

RATHGAR
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
LINK
• MAGAZINE •



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www.rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

As we edge towards the end of June, we are all now seeing proof that the vaccination programme is working and that the pandemic seems to be under control in Ireland at least. Unfortunately this isn't the case all over the world and it will take a concerted effort internationally to finally see the back of Covid, but for now we can enjoy getting back out and about to meet with friends and family and making the most of the long summer days.

All of us relishing meeting up outside has brought extra challenges in terms of the pressures on our parks and recreational spaces and we continue to work with Dublin City Council to address some of the issues that arise from this.

For June's Link we got some input from Rathgar National School, who were delighted to be back in the classroom, and we spoke to Malcolm Taylor who gave us his thoughts on our wildlife environment.

The volunteers who form our committee continue to work on behalf of everyone in Rathgar to make it the best place to live. If any of you have any ideas and want to help Rathgar to thrive as a community, then please get in touch, please join the association and the committee.

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The planning report in February Link magazine set out in some detail the worrying direction that the planning process had taken over recent years and the impossible situation that local communities and residents groups are increasingly finding themselves in. Local rights are being ignored, local amenities are being compromised: resultant traffic build up is being ignored. Every neighbourhood is potentially under threat from over development, high rise apartments, lack of green amenity space and sports facilities.

Many residents' groups have had to take the difficult and expensive route to the courts where some respite from the advance of the developers and planners was obtained. But have no doubt this can only be a temporary respite.

On a positive note, a new body of 47 residents associations has been formed representing groups from north and south of the Liffey. – Dublin Democratic Planning Alliance. Email: info@ddpa.ie / ddpa.ie

The Rathgar Residents Association has affiliated itself to this group.

The aim of the alliance is

- To repeal the Strategic Housing Development process and mandatory Ministerial Guidelines on Heights and, Apartment standards, including those relating to Build To Rent (BTR).
- To promote balanced, sustainable, long term housing development for rental or purchase, that meets the needs of our communities.
- To contribute to the debate about the Land Development Agency and the Commoditisation / Monetisation of the Irish Housing Market.
- To work together to further our common aims.
- To be a voice for the inhabitants of our city in influencing its future development in a sustainable, community based fashion.
- To be the voice of the community when lobbying Government in their housing/planning decision-making.

Local planning cases

Since the latest report in January last, the planning committee of your Association has reviewed week by week planning applications within the Rathgar Area and also significant planning applications across the city which if approved might set an undesirable precedent for the future of our area.

Below are some of the proposed developments which were reviewed or submissions made by the RRA and decisions made by Dublin City Council and/or An Bord Pleanála.

189/190 Rathgar Road . There has been a series of earlier applications with each application setting an increasing higher density level. In this latest development which is the fourth application, a fifth set back storey is proposed. The planners have sought additional information. A decision is still awaited

31 Orwell Rd (Orlando). Permission was granted on a third submission by Dublin City Council (DCC) for 4.two storey houses with pedestrian access to rear by way of new passage way on site.

Subsequent to its approval an unauthorised Mexican style takeaway was set up to the rear of this site. When a compliance order was issued an application was made for a 3 year period of retention. Additional information has now been sought by the planning department of DCC

Dartry Mills Dartry: A Montessori which had received a 3 year planning approval is now seeking a permanent permission. Further information has been sought by DCC.

139 Rathgar Road-Protected Structure: A house in rear garden fronting Garville Road was refused by DCC.

10 Wynnefield Road : 78 Bedroom Hotel was approved by DCC now appealed to Bord Pleanala(ABB).

8 Garville Road: Retention and convert to 2/3 apartments. DCC sought additional information.

28/30 Rathmines Park: Replace mobile phone antennae. Refused by DCC.

28/30 Rathmines Park(formerly 2nd Church Christ Scientist): Demolish, build 40 apartments 4/5 storeys. Decision awaited from DCC.

46 Garville Lane: mews 3 storeys. Decision awaited from DCC

348 Harolds X Road (Kenilworth Motors site): 52 Apartments to rent 3/5 storeys; submissions before 17th June.

LOVE OUR VILLAGE - GET INVOLVED

As Christy says, a group of Rathgar residents have started clean ups of the Village on a regular basis.

Sign up to our facebook page to get updates about when the clean ups are happening (<https://m.facebook.com/RathgarResidentsAssociation>) or contact us at info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie if you would like to get involved.

