



A View from the Chairperson.

Dear Association Members,

As the committee begins preparations for the association AGM on the 28th of March, it is time to look back at our efforts over the last year.

The main item on the agenda at last year's AGM was the Dublin City Council plan to create College Green Plaza and close the route to cross city buses. While this is no longer an immediate threat this is because even bigger changes to the Dublin Bus network have been proposed by the Bus Connects plan. While we wait for local consultations to take place in the area on what the new routes mean for residents, the committee has reached out to other residents' associations in surrounding areas and we ask that anyone interested in this issue or with expert knowledge of transport issues get in touch with the RRA.

Last September the new children's play area in Herzog park was opened by the Lord Mayor and we are delighted to see that it is being enjoyed by local children in the area. The RRA Committee worked with DCC South East Area Committee on the plans to redevelop this neglected park and we look forward to the next phase of development which will give Rathgar a new amenity for all residents to enjoy.

Planning and development continue to be a part of the committee's work and the planning officer has had a busy year. A full report will be given at the AGM. A number of roads in the area were resurfaced later in 2018 and this was warmly welcomed by the

RRA Committee, however there are many more roads and footpaths needing urgent attention in the area and we will continue to raise this with DCC. Graffiti has become a major issue and the committee would welcome photographs from residents to support our demand for action from DCC.

Our Association is only as strong as its members, so thank you for your continued support. To all those who contacted the committee this year, we hope that we were able to help in some small way and perhaps some of you will consider joining the committee. We would particularly welcome anyone with expertise in social media to help us develop new ways for the RRA to connect with residents. As always thanks are due to the committee and road reps who do such good work and we look forward to seeing many of you in St. Patrick's Hall, Leicester Avenue on the 28th March at our AGM.

Wishing you all the best for 2019

Sue Millar

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Environment:

John McCarthy

In this new year of 2019 I was hoping to bring you good news of improvements in the area but apart from the developments in Herzog Park, for which we are very grateful, there is little else positive to report.

When I think of the environment, I immediately think about the lack of cleanliness of the area. When I walk around our area; Rathgar, Rathmines, Ranelagh, I am appalled at the state of roads and footpaths and litter everywhere. When I see discarded cigarette ends, food wrappers and drinks containers on the footpaths I wonder why. But I do believe if a clean space is provided in the first place, the public will respect it. If public litter bins are left overflowing then that is the standard that is set for everyone.

I noticed recently, while walking in Marley Park, a Dunlaire Rathdown council

area, a series of large bins fitted with a solar panel which keeps an electric battery charged. The battery provides the power to a compactor within the bin and when the bin is full of compacted material it sends a message to have the bin serviced. and so, the bins require less servicing. If these bins are successful, then hopefully they will be used across the City.

We have experienced unusual weather patterns in recent years and I wonder has that something to do with a change in the sort of damage occurring to our city trees. Damage has always occurred to our trees because of storms. But this seems different. Large branches within the trees are breaking off or the tree is simply breaking a half metre or so above ground level. This question occurred to me as I noted some trees in Palmerston road had been removed apparently, because of that type of damage. I trust that those trees were not removed before all other options had been considered and that the decision was only made because of a real threat of injury or fatality occurring. DCC in the current city development plan undertook to carry out a survey of the trees in its area of responsibility. I wonder where that has got to?

Dog Fouling, Litter and Graffiti

The usual hazards of city living still plague us- dog fouling, street litter .and graffiti. The Dog fouling is not only an unpleasant experience on the footpath but is a real health threat especially to children. Will it take a case of toxocariasis to get pet owners to take responsibility for their pets? If you are a pet owner please do what is right!

How do we tackle graffiti? There seems to be a fresh bout of enthusiasm from those “taggers” who seem to want to daub every surface. They are not artistic in any sense of the word and the cost to Dublin City council every year is huge.

Local Elections

The June local elections offer us the opportunity to talk to our local councillors and question them on what they propose to do for our area in exchange for our vote.

