton Park is of particular concern to residents. The hoarding round it has collapsed in parts and other parts look close to collapse. Cllr. Bailey has spoken to Elton Park residents and has hopes that the County Council will start a process of trying to locate those responsible. Imminent action is expected on the matter.

## 2. Anti-social behaviour at the beach

While everyone was glad to see the recent warm sunny weather it, unfortunately, also attracted a very unwelcome element to the area. Residents reported on several unpleasant episodes over the last week. Rowdiness, noise and general mess are not welcome. All agreed that a more permanent Garda presence is required at the beach area when the weather is this warm and sunny.

Another problem is the totally inadequate toilet facilities in the area, which has been exacerbated by the enforced closure of the urinal at the Forty-Foot. There is now only one toilet to facilitate the needs of hundreds of visitors who descend on the area. The County Council must be called on to rectify this matter.

With so many residents wanting to talk on these matters there was little time left to discuss several other topics such as the Patton Flyer, parking and, of course, the Baths. These issues continue to exercise people and will be kept to the forefront of the Committee's attention.

James Howley then gave an entertaining and informative talk on Notable Buildings and Monuments in the area after which some more private discussion took place over a glass of wine.

# URSULA'S BITS AND PIECES

DLR Book Festival 2010 - Prose on the Pier Competition - Congratulations to Fiona Deverell of Summerhill Road who was one of the winners with her entry "The Place of the New Stream". Two other winners were Sheena Lambert and Mary Broderick, both from Glenageary.

Did you know? Tom McNicholas from Spencer Villas is the oldest surviving GAA All Ireland Medal Winner. In 1936 he led Mayo to its first All Ireland win. This is an achievement and we all congratulate Tom.

We join the many tributes recently paid to the well known artist and sculptor IMOGEN STUART of Sandycove Avenue West. She received from President Mary McAleese the McAuley Medal in recognition of her work throughout the country.



Children of 6 years + (primary school first class level upwards) are welcome to join St Joseph's Family Mass Group Choir. All you do is come along to St Joseph's Parochial Hall on Friday night at 6.30 pm.

Good luck to Christine Martin (086 1965559) of Windsor Terrace who is teaching YOGA in our area. Give her your support.

Best wishes and success to the Anderson family, long time residents of Dun Laoghaire, and their team who recently opened the Promenade Café on Windsor Terrace. If you have not already been, do drop in for a 'cuppa' and more.

The Government has committed €3m this year for the Senior Alert Scheme. The aim is to give grant support for equipment such as alarms, smoke detectors and security lighting. It is to help older people who would not have sufficient funds to live securely in their homes. Anyone interested should contact the Department CSOP Unit - telephone 071 9107821.

Road safety is most important to all of us. It is terrifying to think some people continue to hold mobile phones to their EARS whilst driving (beware of penalty points, if caught). If you must use it, fit a hand free kit in your car. Another danger is to put in and take out children on the road side of vehicles. Be sure to do this kerbside.

Well done to good neighbour Pamela McCombe who keeps the footpaths of her section of Sandycove Road clean and tidy, and free of all litter. She can be seen most mornings sweeping the paths, and taking time to have a chat with all who pass by.



# Environmental Issues

Towards the end of May this year many residents received a comprehensive letter on environmental issues from **Bernie King (205 4817 and [bking@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:bking@dlrcoco.ie))** of the County Council's Environment, Culture & Community Department to tell us that she is our official contact for litter, litter bins, road-sweeping, weed-spraying, gully-cleaning, graffiti, abandoned cars, dog and horse control, dumping and other environmental issues.

One of the issues covered in the letter of particular interest because it is an issue frequently raised by residents with the Association is requests for additional litter bins. We were told that the Council does not have resources to service extra bins, but it can relocate under-used bins to better locations.

## Walkway and Deck over DART Line at Queen's Road

Works have been underway for some time to build a new walkway and deck over the DART Line at Queen's Road. We are looking forward to the finished result which is to include a pedestrian area, café terrace and landscaped public space.

### The Baths—A Reminder:

**Below is what the majority of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's 28 Councillors were in favour of – including a number of our own 6 ward Councillors. They did not consider the voice of the people, Save Our Seafont and Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association. In particular, the public should recognise the hard work and dedication of Richard Boyd Barrett as Chairman of Save Our Seafont, Bob Waddell who led Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association's involvement in the campaign and the contribution of past Councillor Gene Feighery.**



# Councillor Contact Details

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## Upgrading The Metals

In May we reported that the County Council had secured some funding for upgrading The Metals walkway between Dalkey and Dun Laoghaire. The Council invited input from the public on what works should be carried out. Many residents took the opportunity to send their views to the Traffic Section at County Hall.

There is overwhelming support for the scheme. The single biggest issue identified by the consultation process was dog dirt. The Council are of the view that more bins along the route (there is only one just now) may encourage dog owners to keep the route clean. Bins are now planned for 7 locations along the route together with new signs to inform people of their responsibility regarding dog fouling.

In the view of the Residents Association 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 the limited funding secured, which is just over €200,000, will not go far in this direction. However, we understand that, if possible, ducting will be provided to allow for future installation of CCTV cameras.



# Dun Laoghaire Town BRAND Project



The BRAND Project is about changing the perceptions of Dun Laoghaire town by working with residents, business owners, and visitors to develop innovative and creative ways of boosting the reputation of Dun Laoghaire.

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Denbighshire, Isle of Anglesey, and Kildare County Councils are all taking part in this 3 year project, which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Ireland Wales Programme.

The BRAND project centres on Irish towns Dun Laoghaire and Athy, as well as Rhyl and Holyhead in Wales. All four towns have a history of regeneration projects, and equally, all four have difficulties with the way in which they are perceived by residents, businesses, tourism and hospitality sectors and other opinion formers.

