

A view from the Chairman, Paddy Marron

Has Dublin City Council met its fundamental responsibility to the citizens of Dublin?

Over the last 12 months a series of severe weather occurrences have brought considerable hardship to residents of our area as well as to residents throughout the city.

The severe weather of November and December 2010 left many people in our area stranded in their homes because of un-cleared streets. This was compounded by restricted or no water supply. These problems continued for many weeks.

On 24 October 2011 heavy and continuous rain resulted in severe flooding in many areas of the city. In the Harold's Cross area it resulted in a tragic death.

Well in excess of 1000 premises were flooded. There were an enormous number of instances of road floods-over 300 were serious and several thousand minor. Damage to property and motor vehicles was wide spread.

In the Rathmines area, Grosvenor Place, Charleville Road and parts of Kenilworth Square, flooding of houses was severe and considerable damage occurred.

Was Dublin City Council prepared for any of these events?

The answer is NO!

Roads: There was no real emergency plan to deal with city streets made impassable by snow.

Water: The City Council has known for many years that water leakages of between 20-40% were occurring but it never had any urgent plan to deal with this problem

Drainage: Rathmines/ Pembroke sewer renewal was promised 10 years ago but nothing happened. Road drains do not receive adequate maintenance. During the tiger years developers built upon green areas; back gardens were built upon. Dublin City Council planners had scant regard for the resulting enormous additional volumes of water which now has to run off into inadequate sewers, culverted city rivers and surface water drains.

Surely it is a basic duty of any City Council to provide its citizenry at all times with passable streets, adequate water, sewage systems that function and a drainage system that prevents damage to property.

In this fundamental duty Dublin City Council has failed

Some Notes and Comments



Rathmines library. The refurbished library was officially re-opened by Councillor Mary Freehill representing the Lord Mayor of Dublin on Wednesday 12th October.

The re-furbished building sees the introduction of self-service kiosks, lift access and public toilets. Please check the Dublin City Public Libraries website to see the full list of services on offer at Rathmines library

Weekly walking groups: Let's Walk and Talk

Dublin city council organises weekly walking groups in both the North City and Southside The walks are led by a team of volunteers from the community and demonstrate how collaboration between the community and Dublin City Council can produce such positive results..

A recent programme of weekly walks included the following

Sunday A guided walk in the Phoenix Park

Monday A walk along the Royal canal at Ashtown ,Navan Road

Tuesday A walk along the Grand Canal starting at Charlemont Street

Wednesday A walk on Dollymount strand starting at Raheny Dart Station

Thursday A walk to Irishtown nature reserve starting at Sandymount Green

Friday A stroll in the city centre: Conversation "as gaelige"

Friday A stroll through the city .Conversation"En Francais"

A new programme of Walks will commence early in 2012

Contact tel 2222233 or letswalkandtalk@dublincity.ie

Christmas Carols in Rathgar

Congratulations to Rathgar/Terenure Churches Fellowship Group, Rathgar Traders and Dublin City Council who organised a wonderful evening on the 8th of December last to get the Christmas season on the way. The evening started with a tree lighting ceremony, a performance from the Independent Theatre workshop, Rathfarnham Concert Band, local choirs and of course the arrival of Santa Claus in a one horse open sleigh. This was followed by the singing of carols in Christchurch. Complimentary refreshments were served to all.

The Rathmines Ranelagh and Rathgar Historical Society

Monthly talks continue from September through to June

These are held in Rathmines Town Hall.

2011 Autumn events

Thur 29th Sept 400 years of Dublins oldest map By Seamas O'Maitiu

Thur 27th Oct: Richard Turner of Ballsbridge, Victorian Conservatory Designer and Engineer: Botanic Gardens at Kew, Belfast and Dublin. Illustrated. By Stephen Kane

Thur 24th Nov A Dublin Memoir of Queen St / Smithfield 1940 - 1950.