We pay inordinate amounts of property tax, car parking charges etc and what do we get in return -uncollected leaves, blocked gullies, street flooding, littered streets, broken pavements, roads not fit for purpose. **Is it not time for Rathgar residents to see a return for our considerable financial investment.?**

Planning Report July2018 -January 2019

Your Association and its planning officer, as part of their remit, reviews on a weekly basis, planning applications made for the Rathgar area, approvals granted and also appeals to An Bord Pleanala. The Association is not opposed to change but rather would wish to encourage those who live in the area or who have come to live in the area, to manage any changes to their property in a sensitive way: respecting the architectural heritage of our area. Rathgar is one of those distinctive parts of Dublin which has an architectural heritage second to none. Some 70% of the area has streets of Victorian or Edwardian houses.

In addition to this weekly review it also supports, not alone its members who may be concerned about developments in their neighbourhood, but also will become involved with other residents’ associations who are facing problems with developers challenging good planning principles.

There were a number of applications, appeals and decisions during the period worth noting.

The third application for a development at 15 Maxwell Road, on the corner of York Road, has recently been submitted to Dublin City Council. A number of local residents have made submissions and were supported by the Association. No decision as yet.

An appeal to An Bord Pleanala on 36 Rathgar Avenue by a member and supported by the Association was refused and permission granted.

A proposal to build a house on the site of a bin store at Dartry House (protected structure) was granted permission on the third attempt but on appeal to An Bord Pleanala, was refused.

88 Kenilworth Square, the end house of the eastern terrace had an application for the replacement of a two storey modern annex on its northern gable, approved.

Orlando a derelict house on Orwell Road in Rathgar village. Permission was refused by Dublin City Council for five 3storey houses on a very confined site.

Marianella; The most recent proposal from Cairn Homes is to replace an existing approval for 22 houses with a plan to erect two apartment blocks, 6 storeyed in part with 107 apartments and limited car parking The Association have been providing support to a number of members who are opposing the scheme. This application, as it is over 100 units, has gone directly to An Bord Pleanála. An Bord Pleanála will deliver a decision in April.

The Association has submitted an objection to the development of an apartment block on the site of Rathdown Motors in Terenure. This application is for a six storey apartment to let block on a very confined site at the junction of Terenure Road West and Templeogue Road.(a planning principle was involved here)

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Some Notes and Comments

2019 AGM

The AGM of the Association will take place on Thursday 28th March 2019 in St Patricks Hall Leicester Avenue. Notification to members will follow in due course.

The RRA Annual Garden Competition and Dixon Cup 2019

As usual, the annual competition will take place in early July with a variety of categories in which members and other residents can compete. So, as soon as weather permits get on your gardening gloves!

Dodder Action Group

Keep abreast of their stalwart work in maintaining this wonderful amenity in our area. Better still join the group and give your support.

For more information on this group go to www.dodderaction.com

Book Reviews: Some recent publications of interest

The River Liffey: History and Heritage

Christopher Moriarty: The Collins Press €24.99

Dr Christopher Moriarty who gave us a fascinating account of our own river Dodder so

many years ago (28 to be precise) now writes an equally engaging story of the Liffey from its source near Kippure to its final flow into the sea at Poolbeg lighthouse. His first acquaintance with the river was when he fell in as a three year old. He has been intrigued ever since. His detailed story of the river interspersed with wonderful illustrations, is a fascinating tale.

The Rathmines, Ranelagh and Rathgar Historical Society Lectures.

Rathmines, Ranelagh and Rathgar Historical Society was founded in 1996 and incorporates Harold's Cross, Leeson Street and Milltown.

Talks – Rathmines Town Hall Thursdays 8:00 P.M. 2019

31st January. *The Night of the Big Wind*, 6th January 1839

By Tom Harris

28th February Deirdre Kelly Commemorative lecture

The Sinking of the RMS Leinster, 10th October 1918

By James Scannell

28th March *The Battle of the Four Courts June 1922*

By Michael Fewer

25th April *Lundy Foot, Dublin Snuff Manufacturer*

By John Fitzgerald

30th May *The Gaelic League in Dublin 1893-1913: twenty years a-growing?*

By Séamas Ó Maitiú

15th June Visit to the Tenement House,

(Saturday) 14 Henrietta Street.

