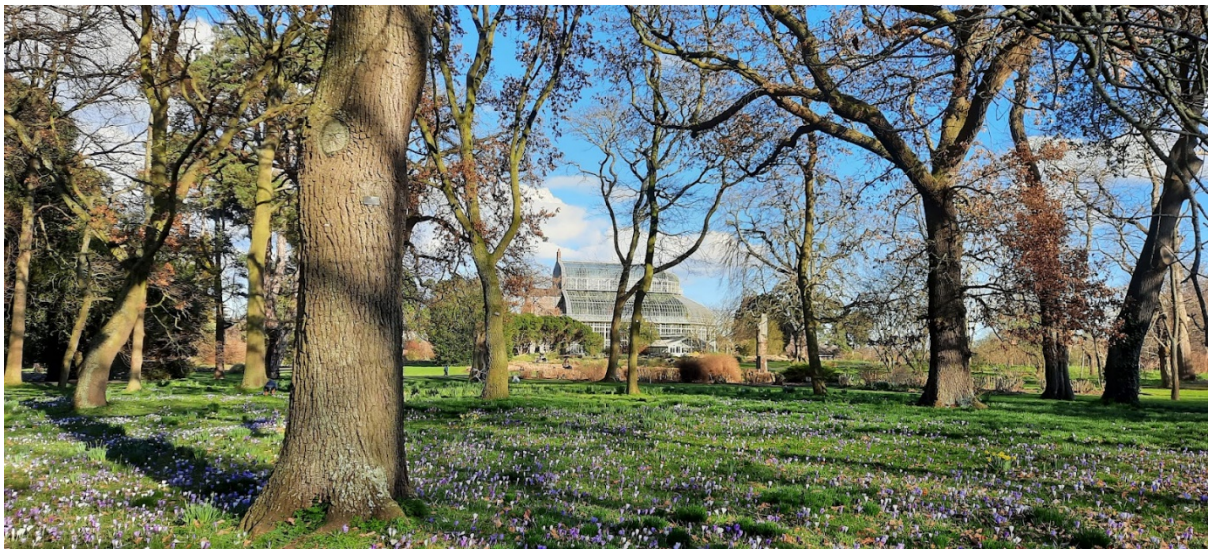


**GVRA**  
**Glasnevin Village**  
**Residents Association**

Newsletter – Spring 2022





## **Welcome and Introduction**

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of our newsletter, our third newsletter since the Association was started in late 2019.

At our Annual General Meeting, held via zoom on 24th January 2022, we were delighted that almost 40 residents, and the majority of our public representatives, attended. We updated residents at that meeting, and via a subsequent email on 26th April 2022. In this newsletter, we have set out progress since then, together with some of our ideas for the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dublin Northwest Partnership, who very kindly funded the cost of this newsletter.

## **River Tolka (Glasnevin) Biodiversity and Community Project**

As reported at the AGM, we received the Environmental Consultant's assessment of the riverside area along Saint Mobhi Drive. The full report was distributed to residents via email on 13th February.

Dublin City Council have now allocated €15,000 in funding to the project, to implement various aspects of the report. We are working closely with the Parks, Landscapes and Biodiversity department of Dublin City Council and Thomas Carolan of LAWPRO (the Local Authority Water Programme) to decide on a plan of action for the work.

We were delighted to host a river walk on 2nd April (with coffee and some pastries beforehand kindly funded by Dublin Northwest Partnership).

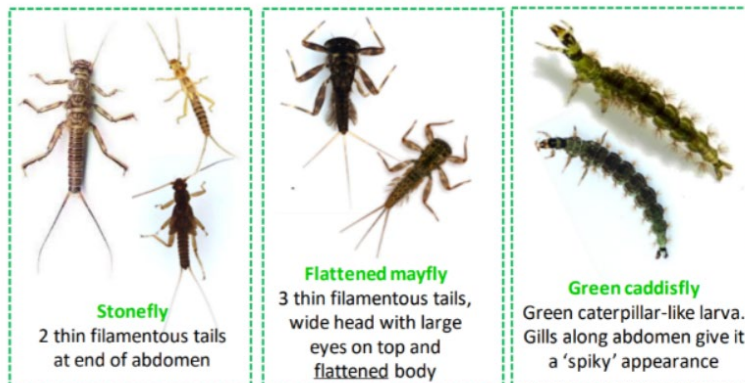




Approximately 30 residents attended, and heard an especially interesting presentation from Ross Mackin of Triturus Environmental Limited, who brought the report to life by walking us along the river bank and explaining the report's findings in detail.



### The 'good guys'



We would now like to form a small group to oversee this project. If you would like to get involved, please call David on 087 7441847 or Áine on 086 3301340, or email [gvrainfo@gmail.com](mailto:gvrainfo@gmail.com).



