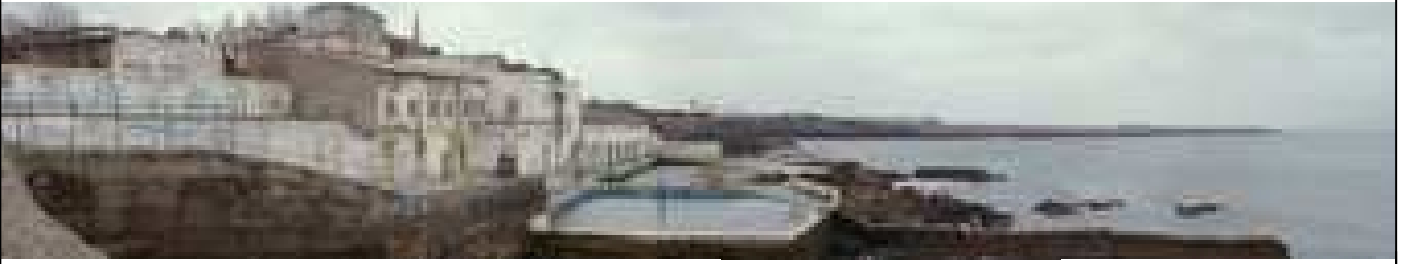


Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association Newsletter



October 2005 www.sandycoveandglashule.ie **SPECIAL EXTRA** DUN LAOGHAIRE BATHS EDITION

8-STOREY APARTMENT AND SHOPPING COMPLEX

PLAN TO BE SHELVED FOLLOWING PUBLIC OUTCRY?

The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has been threatening to put an 8-storey apartment and shopping complex with 180 private apartments on the site of Dun Laoghaire Baths.

It seems now that due to public pressure a small majority of Councillors are now against the current proposals. At the time of going to press all Councillors from the following parties have promised to vote against: Green, Progressive Democrat and Fianna Fail. However, it is only in the last few days that Fianna Fail said they would vote against.

In spite of some Fine Gael Councillors and Labour Councillors declaring against, at the time of going to press the majority of these parties' Councillors have not publicly committed to vote against.

This proposal would privatise a major section of the public seafront and destroy a beautiful piece of coastline. It would pave the way for further high-rise commercial development on the seafront from Blackrock to Killiney. This disgraceful plan was drawn up without any public consultation.

Save Our Seafront, with support from organisations such as An Taisce, Combined Residents to Save Open Space and the Sandycove and Glashule Residents Association, has mobilised thousands of people in protest in the 3 biggest demonstrations Dun Laoghaire has ever seen. Save Our Seafront has also collected **15,000 signatures** opposing the development and calling for the Baths to be developed as a fully **public amenity with no apartments or privatisation of the seafront.**

The huge wave of protest has forced the Council to back away from voting through this horrific plan at two recent Council meetings. The vote has now been put off until 10th October. Public pressure has forced many Councillors and TDs to come out against the development, even some who initially welcomed it. At the July Council meeting, the Council agreed, for the first time ever, to look at other ways of funding a public water amenity without building apartments or privatising the site. People power and protest has had a major impact but we must keep up the pressure. Even though it now seems that the unacceptable proposal may be shelved we are still a long way from achieving a fully accessible public baths and water amenity to be the main features of any redevelopment of the baths.

15,000 SIGN PETITION

Fifteen thousand people have signed the petition organised by Save Our Seafront to express opposition to Council plans to build an 8-storey private apartment block and shopping complex on the site of Dun Laoghaire Baths. The petition:

- 1 Opposes any plans for high-rise apartment, office or shopping complexes on the baths site or the seafront.
- 2 Opposes any development of the baths that includes exclusive residential property or prevents public access to sections of the seafront.
- 3 Calls for a fully accessible public sea-baths and water based amenity and other amenities to be the main features of any redevelopment of the baths.
- 4 Calls for any development of the baths to respect the unique coastal and architectural of Dun Laoghaire seafront in terms of height, scale and design.
- 5 Calls for full and proper process of public consultation and an integrated environmental impact study and traffic management plan to be undertaken before plans are drawn up for the baths or other seafront developments.

We ask our 28 Councillors: Do you sign on to our petition or are you just going to vote against the current proposal and later vote for a watered down version which still includes apartments and privatisation of the seashore? We will be watching.

PUBLIC PROTEST
OUTSIDE COUNTY HALL
5PM MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER
WHEN THE COUNCILLORS DECIDE
THE FUTURE OF THE BATHS
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Information from Save Our Seafront

W: www.saveourseafront.ie / E: info@saveourseafront.ie / T: 087 6329511 / 087 4115015

Our thanks to Save Our Seafront for contributing some of the material used in this newsletter

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PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNCILLORS NOW—AND TELL THEM WHAT YOU THINK

Write, phone or email before 10th October

FINE GAEL

John Bailey
Maria Bailey
Marie Baker
Louise Cosgrave
Pat Hand
Tom Joyce
Donal Marren
Jim O'Leary
Eugene Regan

Kilmore, Killiney Road, Killiney, Co Dublin
Kilmore, Killiney Road, Killiney, Co Dublin
38 Avondale Lawn, Blackrock, Co Dublin
103 Holywell, Upper Kilmacud Road, Dublin 14
25 Chestnut Grove, Ballinteer, Dublin 16
2 Churchlands, Sandyford, Dublin 18
17 Rock Lodge, Killiney, Co Dublin
48 Parkvale, Dundrum, Dublin 16
Brighton Lodge, Brighton Avenue, Monkstown, Co Dublin