2.15 p.m. Meet at the house 2:10 p.m. for visit beginning 2:15 p.m. (€6 charge).

A flag-raising ceremony of the old Rathmines Township flag will take place at the Town Hall – time and date to be arranged

Projects in the background which could impact on members of the Association and on which your Association is maintaining a vigilant eye:

The Cycle Quietway: This is a proposal, originated by Cllr Paddy Smyth, to create a cycleway from Herbert Park to Kimmage. This would appear to be shelved, at least for the moment.

The Dodder cycleway. The proposal to construct a fast way for cyclists along the Dodder and its parks hasn't gone away!

South Dublin County Council have published and approved their route. This consists of a cycleway from Bohernabreena along the river. When it reaches the footbridge into Bushy Park (near Rathfarnham shopping centre, a cycle bridge will be built to carry cycles at a high level into Bushy park. The cycle way however continues along the Dodder crossing Rathfarnham Road and arriving at Ely gate where a new bridge for cyclists is to cross into Orwell park beside the current bridge.

However, Dublin City Council don't see it that way in their proposed route (published late Summer 2018 and to which the RRA made a submission). DCC proposes to take the route along Dodder Park Road from Ely gate under Orwell Bridge by underpass, along Dodder Walk and into Dartry Park by way of a new bridge where the existing footbridge is. Then through the Park via a way to be located behind the evergreen trees, then out of the Park near North's building. It then descends back into Dartry Park East by way of ramp, passes under the bridge at the Dropping Well pub, re-crosses the Dodder by way of a new bridge and finally joins the existing cycleway at the nine arches, on the south side of the river.

It is fairly certain that this project will go ahead in the next number of years. Residents of Rathgar have enjoyed the pleasant amenities of these parks for generations. We must now ensure that such a cycleway be designed so that both cyclists and pedestrians, dog walkers, children, bird watchers, footballers and fisher folk can continue to enjoy this their parks and river without risk to life and limb!

New Parks for Rathgar

The New Herzog Park

They came and watched all Summer. They came with parents, grandparents, with minders, with friends. The holidays slipped by and back to school they went. But still they came and finally it opened. They are still coming every day. The little ones come in the morning and the older ones after school and some even come on the way home from school. You've guessed it? Yes, we are talking about the new playground in Herzog Park. Once it was an overgrown wilderness where older teenagers hung out hidden from view. Now it is a haven for the younger children – an adventure playground set among the trees. Tarzan's cry rings out as they fly down the hill on the zip line. The platform wrapped around trees provides endless fun and the rope bridge makes them feel like the bravest adventurers. They are greeted with cheers as they emerge from the tunnel slide and all in all it gets a huge thumbs up from everyone.

Wildlife too is catered for. Nesting boxes have been fixed to the trees and homes for bugs and other insects are to be found as well. Budding naturalists have much to discover and study here and the plan is that teachers will bring their pupils here also. The local schoolchildren had a major input to the planning of the park together with Dublin City Council.

Those of you who frequent it will have seen the work going on, on the other side of the park. A multiuse games amenity area (MUGA) is being created (more of this later). This will undoubtedly be a great facility for the older children, but the adventure/nature playground deserves the accolades it is receiving from the many who use it.

Marianella Park

Down the road Marianella, Orwell Road has a small well kept public park, with an attractive little playground for small children. So, no longer do the Rathgar youngsters have to travel to find a playground – they have two and a third one in the making!

Bus Connect and the new plans for city buses

The National Transport Authority have published phase 2 of the Core Bus Corridor route proposals which include the Rathfarnham to City Centre, Tallaght to Terenure and Kimmage to City Centre routes under the Bus Connects plan and they are open for public consultation until March 29th.

The changes proposed under the plans will have a significant impact on residents, commuters and business owners in our area and it is really important that our voices are heard in the design phase. The RRA Committee urge you to read the plans and make submissions. Please get in touch with us at info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie with your views.