Illustrated. By Eithne Aungier

Thur 8th Dec Members' Night - Variety of Topics Presented by Members and Friends

Further information: Principal, Rathmines College,

rathmineshistoricalsociety@dublin.ie or Secretary,

Rathmines Historical Society, Rathmines College, Dublin 6

Heritage

Try dublinheritage.ie. This is an interesting site. There is a lot of archival material available in Pearse Street library

Rathfarnham Historical Society

Regular talks on local history—recent talk on the pre Norman grave slabs in Dublin south area

Enquiries: Vera Brannigan, tel: 4931840.

Rathfarnham Castle welcomes you to the Berkeley Costumes and Toy Collection at Rathfarnham Castle. Fashion and playthings offer a fascinating insight into social history. Like vernacular architecture, furniture and furnishings, clothes and toys are the physical evidence of lives lived and those lives have something to tell us. The installation by the OPW of the Berkeley Costume and Toy Collection in the magnificent setting of Rathfarnham Castle brings the historic interiors to life and enables this unique collection to be enjoyed by a greater audience.

The Berkeley Costume and Toy Collection is an exquisite collection of 18th and 19th century toys, dolls and costumes. The collection began as a private passion in Co. Wexford over twenty years ago by Irish artist and collector Countess Ann Griffin Bernstorff. The collection was gathered together over many decades from her own family trunks and from auctions and donations.

Displayed in the elegant rooms of Rathfarnham Castle and covering a period of some 80 years from 1740 – 1820, the exhibits range from rare and delicate artefacts to simple and robust playthings, and everyday garments of the past many of which were once owned by Irish families

Garden Competition The winner of this year's garden competition and Dixon cup was Ms Jane Forman, Greenmount Road

The Little Museum of Dublin. This museum is now open at 15 St Stephens Green and is well worth a visit.

Dublin City Council cycling Officer: Following a threat from the Department of the Environment to the funding for this position, it has now been agreed that funding will be maintained for a further period.

Recent information from the gardai

Victims of crime. Anyone who has suffered from a crime can access a confidential helpline at Crime Victims Helpline at 116006 freephone or email info@crimevictims helpline.ie

Cycling on the footpaths. This has become a very dangerous practice. Dublin City Council have commenced a poster campaign—"Footpaths are for pedestrians". The gardai have also become more active in dealing with cycling offences. In the south Central city area the gardai have recorded 274 incidents of pedal cycle offences between 10th October and 6th December 2011

Crime in the area: Again the gardai advise residents to be careful in their homes. Burglaries have shown an increase of 8% in 2011.

And Finally

What have we learned in 2,000 years? Evidently nothing



The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.

- Attributed to Cicero, 55Bc

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The Committee wish all members a prosperous 2012

Items of news or local interest and indeed your comments about *Link* would be appreciated.

PO Box 9574 Dublin 6 or info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

The Schools in Rathgar

These school buildings were erected in 1861 by a bequest of the late John Gold esq and the schools were partially endowed in 1891 by a bequest of the late William Bomford esq who bequested £2000 2¾ Consols (which has been reinvested by the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland) to the Incumbent and Churchwardens of Zion Church for the time being, in trust for the support of the Scriptural Schools connected to the Said Church.



Zion National School

Bushy Park Road, Rathgar Tel: 4910065

Principal: Tomas O Connachtaigh



Anyone passing Zion Church and Zion National School these days will notice that 150 years are being celebrated - Zion Church dates back to 1861, and the school, which started as a Sunday school, opened as a day school in 1863 so there will be 2 years of festivities. In its early years, numbers were small, and many requests were made to the parishioners to send their children, but numbers only rose from an average enrolment of

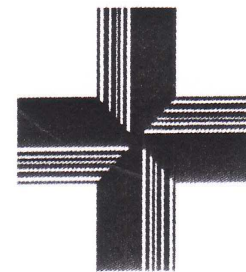
20-30 when Mr. and Mrs. George McIntyre were appointed in 1903. There were 64 enrolled in August 1904, rising to 75 by the following January. Currently there are 97 children in the school with 5 teachers – 2 classes per teacher, and learning support provided by the principal.

The school has always been on the present site, with the Master and lady teacher (husband and wife or brother and sister!) living behind the school in the early days. In 1989 an extension was added, so each teacher has a separate classroom, with a learning support room and other facilities. The school can use the Parish Hall and, indeed, plays an important role in Zion Parish. The school is under the patronage of the Church of Ireland but, when spaces are available, is open to children from other backgrounds. The predominant ethos is Christian, rather than specifically Church of Ireland, but all children will participate in appropriate Church functions. The school aims to provide a warm, caring and inclusive learning environment.