**Dragonfly Ireland** are looking for volunteers to take part in collecting information for the Dragonfly and Damselfly records, as bio-indicators of water quality and climate change. If you would like more information about how to get involved in this survey and volunteering, please go to

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/dragonfly-ireland/>

See LAWPRO's newsletter in which our Glasnevin River talk featured here:

<https://mailchi.mp/cac8468978a8/its-water-related-newsletter-7109793?e=9886a0ab49>

See also Dublin City Council Climate Action Team Official Newsletter here:

[https://www.dublincity.ie/sites/default/files/2022-03/1st-quarter\\_2022-dcc-climate-action-newsletter.pdf](https://www.dublincity.ie/sites/default/files/2022-03/1st-quarter_2022-dcc-climate-action-newsletter.pdf)

#### **Additional Water/biodiversity resources:**

<https://www.catchments.ie/>

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/>

### **Planting area outside Bon Secours**

The planting area outside the Bon Secours hospital has been improved greatly. We are working with the Bon Secours to ensure that the area is properly maintained.

### **Village Planting**

Both DCC and the Botanic Gardens have provided us with planters and bedding plants, which you will have seen at various places in the Village. They add welcome splashes of colour – many thanks to Richard and Susan Dunne for maintaining these planters.

## Recognition

It is always encouraging to see our efforts being recognised. Late last year, we were delighted that Glasnevin Village was awarded first place in the Residential Dwellings 300+ category of the 2021 Dublin City Neighbourhood Competition.

## Village Clean-up

Lisa Cavern has been doing terrific work in leading the team of volunteers to keep our Village clean, and it is great to see new residents joining in all the time. The team provides tools, high-viz jackets and rubbish bags, so manual labour only is required!

Clean ups start at 10.00am on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, outside the XL shop opposite the Bon Secours Hospital. We are always looking for more volunteers - if you can help, please contact the 'Glasnevin Clean-up' Whatsapp group, managed by Lisa at

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FFxjlVHKJFtKPyVge7hBnw>

Insurance is in place, which covers those carrying out cleaning activities in the Village. Please stay safe when cleaning - we should not, for example, be crossing railings, such as those beside the river bank on Saint Mobhi Drive, or going onto private property. If incidents occur, please report them to Lisa or any member of the Committee. As discussed at the 2021 AGM, we are all keenly aware of protecting wildlife, biodiversity, plants and the habitat generally while we clean. <https://pollinators.ie/>



## **Planning applications**

### **Glenavon House**

You will have seen that Dublin City Council has granted permission for the revised application (52 apartments in a 5/6 storey block) for Glenavon House. This is disappointing, especially as minimal changes were made to the original application, which was comprehensively rejected. The decision has been appealed to An Bord Pleanala, and your Committee has lodged an observation, seeking to have the proposed development rejected.

### **Balnagowan House**

A large number of appeals have been submitted in respect of this proposed development (the refurbishment of the old house into 4 apartments, and the construction of 108 apartments in three 5/6 storey blocks). We were pleased to see that Dublin City Council recommended rejection of the proposed development. An Bord Pleanala is due to give its decision by 5th May.

### **Denis Mahony site**

There is no further update on this development – it appears that the developer still hopes to start construction in the middle of this year. As you will be aware, planning permission has been granted for the development of this site (retail and 101 apartments).

### **Washerwoman's site**

On 26th March 2022, An Bord Pleanala announced that the appeal against the rejection of the development by Dublin City Council has been refused. In its decision, the Bord highlighted the substandard form of accommodation and that its granting would be contrary to proper planning and sustainable development in the area.

### **Addison Lodge**

Construction at the Addison site (15 houses and 12 apartments) has commenced. The developer expects to be back on site by the end of April and hopes to complete construction by the end of the year.

### **Bon Secours Hospital**

Construction of the Hospital's new day unit is well under way, and it is hoped that it will be fully operational by mid-2023. The building will house a new main

entrance and reception area, an oncology day ward and a surgical day ward. The new building will facilitate care for patients in a modern, sustainable environment.

### **Planning and construction – summary and next steps**

As a consequence of the various permissions, granted and sought, above, there will be considerable construction activity in our Village over the coming months and years. By our count, there are c.252 houses and c. 239 apartments in the Village.

The Addison Lodge and Denis Mahony sites will add 128 units. If not overturned on appeal, Glenavon House will add 52 apartments and, if ultimately granted as sought, Balnagowan House would add 112 apartments. The first three developments together would increase the number of homes in the Village by 30% and, if granted as requested, Balnagowan House would increase this to 53%.

