

GVRA
Glasnevin Village
Residents Association

Newsletter – Summer 2021



Image submitted by Frank Byrne, winner of our photo competition!



Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the Summer 2021 edition of our newsletter, our second newsletter since the Association was started in late 2019.

At our Annual General Meeting, held via zoom on 8 March 2021, we were delighted that almost 40 residents attended. We updated residents at that meeting and via a subsequent email on 26 April 2021. In this newsletter, we have set out progress since then, together with some of our ideas for the future of Glasnevin Village.

Many thanks to Dublin North West Area Partnership, who have very kindly sponsored this newsletter - we greatly appreciate their contribution.

Planning applications

Denis Mahony site

As you will be aware, planning permission has been granted for the development of this site (retail and 71 apartments). A small number of residents objected to the developer's request for additional accommodation, over and above the original grant, but An Bord Pleanála approved the application.

Washerwoman's site

The deadline for submission of observations in relation to the planning permission being sought for the Washerwoman's site (retail and 18 apartments) passed in late May. We encouraged local councillors to submit observations in relation to the application, which they did. We were pleased to see that Dublin City Council rejected the application. The developer will now need to redraft the plans for the site. Separately, an application has been made to have the Washerwoman's building designated as a protected structure.

Glenavon House

The deadline for observations in relation to this application (52 apartments) passed on 1 June; again, we encouraged our local councillors to submit observations.

We were delighted to see a comprehensive rejection of the proposals - for details see: <https://webapps.dublincity.ie/AnitePublicDocs/00946122.pdf>

Addison Lodge

Construction at the Addison site (15 houses and 12 apartments) is ongoing, and you will have seen that construction of the underground car park is virtually complete.

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 the village over the coming months and years. By our count, there are c.252 houses and c.239 apartments in the Village, so (if granted as requested), the new houses/apartments will increase the number of homes in the Village by 34 % - a very considerable increase.

We intend to engage with the City Council to discuss our Village, its heritage, and the issues emerging with the piecemeal approach being taken to planning.

Dublin City Council is preparing a new Dublin City Plan 2022 – 2028 (see link below), and they are asking community groups to engage with them in developing their communities.

The Committee intends to liaise with Dublin City Council on the facilities and infrastructure required in the Village, and we want to get your input, as residents of the Village, regarding ideas and suggestions. In this regard, those that are on our email distribution list will receive a Google Form (separate from this newsletter) to gather your feedback. Alternatively, you can email ideas to Gvrafeedback@gmail.com. Your input is much appreciated, and it will help in presenting a vision of our Village for the future.

We have also started to engage with our local representatives to help us in this process. For example, we met with Senator Mary Fitzpatrick in mid-June, and are in regular communication with all of our local councillors.

Our objective is to ensure that all future building in the Village is carried out in a manner that is sympathetic to the scale, heritage and 'liveability' of our Village.

<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/planning/strategic-planning/dublin-city-development-plan/development-plan-2022-2028>

Ray Cooke Auctioneers premises

A number of residents made comments in relation to the Ray Cooke Auctioneers premises.

The following is the response received from Colm O'Rourke Councillor, in relation to same:

A number of residents were in contact with me regarding the Ray Cooke Auctioneers premises in Glasnevin and I know that residents also raised this with the association. Residents reported the vulgar nature of the signage on the premises, the colour, the lighting, etc. Some residents were concerned that these things went against Dublin City Council planning regulations and the Council's guidelines on shopfronts.

When residents reported this to me, I formally requested the Dublin City Council Planning Enforcement Section to investigate this matter. My request was accepted and the Council initiated enforcement procedures by issuing a warning letter to the owner of the premises with the complaints that I had raised. In accordance with Part VII of the Planning & Development Acts 2020 (as amended), the owner had 4 weeks to respond. After that period, the Council would have taken note of the owners response and then investigated the premises, along with additional investigations.

I have been notified by the Acting Planning Enforcement Manager, Paul McKenna, that inspections were carried out by the Planning Enforcement Officer for the area. Their investigations revealed that the signage, the painted brickwork, lighting within the shop and other concerns do not contravene Dublin City Council planning enforcement. Therefore, the Council told me that on that basis – the file has now been closed.

I understand that this will be of great disappointment and anger to residents and I support residents on this. However, I am very happy to follow up with the Council on this. I think therefore that the best way forward will be engagement with Ray Cooke Auctioneers.

Planting outside Bon Secours



As you will have seen, the heavy overgrowth has been cleared from the planting area outside the hospital – our thanks to Dublin City Council. Bon Secours Hospital management kindly agreed to plant and maintain the flowerbeds, and you will have seen that the flowerbeds have now been planted.

You will have noticed that the washerwoman's pump has been damaged and needs to be repaired. If any of our residents knows how this might be done, we would be delighted to hear from you!

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 their work in planting the latest batches received.

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 generally start at 10.00am on Saturday, 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 has now been obtained, 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 on Saint Mobhi Drive, or going onto private property. If any incidents occur, please report them immediately to Lisa or any member of the Committee. As discussed at the AGM, we are all keenly aware of protecting wildlife, biodiversity, plants and the habitat generally while we clean.