The school works closely with its Parents' Association which supports an impressively wide range of after hours extra-curricular activities both in the school itself – chess, singing, drama and fitness classes – and using local facilities – soccer, hockey, swimming and tennis. The parents also provide funding for administration.

Apart from providing the standard Dept of Education & Skills primary school curriculum, Zion National School participates in several other programmes – since last year, they have the coveted Green Flag and a diligent student committee works on maintaining this with the excellent caretaker; they take part in the “Heritage in Schools” programme (with Ragnar, the Viking from Terenure ...); and, often in conjunction with neighbouring schools, they enjoy travelling groups like Graffiti Classics, the Mobile Farm, Biblical Times or Follow the Stars.

The school is fortunate in its mix of both experienced and new staff, all equally enthusiastic, and their last WSE report, which can be viewed on the Department's website, was excellent. Zion National School is truly a valued part of the Rathgar community.



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5-7 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

Tel: 01 497 0046 Fax: 01 497 0009

Email: rathgarpharmacy@yahoo.com

Brighten up the dark days of Winter

Mary Healy

During these dark days of Winter, cheer yourself up by having a variety of house plants to brighten up your home.

Azeleas

If cared for properly, can become faithful friends for many years, flowering regularly at Christmas time. You must never let the root ball dry out. When flowering has finished move to a frost free green house, re-pot every second year using a lime free compost.

Hyacinths

They come in shades of blue, pink and white and have a wonderful scent. Cruel as it may seem, when flowering has finished, plant them outside. The flowers will be later in future years and also smaller.

Narcissi

They make a wonderful short term plant “*Paper White*” varieties are a joy at this time of year again – plant outside after flowering.

Cyclamen

Cyclamen come in shades of white, pink and mauve, even an ordinary middling gardener should manage to keep cyclamens going. They dislike hot and dry conditions; a cool room with plenty of light, but not direct sunlight is ideal. After flowering reduce watering and let the plant dry out completely, leave in a cool place for 2-3 months. When you see signs of life, watering may be gradually introduced. Water from below by standing the pot in a saucer of water for 15 minutes.

Solanum (Winter Cherry)

Is a small shrub with cherry like fruits, but they are not cherries and must not be eaten, so keep them out of reach of young children. Do not over water. Trim back lightly in late Spring, feed during Summer and watch for white fly.

Poinsettia

It is one of the Euphorbia family and comes originally from Mexico, by nature it's a shrub and can grow to 9 feet but the Christmas poinsettia is treated with chemicals to induce a more compact form. Should you wish to keep it growing for another year, reduce watering in late Winter. When all the leaves fall off, cut the stems back by half and move to a warm dry place indoors and water sparingly. Re-pot in Summer and move to a bright room, but not in direct sunlight.

Happy Arm Chair Gardening!

Gas Prices hiked from 1st October 2011

By Simon Moynihan of bonkers.ie

In an unprecedented and almost synchronized manoeuvre, all four Irish gas suppliers increased their prices on 1st October 2011, hitting hard-pressed households with staggering gas price increases of over 21% which will add on eye-watering €150 per year to Bord Gáis bills and at least €120 per year to customers on cheaper deals.

What just happened?

Bord Gáis is still regulated for domestic gas. When they want to change rates they have to ask the regulator. Four months ago they asked for a whopping 28% increase. However, the regulator said they could only have 21.8% on unit rates and standing charges to take effect on October 1st.

Bord Gáis was then well and truly roasted by the media while the other three suppliers watched, kept silent and learned. Then they quietly scheduled price increases of their own. One price increase announcement was made on the night of the Leaving Cert results, another at 3pm on a Friday afternoon and finally Flogas said on 29th September that they would increase prices on 1st October too. All of these price hikes are remarkably similar to the Bord Gáis increase.