The project is about making Dun Laoghaire more competitive and raising its profile. The hope is that the project will promote Dun Laoghaire town as a place in which to do business, invest, visit and live.

We trust this is not about creating a logo or a slogan or even a T-shirt or about spending money on unnecessary consultants, but about capitalising on the town's assets in order to shape the future of the town to attract new jobs, investment and visitors.



The pictures here show a BRAND Workshop Day in the Royal Marine Hotel and the BRAND Project Launch in May in Rhyl, Wales.

**The BRAND project would appreciate the support of residents in Sandycove and Glasthule to help to secure the future of Dun Laoghaire. If you have any questions on the project, contact Elaine Carroll, Project Officer on 205 4317 or 087 745 5433 or [elainecarroll@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:elainecarroll@dlrcoco.ie).**

We will be updating residents on the progress of this project and bringing to your attention the "innovative and creative ways of boosting the reputation of Dun Laoghaire".



## Bloomsday 2010: local residents enjoying this years' annual celebration of James Joyce



**Churning up of Seafrost Green:** After the 2009 Festival of World Cultures 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 had been located. It was a muddy quagmire where the ground had been so compacted that it was a complete and utter eyesore. We asked the County Manager to consult with the Festival organisers to ensure that this damage to the area did not continue. The County Manager replied acknowledging that the Council's efforts to restore this area following last year's Festival had 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 minimising damage to this area. We are very pleased to be able to say that this year has been much better and that the grass area in front of Marine Parade Road has by and large been restored following this year's Festival of World Cultures. A successful intervention by the Sandycove and Glathule Residents Association.



## Elton Park

Well done to Sandycove resident Deirdre McGrath, ably assisted by Councillor John Bailey, whose hard work has paid off. The hoarding which had blown down has been re-erected. The whole site remains an eye sore. Surely the developer involved must be prevailed upon to do something about this.



## East Pier Bandstand

The bandstand at the East Pier of Dun Laoghaire Harbour has been restored to its former glory as has the viewing shelter on the upper pier. The structure was dismantled and taken to a cast iron conservator workshop. The moulds from the original castings were located enabling new castings to be produced for the missing elements. Hopefully the restored structure will be well able to last for many years to come even though it is in very exposed location. Pictured here is former Association Secretary and the architect responsible for the restoration, James Howley, speaking at the opening ceremony.

## FESTIVAL OF WORLD CULTURES

The annual Festival of World Cultures, which is Ireland's largest intercultural event, this year marked its 10th anniversary in July. Again the festival was, as always, a great success. We look forward to the return of the festival again next year, although we understand that this year's budgeted expenditure was underestimated.

## Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival

This festival which took place in September this year is now, after only its second year, becoming established as firm fixture in the Dun Laoghaire annual calendar of events. It has been described as a festival "of international standard, with a great local tilt" and this year included the appearance of four former Booker Prize winners. Pictured here is Association committee member Bob Waddell and Chairperson Kay Gleeson with local historian Rob Goodbody and local resident Liam Coudrey



## GLASTHULE OPERA

Following its inaugural festival last year, dlr Glasthule Opera returned to the Pavilion Theatre in June with Bizet's "Carmen" and Gluck's "Orfeo and Eurdice". The performances achieved an excellent review in the Irish Times, including a warm mention for children from Harold School. We look forward to more from this very successful annual event.

## *Memories of the Biafran War* by Father Denis Kennedy

This book is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> reprint and is available in the St Joseph's book shop and pastoral centre. The book costs €10 and proceeds go to the Holy Ghost Missions. Father Denis Kennedy CSSP of St Joseph's, Glasthule set out for the mission fields in Eastern Nigeria in 1963 and was involved in the airlifting of food and medicines to Biafra. A great read.

## What is the BlueLine?

Apparently it is a proposed public transport system which is like a tram except it can drive on the road and the proposed route is from St Vincent's Hospital to Sandyford by way of RTE and UCD. It is being promoted by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in association with UCD, St Vincent's Hospital, RTE and Sandyford Business Estates Association. More anon.

## 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.



# Clamping in Dun Laoghaire

There is clamping in Dun Laoghaire. Here is the evidence. The County Manager may say Dun Laoghaire Harbour is somewhere else but to the rest of us it is in Dun Laoghaire. The use of clamping is giving Dun Laoghaire a bad name and discouraging shoppers and visitors alike. Surely Dun Laoghaire with all its closed shops and businesses needs a stimulus rather than high parking charges and clamping. Local ward Councillors take note.



# Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Sandycove achieved 264 marks out of 400. This represents very slight improvements in a few categories of marking. Under the heading of "General Impression" the judges in their report said that Sandycove is a wonderful spot, charming, attractive and full of interest. They said that it is great to see that it is also being looked after and for this Sandycove Tidy Towns is to be commended. However, the judges do say that the one black spot is the level of litter on the coastline (not the sandy beach which was very clean). In the detailed sections of the report they particularly point out that a good deal of litter had accumulated behind the wall at the Forty Foot and a lot of litter was scattered on the stony beach under the Martello tower. The highest potential marks were achieved in the sections of General Impression and Built Environment. The Built Environment section speaks highly of the repair work on the Ballygihen archway, the heritage trail and interpretive signage, the Martello tower and James Joyce museum and the commercial premises along the main thoroughfare looking fantastic—particularly Fitzgerald's pub. The judges conclude their report with a cheery "Keep up the good work!"

## Please support your local businesses

In our May Newsletter we pointed out that in Sandycove and Glasthule we have butchers, grocers, supermarkets, 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, solicitors.

We asked: have we left anyone out? Please let us know.

Well, we are sorry that we did leave out dry cleaners, undertakers, physiotherapists, and a Chinese takeaway. Are there any more?