Glasnevin Village residents are encouraged to be responsible and clean up after your dog. We have asked Dublin City Council to put up posters in the village to reflect this. All dog waste should be placed in litter bins, and not in planting areas or half barrels.

Recent research carried out by Behaviour & Attitudes for the Dogs Trust revealed that 96% of dog owners claimed they do pick up after their dog. Yet 57% of people surveyed indicated that there is a big problem with dog fouling in their area. 7 in 10 people claimed to have walked in dog poo on the street, 51% came across dog poo in their local park, 31% rolled a buggy through dog poo, 33% rolled a bicycle through it and 11% rolled their wheelchair through it. It is a significant health issue.

Dog waste bags are available at Saturday mornings clean-up group.

New toilet facilities/coffee shops



Dublin City Council has announced new toilet facilities in Albert College Park and Griffith Park. These will be run by Tram Cafe company, who will also run coffee shops as part of the facilities.

Part of the agreement is that the contractor must provide clean public toilets for all members of the public, and that the unit and the area around it must be kept clean and tidy by the contractor. The unit in Albert College Park is expected to be operational by mid-July, with the one in Griffith Park to follow later in the summer.

Village Environs

As we have reported previously, the Council has agreed to various requests, and we are pressing to ensure these are delivered on. These include:

- Bins: there is no funding available for additional new large-capacity solar compactor bins; instead, the Council has agreed to repair/paint the damaged bins in the Village. The Council has also agreed to supply us with stickers indicating that dog poo bags are to be placed into these bins.
- Signage: we continue to press for delivery/installation of the Village signs
- Leaf cages: these are promised for the autumn
- Lamp posts: some of these have been painted, and we hope that the remainder will be painted over the coming weeks
- Road repairs: we have been informed that there is no funding available to fund the (necessary) repairs on Ballymun Road Lower, Saint Mobhi Drive and Botanic Road, from the bridge to the Botanic Gardens. In this regard, we recommend that residents download the 'My Council' app, and use it to report damaged roads and paths in the Village.

River Project



As previously reported, we have been awarded a grant from the Local Authority Water Programme to fund an Environmental Consultant's assessment of the riverside area along Saint Mobhi Drive.

We have selected the consultant, who has carried out a number of similar projects. They will commence work over the summer, and we will report to you on their findings when they become available.

We will then need to consider what the next steps are, and we may look to convene a special meeting to discuss the direction we wish to take – and how to fund it – in the autumn.

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. At weekends, motorists often park illegally outside the Botanic Gardens, blocking both the cycle lane and the footpath. 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.

The latest information on BusConnects, per their website at <http://www.busconnects.ie>, is that they anticipate submitting the statutory planning application for the chosen routes in June or 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 since February.

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. Repair works have started.

Source of image: <https://ie.gofundme.com/f/st-mobhis-glasnevin-church-wall>

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>

It appears that the Council will not permit the re-opening of the laneway until the footpath has been widened, and despite several enquiries we have received no clarity as to when these works might be undertaken.

Marlborough House Project



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

The Committee is exploring the options of commemorating, in some way, the lives of the children who spent time in Marlborough House on Glasnevin Hill, when it was used as a detention centre. A sub-committee has met with DCC historians James Curry and Mary Muldowney. Councillor Cat O'Driscoll has also offered her support and has met with us. The Centre was closed on 1 August 1972, and we are focusing on this date next year, to mark the 50th anniversary of its closure. There will be a talk by James Curry at Dublin Festival of History on 4 October in Ballymun Library so keep an eye out for that. We will keep you updated on progress.

Update from Community Garda Martin Lynch

See below for the latest update from our Community Garda, Martin Lynch:

Regarding crime in the Glasnevin area over the past year.

In general crime figures are down on previous years in most if not all areas.

Burglaries in particular are down with the number of detections up.

I would encourage all residents to report all suspicious activity that they witness.

Call Santry on 01-6664000. All calls are logged and must be acted on.

If anybody has a concern they can contact the community police office on santry.community@garda.ie

During the past year, Santry community police unit have been checking in on vulnerable residents in the area, they have also helped with vital prescription drops and other essential shopping, we would like to thank everyone for their support in this regard and advise that if anybody knows of a vulnerable person in need of assistance they can pass on details to us at santry.community@garda.ie

Santry Gardai would also like to thank all residents of Glasnevin for their support and in particular with their compliance throughout Covid restrictions.

We also wish all business owners and staff the very best as they return to work and business premises reopen over the coming weeks.

If any business requires a security assessment carried we can assist with that.

Fix My Street

If Residents have issues with work that needs to be done in the village, you can log onto <https://fixmystreet.ie> to report issues such as graffiti, fly tipping (illegal dumping), potholes or issues of concern. 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.

Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards

Glasnevin Village will be entering Dublin City Neighbourhood Awards again this year, after successfully winning best newcomer last year. We encourage all residents to keep the Village clean, cut back any overhanging garden growth and contribute in any way which makes our Village stand out and look great.