The other three suppliers have basically decided to track Bord Gáis and give discounts off the regulated rates. It'll mean that Bord Gáis will be the most expensive and so they'll continue to lose gas customers as Electric Ireland, Flogas and Airtricity chip away at them in the same way Bord Gáis did with the ESB when they launched the Big Switch. Suppliers have unanimously blamed the international wholesale markets for price increases. Ireland imports around 90% of the gas used by households, most of it comes from the UK and prices have gone through the roof there too.

So what exactly do the increases look like?

With the best information available, we've put this chart together that tells you what your bills have gone up by.

Gas price Increases (effective October 1st 2011)

Supplier	Unit rate and Standing charge increase*	Old Annual Bill	Price Increase	New Annual Bill
Flogas	21.5%	€634	€128	€762
ESB Electric Ireland	21.8%	€690	€142	€832
Airtricity	21.2%	€710	€124	€834
Bord Gais	21.8%	€727	€149	€876

*No standing charge increase for Airtricity

Source: www.bonkers.ie

Chart Caveats: We're using national average consumption of 13,800 kWh per year in our calculations. We've used the best stand-alone deals from each provider. You can get gas cheaper from Airtricity for example, but you have to bundle electricity to do so. Until now, Airtricity's standing charge was higher than all other suppliers. Now they are all more or less the same at about €82 per year

What can you do?

Figure out who's cheapest for you and switch. It's really that simple. It's only when you show that you're willing to move for a better deal that suppliers offer better deals. In Ireland we're lucky because switching is very easy and it only takes a couple of weeks to change suppliers and you can do so at www.bonkers.ie/

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Seen and Unseen

by Mark McDowell (busheslane@yahoo.ie)

We go about our daily business giving little enough thought to what is going on around us. I've rumbled on in this column before about the wildlife of Rathgar, often avian, and how rich and diverse it is.

Birdwatch Ireland recently reported a possible 90% decline in breeding pairs of Curlews. Down from 5000 pairs in 1990 to 200 pairs now. Startling figures, but I know school grounds not a mile from Rathgar where a flock of nearly thirty curlews regularly visits to feed on their playing pitches. Quite by chance the school has produced a perfect spot for the curlews to forage. The school has now opted for a policy of promoting wildlife in the grounds where ever possible. Our local secondary schools are a wonderful haven for wildlife especially birds. I suspect some may host a variety of mammal species, bats, hedgehogs and possibly stoats, otters and badgers. Otters are frequently reported on the Dodder right down past Clonskea though I've yet to see one myself.

An angler at the weir just by the Dropping Well told me recently that he encountered the dreaded mink there around the start of October. I remember stories of mink escaping from a fur farm in Dundrum, (a little village at the foot of the mountains back then), I wonder was this a descendant of those first escapees or just a wanderer?

Anyway Dundrum brings me back to my original thoughts for this article. All around us there are wonderful sights to be seen if we are inclined to look. But there is one direction in which we cannot look, we cannot see what is beneath our feet and it is becoming more important that we should know what is there. As Dublin grew in the 1800s and Dundrum in the late 1990s, the developers of the day encountered many streams which did not fit in with their plans. The general solution is to culvert or reroute the stream. Culverting is to brick the stream in, put a roof over it and then build over it.

At the end of last October we had a spell of torrential rainfall leading to the tragic drowning of Cecilia De Jesus in her basement flat in Harold's Cross. The Poddle culverted for most of its length, burst its banks where the opportunity arose, taking the life of this unfortunate woman

Most of you probably saw news items about Dundrum and the River Slang leaving its prescribed course and entering the shopping centre, fortunately no one was injured.

Much of the city has culverted streams running beneath it and generally we are not aware of them. During that recent deluge neighbours on Kenilworth Square found their ground floor under water as a culverted stream, possibly the Swan river, rose up in flood.

The climate is changing and dramatic weather events are a likely part of that change. Rivers are wild and can be controlled only for a little while by Victorian brickwork and landscape gardening. There is talk of introducing water charges yet often we seem to have too much. I think we need some new ideas.