Clearly, these new developments will have a very significant impact on the infrastructure of the Village. Your Committee is actively engaging with Dublin City Council to look to have the development levies charged by the Council used to improve the infrastructure of the Village.

### **Monitoring Traffic and Air Pollution in Glasnevin Village:**

We are looking for volunteers for a project to monitor traffic and air pollution in Glasnevin Village. This data will be useful for reviewing future planning applications and to help create a healthier and more sustainable village. Please get in touch at [gvra.info@gmail.com](mailto:gvra.info@gmail.com) or text David on 087 7441847 if you are interested.

Further details are available here: <https://www.changex.org/ie/wecount-project/info>

### **Dublin City Council Development Plan**

At the AGM, Annmarie Rogers presented the Association's submission to Dublin City Council in respect of its Dublin City Plan 2022 – 2028 (see [Development Plan 2022 - 2028 | Dublin City Council](#)). We also believe that we need to create a vision for the Village to act as a backdrop for future planning applications. While we have some amenities in our Village, we are short on others, such as community spaces, retail, etc. Your committee will continue to engage with Dublin City Council as we seek to improve the infrastructure in the Village.



## 50 years of Our Lady of Dolours Church



This year marks a milestone for the Church of Our Lady of Dolours, which was formally blessed and opened on 5th March 1972 by Archbishop Dermot Ryan, only weeks after he was installed as Archbishop of Dublin. Sitting at the heart of the village of Glasnevin, along the banks of the Tolka River and across from the Botanic gardens, the new church, designed by Vincent Gallagher, replaced an earlier 'temporary' wooden church on the same spot, known as 'The Woodener', which had

served the Catholic community in Glasnevin from 1881 until the late 1960s.

The distinctive pyramidal structure recalls the biblical 'Tent of Meeting', a reminder that the God of Christian faith is a God who journeys with us. The church was also one of the first in Ireland to incorporate a parish centre in its basement.

A memorial stone outside the entrance to the Bon Secours Hospital testifies to a Christian presence in Glasnevin dating back to at least the 6<sup>th</sup> century when Saint Mobhi (one of the 'Twelve Apostles of Ireland') established his monastic school. Canice of Finglas and Kilkenny, Columba (or Colmcille) of Iona, Ciaran of Clonmacnoise and Comgall of Bangor all studied for a while in Glasnevin under Mobhi. Ironically they only dispersed when a plague broke out, to which Mobhi himself succumbed.\*

Another Dermot, Archbishop Dermot Farrell, just beginning his second year as Archbishop of Dublin led our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. It was an occasion of great joy and celebration for the parish, and it was great to be able to invite parishioners and visitors alike to partake in refreshments in the parish centre afterwards. It was our first parish gathering in the centre in over two years!

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, Transition year students from St. Marys H.F. Secondary School conducted a series of interviews with senior parishioners about their memories of the church in Glasnevin and what faith means to them today. It was a mutually enriching cross-generational project, which was organised by the school's Religious Education department and took place in the Margaret Aylward centre. The interviews were digitally recorded, and part of the project for the students is to edit the interviews for presentation at a future parish event.



Other Jubilee plans will involve children from the local primary schools planting flowers and bulbs in the green on the corner of Botanic Road and Botanic Avenue after Easter, a celebration of story and song involving the 'Forget Me Not' choir and pupils from Saint Brigid's in May, a celebration for parish volunteers in the summer, and a pilgrimage to Lourdes in September.

*\*Thanks to Tony O' Doherty for permission to use the information regarding the history of the church and of the parish from his publication, A History of Glasnevin*

## Village Infrastructure

As mentioned above, we are pressing the Council on various potential improvements to the Village, as follows:

**Bins:** there is a clear need for additional large-capacity solar compactor bins, especially on Saint Mobhi Drive (where plastic bags attached to the railings are currently used) and at the junction of Glasnevin Hill and Old Ballymun Road.

**Leaf cages:** these were originally promised for the autumn of 2021. However, we were then informed that there were no cages available. Having reflected further on this, and taking into account the experience with other leaf cages, we have decided not to press for these for the coming autumn. Instead, we will discuss with DCC how next Autumn's leaves in our Village will be disposed of in an environmentally-friendly manner.

**Lamp posts:** most of these have now been painted, and we hope that the remaining two (where access is interfered with by trees) will be painted in the near future.

**Road repairs:** we continue to seek the (necessary) repairs on Ballymun Road Lower, Saint Mobhi Drive and Botanic Road, from the bridge to the Botanic Gardens.

If Residents want to report issues such as graffiti, fly tipping (illegal dumping), potholes or issues of concern in the village, you can log onto <https://fixmystreet.ie> to report. Also, if you note litter bins full or overflowing, you can scan the QR code on the bin which will notify Dublin City Council to come and empty it.