Our Lady of Dolours Church

As many of you will know, 2022 is the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Dolours Church. The Church community is hard at work making plans to celebrate this special anniversary. We will liaise with Fr. Richard Sheehy and the Church community, and help where we can, to make this milestone a great success.

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 project
- insurance for our clean-up activities
- planter boxes
- newsletters

Contributions are entirely voluntary, and no-one should feel under any obligation to make a contribution. If you do wish to contribute, our bank account IBAN is IE96BOFI90124711845164. Please include your name on any transfer.

Photo competition

Thank you for your entries to our photo competition! The winner, for best photo (included at the start of the newsletter), is Frank Byrne, who receives the prize of a €50 voucher.

Committee

Your Committee members are:

- David Meagher (Chair)
- Susan Dunne (Secretary)
- Áine Dennehy (Treasurer)
- Lucia Griffin
- David Gough
- Elizabeth Henry
- Peter Martin

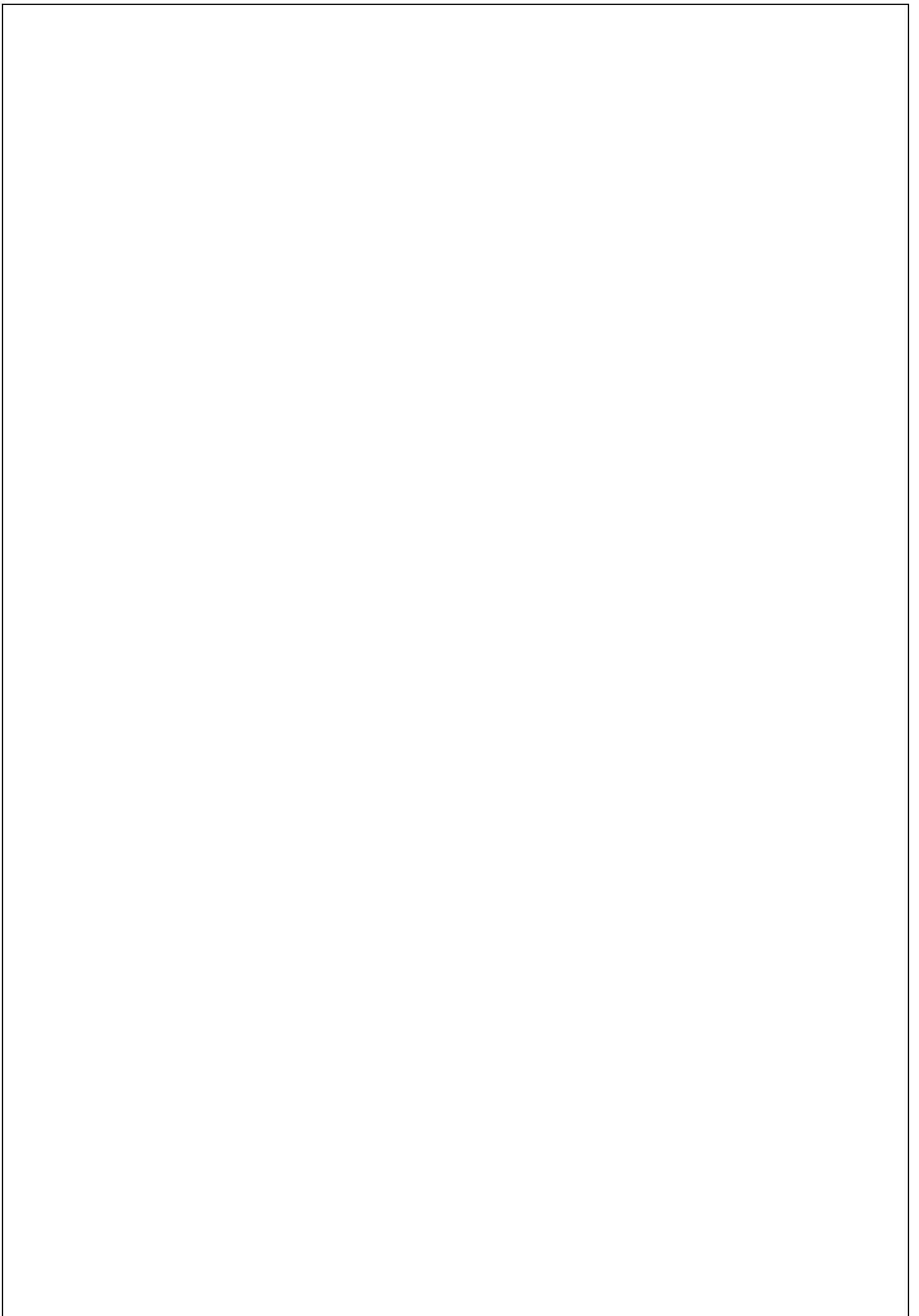
Local Councillors

For information, the local councillors for Cabra Glasnevin are:

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

Get in touch

- Please add your name to our email distribution list – email gvra.info@gmail.com or text David on 087 7441847 or Susan on 087 3579552 and you will be added to the distribution list.



GVRA
Glasnevin Village
Residents Association