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Environment

We are deep into the winter and hopefully all surviving well. As we know the cold and frosty weather can continue for another few months so being prepared is the best policy. Some of the information may be a little late but it is good advice so keep it in a safe place and maybe during the year you will get around to getting some of the work carried out. My information is from Dublin City Council web site www.winterready.ie I have selected some of their advice but it is well worth going into the site. Remember if you don't have the internet you may go to your local library and the internet is available free of charge.

For the home:

- 1: Have a small supply of non perishable, easy-to-prepare foods.
- 2: Keep extra supplies of essential medication in case it is difficult to get to the pharmacy
- 3: Have an adequate supply of fuel for heating/cooking and if possible a suitable alternative should the main supply fail
- 4: Have a shovel and bag of salt to keep paths clear and safe
- 5: Have batteries for torches in the event of power cuts
- 6: Have candles and matches. Candles should always be placed away from draughts in proper candleholders. Never leave a burning candle unattended
- 7: Have a water container to ensure a supply of drinking water
- 8: Have emergency contact numbers to hand
- 9: Leave a key and contact details with neighbours or family if you are going away
- 10: Check that loft insulation is thick and in good condition
- 11: Fit your water tank with an insulation jacket or alternatively, wrap the top and sides with suitable insulation material
- 12: Repair any leaks at taps or valves
- 13: Know how to turn off the water supply (usually under the kitchen sink)
- 14: Fit draught excluders to your doors and windows

15: Make sure heating equipment is well-maintained, vented correctly and working properly

16: Ensure chimneys are cleaned at least once a year

Precautions against freezing temperatures:

Mains water supply to your home, i.e. external stopcock - the depth from ground-level to the stopcock should not be less than 600mm. If required, seek professional advice on having the stopcock lowered or protected. The same applies to the line from the stopcock to your property. Be aware that the level may vary as it nears your property.

To prevent stopcocks freezing, open the stopcock chamber and remove any water. Fill the chamber with non-absorbent material to provide insulation. Do not use absorbent material as it too will freeze when wet

1: Do not leave taps running as this merely wastes a valuable resource.

2: If you are leaving your property unattended for a period of more than a day or two, you should shut off the water supply to the property from the external stopcock (while ensuring that any water-dependent appliances or facilities are shut-off)

Avoid Frozen Pipes

1: Ensure all exposed pipes are adequately insulated. This includes pipes in the attic where the attic floor has been well insulated

2: Insulate or wrap a towel around an outside tap.

3: Leave a light on in the attic

4: Open attic trap door to allow heat in

5: Leave heating on for longer periods at lower settings

6: Warmth offers the best protection against frozen pipes so keep your house warm

If your supply is frozen, be cautious with use of heating systems, washing machines or other water-dependent appliances or facilities

If in doubt, contact a qualified plumber for advice.

Water Leaks

Water supply in vacant premises and holiday homes should be shut off and drained down in preparation for winter

Keyholders - check premises regularly for possible leaks

If a leak is detected:

1: Turn off water supply –stop valve is usually under the kitchen sink

2: Turn on cold taps to drain the system

3: Turn off central heating

4: Turn off electricity supply if leak is near electrical appliances

5: Call a qualified plumber.

Legal Advice for Snow Clearance and Gritting:

The Office of the Attorney General has advised that liability does not arise when snow is cleared from footpaths in a safe manner.

In relation to people gritting roads with grit supplied by the local authorities, the legal advice is that the issue of liability does not arise where the material is delivered, stored and used in a safe manner and does not cause hazard.

With that advice and hopefully a mild winter behind us we can look forward to bright evenings and nice spring weather.

“Log on Learn”

I would like to thank Stratford College again this year for running a very successful computer course. Linda Finnegan and the transition year pupils took 20 adults under their wing and gave them the knowledge that they required to carry out daily tasks on the computer. It was wonderful to see roles reversed with the school pupils getting the chance to be the teacher! I know they enjoyed it immensely.

Orla Devane

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Planning Report Autumn 2011

Things continue to roll along at a generally quiet level but there are some notable spikes in the overall level of activity

Marianella:

Following on from the decision of An Bord Pleanala to give approval for a large residential development for much of Marianella in late 2010, much of the Association’s time on the planning front in the earlier part of 2011 was taken up with the St. Louis Sister’s proposal to seek permission for a similar extremely contentious and large scale residential development on the green field recreational area of St. Louis Senior Girl’s school in Charleville Road, Rathmines.