## Parking

As we all know, parking in the village by non-residents is a particular challenge. Parking spaces (on, for example, Saint Mobhi Drive and Glasnevin Hill) are often occupied, on an all-day basis, by people working in the Village or in the City. As a result, short-term visitors find it very difficult to find a legal parking space.

We have recently written to Dublin Corporation, making various suggestions as to how the parking situation might be improved, with a view to making parking available for short-term visitors to the Gardens, Hospital, Church or Village shops. In its response, the Corporation confirmed that parking enforcement will

be stepped up. They also indicated that other parking schemes are on hold at present, pending progress on BusConnects.

## **Busconnects**

The latest information on BusConnects, per their website at <http://www.busconnects.ie>, is that they anticipate submitting a planning consent application for the Ballymun to City Centre route in early July. An Bord Pleanála will then undertake a statutory public consultation process.

For details of the current proposals for the Village see:

<https://busconnects.ie/media/1818/03-ballymun-to-city-centre-preferred-route-190220-fa-web.pdf>

## **Saint Mobhi Church**

In relation to Saint Mobhi Church, you will have noticed that the laneway alongside St Mobhi's church has been closed to the public.

This was done in consultation with Dublin City Council after the old church wall was assessed by a structural engineer to be at risk of collapse following the sudden collapse of the eastern end of the wall into the Bon Secours Hospital. Since then, parish representatives have been prioritising a project to stabilise the wall which would allow the laneway to reopen. The project is complex given the age and nature of this heritage site which has national monument status.

We understand that ESB works are currently ongoing in the area, and we will continue to press our local representatives to have the lane re-opened as soon as possible.

The church has secured grant funding which will cover part of the costs involved and is actively fundraising to cover the rest. A Go-Fund-Me page has been established for anyone who would like to help with the effort: <https://ie.gofundme.com/f/st-mobhis-glasnevin-church-wall>

## Marlborough House Project



A subcommittee had been working with Met Eireann at possibly installing an art piece to commemorate the 50 years closure of the institution. Initial feedback from Met Eireann was very positive, however the subcommittee have be notified by a representative of Met Eireann that, unfortunately, following extensive discussion and correspondence with the Department of Education and OPW, they are not in a position to support the proposal for an artistic installation to commemorate the closure. We will continue to progress the possibility of another way to mark the closure.

Source of image: <https://www.archiseek.com/2014/marlborough-house-glasnevin-dublin/>

## Funding

A big 'thank you' to those residents who made contributions to the Association. We incur costs in respect of our share of:

- The River Tolka (Glasnevin) Biodiversity and community Project
- insurance for our clean-up activities
- planter boxes
- newsletters

Contributions are entirely voluntary, and no-one should feel under any obligation. If you do wish to contribute, we suggest a donation per family of €20. Our bank account IBAN is IE96BOFI90124711845164. Please include your name on any transfer.

## Website

We are considering setting up a GVRA website. To properly set up and maintain a website needs expertise and time, and we would love to hear from any resident who would be prepared to take this on.

## Committee

Your Committee members are:

- David Meagher (Chair)
- Áine Dennehy (Treasurer)
- Susan Dunne
- David Gough
- Elizabeth Henry
- John O'Brien
- Lynda O'Gorman
- Annemarie Rogers

We are always looking for new members to get involved in whatever way they can so please get in touch with [gvra.info@gmail.com](mailto:gvra.info@gmail.com) or text David on 087 7441847 if you are interested in joining the committee.

## Local Councillors

For information, the local councillors for Cabra Glasnevin are:

- Darcy Lonergan *Green Party* [cllr.darcylonergan@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.darcylonergan@gmail.com)
- Eimer McCormack *Fianna Fail* [eimer.mccormack@dublincity.ie](mailto:eimer.mccormack@dublincity.ie)
- Seamas McGrattan *Sinn Fein* [seamas.mcgrattan@dublincity.ie](mailto:seamas.mcgrattan@dublincity.ie)
- Declan Meenagh *Labour Party* [declan.meenagh@dublincity.ie](mailto:declan.meenagh@dublincity.ie)
- Cat O'Driscoll *Social Democrats* [cat.odriscoll@socialdemocrats.ie](mailto:cat.odriscoll@socialdemocrats.ie)
- Colm O'Rourke *Fine Gael* [colm.orourke@dublincity.ie](mailto:colm.orourke@dublincity.ie)
- Cieran Perry *Non-Party* [cieran.perry@gmail.com](mailto:cieran.perry@gmail.com)

## Get in touch

Please add your name to our email distribution list – email [gvra.info@gmail.com](mailto:gvra.info@gmail.com) or text David on 087 7441847 and you will be added to the distribution list.

*This newsletter was funded by Dublin Northwest Partnership*





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