086-8186701
086-8186703
086-8186704
086-8277608
086-6078181
086 3881530
086-6078195
086-8186732
086-8186733

jbailey@cllr.dircoco.ie
mbailey@cllr.dircoco.ie
mbaker@cllr.dircoco.ie
louisecosg@cllr.dircoco.ie
phand@cllr.dircoco.ie
tjoyce@cllr.dircoco.ie
dmarren@cllr.dircoco.ie
joleary@cllr.dircoco.ie
eregan@cllr.dircoco.ie

LABOUR

Niamh Bhreathnach
Aidan Culhane
Jane Dillon Byrne
Lettie McCarthy
Denis O'Callaghan
Carrie Smyth

12 Anglesea Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
172 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16
Silchester house, Silchester Road, Glenageary, Co Dublin
23 Kilgobbin Heights, Stepside, Dublin 18
49 Rathsallagh Park, Shankill, Co Dublin
3 Bayview Drive, Killiney, Co Dublin

086-6078193
087-6885172
086 6078150
086-8186718
086 2785609
086 3835051

nbhreathna@cllr.dircoco.ie
aculhane@cllr.dircoco.ie
jb Byrne@cllr.dircoco.ie
lmccarthy@cllr.dircoco.ie
denisoc@cllr.dircoco.ie
carriesmyth@cllr.dircoco.ie

FIANNA FAIL

Larry Butler
Barry Conway
Maria Corrigan
Cormac Devlin
Tony Fox
Gerry Horkan
Trevor Matthews

3 Whitehall Mews, Westminster Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18
10 Foxrock Avenue, Foxrock, Dublin 18
22 Orby Drive, The Gallops, Leopardstown, Dublin 18
St Michael's, 117 Glenageary Avenue, Dun Laoghaire
93 Mountain View Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14
7 Hollywood Park, Goatstown, Dublin 14
46 Willow Road, Meadowbrook, Dundrum, Dublin 16

086-8550905
086 3881534
086-6078139
086-8186814
086-6086903
086 3881531
086-3803604

lbutler@cllr.dircoco.ie
bconway@cllr.dircoco.ie
mcorrigan@cllr.dircoco.ie
cdevlin@cllr.dircoco.ie
tonyfox@cllr.dircoco.ie
ghorkan@cllr.dircoco.ie
tmatthews@cllr.dircoco.ie

GREEN

Nessa Childers
Ciarán Fallon
Keelin Ireland
Tom Kivlehan

14 Gledswood Avenue, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14
37 Lennox Street, Dublin 8
Eglinton Cottage, Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire
33 East Courtyard, Tullyvale, Cherrywood, Cabinteely, Dublin 18

086-8186712
086-8186714
086 3881535
086-8186717

nchilders@cllr.dircoco.ie
cfallon@cllr.dircoco.ie
kireland@cllr.dircoco.ie
tkivlehan@cllr.dircoco.ie

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRAT

Mary Mitchell O'Connor

31 Maple Manor, Cabinteely, Dublin 18

086-8186725

mmoconnor@cllr.dircoco.ie

INDEPENDENT

Gearóid O'Keefe

60 Cedarmount Road, Mount Merrion, Co Dublin

086-8186727

gokeefe@cllr.dircoco.ie

DECISION DATE APPROACHES

October the 10th is approaching. This is the date on which the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will make a decision on the Dun Laoghaire Baths site.

The County Manager has tried to promote high-rise apartments claiming there is no money for a fully public amenity. The Council will vote on whether an eight storey luxury apartment block on the Dun Laoghaire Baths public amenity site gets the go-ahead.

How is it that most of the Councillors were excitedly for the horrific proposal from day one and only came out against after the massive public outcry and the electoral consequences became clear? One wonders why we have elected representatives in the first place when so many of them seem to be able to disregard the electorate for so long.



John Elliot, a member of the Committee of the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association, speaking at the recent Save Our Seafront march and rally attended by 4,000 people, which is by far the largest ever protest in the history of Dun Laoghaire

Although it looks like the current proposals may be stopped we must keep up the pressure. We are still a long way from achieving a fully accessible public baths and water amenity with no high-rise apartments or privatisation. This is a battle for the future of the Baths and the entire seafront. The Government and Council do have the money for a public amenity, but they will not spend it if they think the public will allow them to build a high-rise apartment block on the seashore.

Some Councillors have tried to give the impression that they are actively considering amended proposals which address our concerns. Representatives of the Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association were at the July meeting of the Council and have first hand knowledge of what was presented to Councillors. What was seen were unclear computer-generated diagrams which did no more than hint at slight alterations to the height of parts of the vast building which is planned. **If there are Councillors actively considering this so-called "amended" plan under the misapprehension that in some way it addresses our objections, they are wasting their time.**

We intend to keep residents informed about what is being done on their behalf. The Sandycove and Glasthule Residents Association newsletter is circulated to all 2,500 households in the Sandycove and Glasthule area. We have told all the Councillors that we will publish in our newsletter the voting records of all Councillors on this issue, including abstentions and absentees, and analysis of the voting record of each party. **Any party which does not, as a party, oppose these proposals will be known to the residents of Sandycove and Glasthule.**

Some politicians do not like this exercise in democracy. But we will publish the voting records of all Councillors on the issue of Dun Laoghaire baths. We did this once before in 2003 when the Council voted against the County Manager's recommendation to build a 19 storey office block on the site.

To all the Councillors: we will be watching what you do and we will remember when it comes to the next election.