It is worth noting that the plans prioritise bus and cycle options with very little analysis on how the proposed routes will impact on car and commercial transport, a very serious shortcoming from a local resident and business owner perspective. Local TD Eamon Ryan has worked up an interesting proposal that the South West area of the city might be better served by an underground commuter service linking up with Luas, more information is available on his website. Interestingly, the plans make reference to this proposal but state that this is not a possibility without saying why this is so.

Dublin Bus Connects will be on the agenda for our AGM on March 28th and we hope to have local councillors and a representative from the National Transport Authority at the meeting. In the meantime, written submissions and observations may be made:

- Online at www.dublinbusconnects.ie: in the “Public Consultation” section of the Core Bus Corridor page
- by email to cbc@busconnects.ie
- by post to: Core Bus Corridor Project, National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2, D02 WT20

The Dodder presents a wonderful Christmas show.

On Christmas morning at the Rathfarnham Bridge weir, two otters put on a wonderful swimming display for onlookers. Close by was the ever-vigilant heron and somewhere in the undergrowth was the fox family. This came some weeks after a Little Egret had shown up at this spot

The Dodder never lets its fans down!

The loss of iconic local shops.

We have lost some of our most visited and best loved shops over the last few years. Lenihans in Rathmines was one of these. It had everything from lawnmowers to paraffin oil, from lampshades to tea sets. Its closure was indeed a loss. The closure of the Gourmet in Rathgar was also a big loss not just to Rathgar shoppers but for those customers who came from far and wide each Christmas for ingredients for their Christmas baking and other delicacies

January of last year saw the doors of Churchtown Stores close for the last time and this was yet another loss and did indeed create a void for all their loyal customers. The retirement of the Flood brothers, Barry, Fehan and Kieran came after some forty three years of successfully working together both here in Ireland and in England. Here in Ireland they were voted the Best Independent Hardware Shop by the readers of the Irish Times. It is no surprise then that they are sorely missed.

The brothers came from a family of thirteen children in Co. Westmeath. They grew up helping on the farm and learning self reliance and responsibility from an early age. Kieran was the first of the three brothers to go to London and there he worked in a Fabricating and Machining Plastics Company whilst studying at night. Later he began work with Fehan who had followed Kieran to London. Fehan worked for an electrical retail company. He delivered and installed televisions. His boss encouraged him to use the premises in the evening and do repairs that he had sourced himself. He asked Kieran to join him and soon business was brisk and after some years the two of them asked Barry to join them in setting up a new venture together. Barry too had gone to London and had worked in hardware for some years before joining his brothers.

Fehan and Kieran had bought over an existing radio and tv company where they leased and sold televisions and videos and repaired all manner of electrical items. Together with Barry they combined their electrical repair and sale business with a hardware business. So, it was in 1975 that the three brothers commenced working together in what was to be a long running partnership spanning some forty three years.

In 1988 The Churchtown Stores opened for business- “and the rest” as they say “is history.” Originally the brothers planned to run a combined electrical and hardware shop incorporating television and video sales, servicing and repairs but this never materialised. The demand was for a good hardware business and indeed that is what

the Flood brothers provided for the very many customers who went to the shop, not just for materials, but for the expert advice they got and this always given with patience and good grace. The flowers outside brought colour to the pavement and again the advice was freely given to the many who bought their plants and flowers from the Churchtown Stores.

Without such shops as these and without such shopkeepers, we are indeed the poorer.

The Association encourages you to support your local shops whenever and wherever you can

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From *Links* of the past March 1998

Evening for Road Representatives

.....our invited guest was Mr John Gormley TD, who made time for us in a busy schedule. His discourse traced the links between ordinary citizens, commuters, voters and consumers through voluntary community organisations like the RRA, up through local representatives like himself and on to local and central government.

His talk sparked off many topical issues which currently engage and sometimes enrage people. Dublin's traffic problems reared their ugly head. Upcoming traffic calming measures and sundry ills concerning Rathgar's own traffic emerged. Pollution, crime, ill-conceived planning and other bugbears of modern urban life emerged.....