We have the basic equipment from Dublin City Council, so if you want to tidy up a specific area or help with the wider clean up, we'd love to hear from you. All suggestions and help in the enhancement of our Village are welcome.

RATHGAR NATIONAL SCHOOL – *Our World in Pictures*

One of things that has been fantastic as we have emerged from the pandemic is to hear the sound of children playing together in the playground again.

We spoke to the children in Rathgar National School and asked them to put into pictures, what it felt like to be out of lockdown and back in school with their friends and this is what they shared with us:-

Their inspiring and fabulous pictures are shown in their class groups:-

- *Pupils of Junior/Senior Infants*
- *Pupils of 1st and 2nd Class*
- *Pupils of 3rd and 4th Class*
- *Pupils of 5th and 6th Class*



The Beach



☀️ All you need is a good dose of Vitamin C! ☀️

As we enter the month of June, it feels like change is happening in our village. The buds and plants of spring are blossoming after a cool May, and our village finally begins to open up with the arrival of summer. Life is beginning to hum just as the bees in our gardens and the birds in our trees.

A walk along the Dodder River and a brief chat with a gentleman fly fishing there gave me new insight into all of the emerging life of spring. He pointed out the swarms of dancing Mayflies, and he explained that it is their breeding in the months of May and June that bring the hungry fish to the surface and allow the anglers to enjoy some great fishing this time of year. Those same Mayflies, as well as the hungry fish, are a delicacy for some of the birds that nest along the river, so there is energy and activity everywhere you look. And of course one of Spring's special gifts is the emergence of new life, and the months of May and June are a perfect time of year to observe ducklings, cignets and even fox cubs along our beautiful Dodder.

The changes happening this time of year are not only in our environment, but there are also some exciting changes happening in Rathgar village. Christ Church has once again opened up their grounds to us, and they have created a lovely and welcoming village square with their tables and chairs. The people of Rathgar Village finally have a special place to meet, chat and enjoy the delicious treats available in our village.

We as a community are also now hosting Rathgar Clean Ups, and we are meeting the first Saturday of every month and cleaning up the village, the local roads and the parks. We've had three monthly meet ups so far, and groups of 25-40 people from the community have joined us to help us "Keep Rathgar Clean". Sponsorship from Bijou Deli has made each community clean-up a fun and family-friendly activity. We are hoping to continue it throughout the year, and we encourage all to come get involved. It takes just a little bit of our time to make big and fantastic changes to the village.

We are also pleased to announce that Dublin City Council have put additional bins in the village, a new bin in Herzog Park and a new bin in Dartry River Park. There have been ongoing discussions with DCC about the need to add both bins and additional servicing times in order to help us all have a nicer and cleaner Outdoor Summer as recommended. It's good to see that we have some support from them now. Although we are still finding the parks are being littered on nice weekends, we are hoping that the additional bins will help people find a place to put their rubbish.

LOCAL WILDLIFE, THE GARDEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

It is difficult to find positives arising from the Covid lockdown. However, one positive must be the increased awareness by people of nature around them. This is probably due to taking local walks, more time in the garden, and for some people the slower pace of life. It may be trite, but the positive of 2020 is that it has made us take stock of what is important in life and appreciate what we value most.

My reasoning in the awareness bubble is evidenced by general conversation, increased sales of birdfeed and feeders and new customers as reported by my friendly pet shop owner in Windy Arbour, and my neighbours becoming gardeners.

With more time on my hands, I have increased my own interest in the garden, birdlife and butterflies therein, along with the effect of climate change. Involvement in the start-up last year by Biodiversity Ireland in the garden butterfly survey and the annual garden bird survey by BirdWatch Ireland are great introductions in appreciating wildlife. Butterflies are one of the main monitors in detecting the impact of climate change and land usage. We humans are helping to shape the natural world through changes in our back gardens with the provision of ponds, insect and bird boxes, bee and butterfly friendly shrubs and plants.

We see the effect of climate change in our gardens with simple things. Growth has dramatically increased over the years as evidenced by increased grass and hedge cutting. The recent sudden cold snap with frost at night, following the very mild weather in early April affected flowering shrubs such as magnolia and camelia, where frost burnt the flowers. The earlier mini heatwave becoming a distant dream.

A presenter on Springwatch on BBC described this Spring season as bizarre with its swings in temperatures, wind, rainfall and sunshine. While it has been confusing to humans, one can imagine what it has meant to bird and insect life.