St. Louis Senior Girl’s school

An Bord Pleanala held an oral hearing in respect of this matter in March which lasted for 4 days.

The Association is able to report that the application was comprehensively refused citing the overall need for this school to continue to serve the area and for it to be able to expand, change and develop as circumstances dictate. It also made special mention of the Cuise church in the grounds which was built in the 1960’s and was considered worthy of retention. Another reason cited was the impact the development would have on the character and quality of the residential amenity of the area.

The application was for a residential development in a number of blocks with one block reserved for accommodation for retiring and aged members of the St. Louis community. The development would have had below ground level parking and utility facilities. The site was comprehensively flooded in October just past.

Bellville Ave, Rathgar Road

This most contentious scheme was for a very modern structure in the grounds of a 19th century villa type house at Bellville Ave. The development, as proposed, would completely upset the layout and balance of the existing Victorian houses in the area and would seriously detract from the visual and residential amenity of this quiet cul-de-sac.

Additional information had been sought by Dublin City Council which implied that if this was answered to their satisfaction, they would give permission.

The applicant failed to meet the deadline for additional information (6 months) and the application lapsed. However a revised application was immediately submitted addressing many of the points raised in the request for additional information previously. The Association does not favour this development and has objected to this latest submission.

10 Terenure Road East.

Many residents were concerned about the proposal to seek permission for the erection of an advertising hoarding on the side of 10 Terenure Road East. This was refused by Dublin City Council and a 1st party appeal to An Bord Pleanala ensued. It is indisputable that the principles of proper planning and development should dictate that this development should not be considered for permission. And besides, the said side wall of this building is very well screened by a yew tree in a neighbouring garden on Terenure Road East as well as trees and bushes in other gardens on this side of the road. Such a development would have constituted a serious distraction to motorists approaching a very dangerous and congested traffic junction where cars are jockeying for position at the end of the Terenure Road East bus lane heading into town.

The refusal of Dublin City Council was upheld by an Bord Pleanala; a decision which could not have gone any other way if the principles of proper planning and development were to be upheld.

Aldi, Terenure

At the other end of Terenure Road East, the proposal by Aldi to open a shop in Terenure was given the green light by Dublin City Council. The matter is now on appeal to An Bord Pleanala and this Association has made a submission supporting residents. This development would be directly across from the church, involving the demolition of the very unique 1943 toilet block beside Falks lighting and the non-descript building to its west. With a development of this size, on the site of the old Dublin United tram sheds (these would also be demolished), and with 80 below ground parking bays and several loading bays to boot, it is certain that traffic chaos would ensue in this already congested and over-shopped area. In Terenure and Rathgar there are already up to a dozen empty business premises forlornly awaiting tenants.

5 Brighton Road

Other activities during the year related to less than favourable developments at 5 Brighton Road which on the second attempt has secured planning permission. No appeal was instigated in this case as the second application was a small improvement on the first.

Dartry House ,Orwell Park

There was an application for a reduced density of development to that already approved in the grounds of Dartry House on Orwell Park. A meeting was held with the architect for the developer. We had no objections to this scheme. . This is the third application for this site in the last 5 years.

O'Shea's pub, Clonskea.

A worrying development which surfaced during the year was that of O'Shea's pub in Clonskeagh.

A proposal to demolish the pub and erect a 4 storey development on the site, encompassing

a much increased footprint, was resisted by this Association. Such a development would set a most undesirable precedent in respect of the amenity of one of our unique natural resources.

It would set undesirable precedents in respect of building along the Dodder and especially at Scully's Field which is adjacent, to the west and which has seen many planning battles in the past. Furthermore, the site (as well as that of the adjacent Scully's field) is part of the floodplain of the Dodder and has frequently been inundated in the past. "Additional Information" has been sought, implying that the council will, if the additional information request is addressed, grant a permission. We would appeal any such decision of grant.

Church Ave, Upper Rathmines

In more recent times, assistance has been sought from the Rathmines Initiative, in respect of a development at Church Ave, Upper Rathmines. This is a proposal to build a large number of houses in the back gardens of the protected structures fronting Upper Rathmines Road; leaving some of them with very little garden space in proportion to their size. This is similar to a previous proposal to which we objected to and although permission issued at that time, no development took place.