Birdfeeders have needed increased refills and the cold mornings have led to birds becoming more courageous. I had the daily morning experience, while filling my feeders, of a robin landing on my head and hand, pairs of blue tits and coal tits buzzing round me, and a bachelor blackbird at my feet waiting for food. The robin then takes food and feeds its prospective mate nearby as a sign of courtship. The robins then follow me around later while I am gardening. The effect of the bizarre Spring on birds nesting and trying to rear families must have been great.

I must point out that I am not an expert on the above observations which are limited to the Rathgar area, but I have for many years been a keen gardener, and a member of BirdWatch Ireland and Biodiversity Ireland carrying out surveys as a volunteer. Unfortunately BirdWatch, a conservation charity, has not benefited fully from the increased interest, mainly because Bloom has been cancelled for the second year along with other membership and fundraising events.

Malcolm Taylor.

One of the organisations that has been doing fantastic work throughout the Covid pandemic is ALONE.

Alone is a national organisation that strives to enable older people to age at home, safely and securely, for as long as they wish. They work with all older people, including those who are lonely, isolated, frail or ill, homeless, living in poverty, or are facing other difficulties.

They provide an integrated system of Support Coordination, Practical Supports, Befriending, a variety of Phone Services, Social Prescribing, Housing with Support, and assistive technology. Using support plans, they provide a point of contact for access to health, social care, housing, transport and other arising needs using technology and other services and activities to improve physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

Alone have nearly 3000 volunteers throughout the Country who conduct and provide practical supports to older people through visits and phone calls, linking older people into social activity and being a companion.

ALONE's National Support Line was established in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but it is now a dedicated number/line for older people all over the country. Older people are encouraged to call **0818 222 024** for support, advice, and information seven days a week from 8am – 8pm. ALONE's support line has become the leading national number for 'Community Call', an initiative that links local and national Government with the community and voluntary sectors to provide support to older people and those who are at risk at this time. This partnership is crucial in mobilising a rapid response in every county to make sure everyone is looked after.

Nobody should feel lonely or afraid during the pandemic or at any other time, so if you feel in need of a little extra support or friendship call the dedicated phone number. Equally if you feel you are in a position to volunteer or perhaps even donate then contact Alone.



YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Notes for your Diary - 2021

"Liberation Day, Rathgar"

Celebrations at Christ Church in the Village

Thursday 28th October - 7.00pm



At 7.00pm Ged Walsh will give a brief chat on his very Successful Updated and full colour edition of 'On the Banks of the Dodder – Rathgar + Churchtown' Published by the renowned O'Brien Press located in the heart of Rathgar.



Ged's chat will be followed by a selection of Music from the some of the many talented musicians and artists of Rathgar – Classical, Traditional and More...



50th Anniversary – Rathgar Residents Association

Thursday 25th November 7.00pm

"Acclaimed Irish Times Environmental Journalist Frank McDonald"

At Christ Church Rathgar



Frank McDonald will explain, origins, history and significance of Rathgar. Frank's presentation will be followed by a selection of our many talented musicians and artists of Rathgar – Classical, Traditional and More



Thursday 2nd December at 7.00pm

Festival of Christmas Lights

Our annual Family Event with local School Choirs and the Lighting of the Christmas Tree Lights. The arrival of Santa Claus with Lots of Fun and entertainment.

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

City Councillors and local TDs

Councillors

Deirdre Conroy	N/A	deirdre.conroy@dublincity.ie
Carolyn Moore	N/A	carolyn.moore@dublincity.ie
Pat Dunne	0877764422	pat.dunne1@dublincity.ie
Tara Deacy	0879389904	
Anne Feeney	0872955256	anne.feeney@dublincity.ie
Mary Freehill	0868126378	marycfreehill@gmail.com

TDs

Chris Andrews	087 2851515	chris.andrews@dublincity.ie
Eamon Ryan	01 618 3898	eamon.ryan@oireachtas.ie
Jim O Callaghan	01 618 3134/01 475 8943	jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Local Gardai:	Rathmines	Tel: 01 6666700
	Terenure	Tel: 01 6666400

Dublin City Council: problems with litter, potholes, graffiti, abandoned vehicles etc
Go to Dublin City Council website and key in service request and follow instructions
or Tel: (01) 222 2222 or Email customerservices@dublincity.ie

Fixmystreet.ie – a great website to report and get action on litter, pavement and road condition issues graffiti, etc.

Keep up to date:

The Association's website: rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/RathgarResidentsAssociation/>

Contact the Association: info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Twitter: @RathgarResident; <https://twitter.com/RathgarResident>