Enforcement

Notwithstanding the numerous reminders over many years, we continue to wait for some worthwhile enforcement action to be taken in respect of no 47 Rathgar Road as well as other protected structures in the area.. It is regretted that the most recent representations again yielded a null result. A further recent request for information and action will no doubt yield the same outcome. It is apparent that a stronger representation at a higher level is what is called for at this stage.

Philip O Reilly, Planning Officer,

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From *Links* of the past February 1989

What can you do about smog?

Garret Kelly wrote

The Good: oil gas electricity are ideal smokeless units. During a smog alert, if you can, you should heat your house using one of these fuels and not light a fire of any kind. If you must have an open fire you should using smokeless fuel such as coalite. Those romantics among you who like a good flame and want to buy Irish smokeless fuel can mix coalite and peat briquettes for a pleasant smokeless fire. Coalite can be used in a normal grate and lights using wood and firelighters

The Bad: ordinary (bituminous) coal in open fires is responsible for 76% of all urban smog, not cars, not buses

The Ugly: Plastics(including milk cartons) burn with a thick black smoke and produces cancer causing fumes. Never burn!

Public Meeting 8th November 2011.

The Association organised a public meeting which was held in St Patrick's Hall Leicester Avenue.

Five local councillors from the Rathmines/Pembroke area and two constituency TDs attended as well as representatives of An Garda Síochána. There were over 60 members of the public and the Association present.

A considerable number of issues of local concern were raised but two in particular demanded the attention of the meeting.

The recent serious flooding of domestic and business property resulted in considerable loss to owners in the Grosvenor Place, Kenilworth Square, Charleville Road, Leinster Square and Rathmines Road. The flooding occurred because of the inadequacy of the sewerage system, the Swan river culverting and the state of the surface water road drains. These systems are inadequate for the levels of rain now being experienced on a regular basis.

Mary Frehill undertook to coordinate a group from the areas affected to bring this problem to the top of the City Council's agenda. The Association undertook to keep in constant contact with this problem.

Templemore Avenue has had a serious parking problem for a number of years which continues to worsen by an increasing number of non residents parking there throughout the day. A part solution would be to provide parking permits on Vernon Avenue, particularly as one side is rarely parked upon.

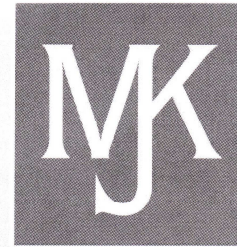
Oisín Quinn undertook to meet with a number of the residents to progress this and other part solutions.

The Association will remain involved with this problem.

This is a very difficult time for business.

Your local shops and businesses are an important part of the Rathgar. Without them, we would lose an important element of our Community.

Please make a major effort to support them



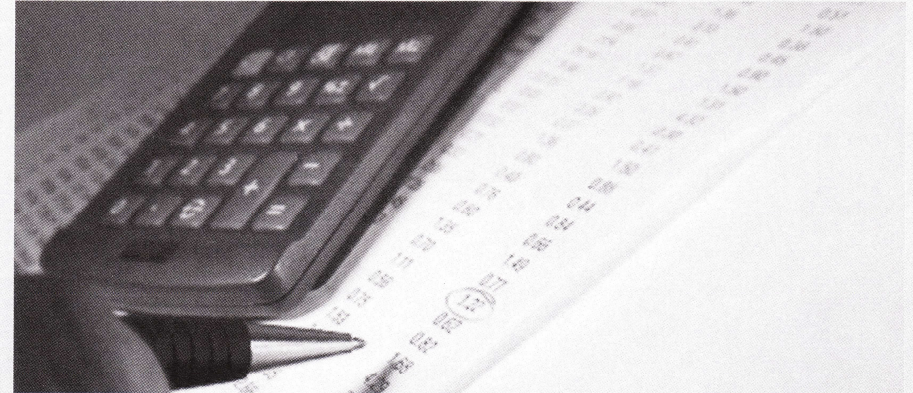
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