The Association wonders what has changed in 20 years

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Dublin 1348 the Black Death, the Black Rat, the Black Pitts

The black rat known as the ship rat, is one of the rarest mammals in Ireland. It was probably brought to Ireland in the early Christian period by foreigners arriving in boats. The first evidence of it can be seen in a drawing in the Book of Kells. In medieval times they were brought here in abundance on board ships. The rat is closely associated with

the black death or bubonic plague which was carried by the bacteria carrying fleas on the black rat. Rats in medieval towns lived even more closely to humans than at present. The flea carrying plague easily passed from the rat to human; easily transmitting the dreaded disease. By the end of 1348 some 14000 people in the city had died-the greater proportion of the city's population and it took 200 years before the population was back at pre-plague levels. Dublin victims of the Black Death were buried in Black Pitts area. In the 1930s 14000 black rats were killed in Dublin port but with improving ship design, and better pest control it is rarely seen any more at Dublin port. There has only been one recording in 2006.

The black rat was eventually ousted by the brown rat. This rat first appeared in 1720 . Lambay island is the only place the black rat remains as a breeding population. Should you wish to become acquainted with these black fellows you should visit the natural History Museum on Merrion Street

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THE OLD CITY WATER SUPPLY

The following is an extract from

The Neighbourhood of Dublin. It's Topography, Antiquities and Historical Associations. Weston St John Joyce, M.H.Gill & Son. First Published 1912

EARLY colonists landing at the mouth of the Liffey, would naturally select as their headquarters, the highest point that rose above the last place where the river was fordable, before it joins the sea. Such a position would mean safety and support combined with facility of offence or defence. What is now known as Cork Hill fulfilled these conditions, and there is good reason to suppose that on this site rose the primitive stronghold that in time became the nucleus of Baile-Atha-Cliath—the ancient town-of-the-hurdle-ford.

Almost the first care of the colonists would be to secure an abundant supply of water. The Liffey was close at hand, but owing to floods and other causes was unsuitable; and so it came about that its tributary, the Poddle, a clear stream rising at

the foot of the Tallaght hills, became at an early date the source of the citizens' water supply. This arrangement sufficed down to about the year 1200, when the city had grown to such an extent that it became necessary to seek some additional source. Accordingly, in 1244, Maurice Fitzgerald, Justiciary of Ireland, ordered an inquisition to be held for that purpose. As a result, it was determined to supplement the waters of the Poddle by constructing a watercourse to it from the Dodder.

This watercourse, still in existence and maintained, starts from a weir at Firhouse, flows across the fields and under the Tallaght road, thence by the old churchyard at Templeogue, through the grounds of Templeogue House, then flowing northward, joins the Poddle at a slightly lower level, about one mile north of Mount Down House near Whitehall cross-roads. From this point the united streams flow by Kimmage cross-roads to Larkfield Mills and on to "The Tongue" at Kimmage. Here the waters are divided by a wedge-shaped stone or tongue, two-thirds flowing by the original course to the city via Greenmount, under the Canal to Goodbody's factory and thence to Blackpitts, New Row, Patrick Street, past St. Patrick's Cathedral, turning east at Ross Road, through the Castle and Palace Street to Wellington Quay, where the waters may be seen flowing into the Liffey, the outfall usually attracting a large assemblage of sea fowl.

The other branch (one-third), diverted north at The Tongue, flows to Dolphin's Barn and thence by the elevated rampart known as "The Back of the Pipes" or "The Pipes," to the old City Basin near James's Street. A branch starts from the first portion at Goodbody's factory, flows alongside "The Back of the Pipes," Marrowbone Lane, Pimlico and Ardee Street to Warrenmount, joining the main stream at Fumbally's Lane. The urban portions of these streams are now, of course, almost entirely underground, and seldom seen or heard of, but in former times they frequently gave trouble by inundating the low lying parts of the Liberties, and even invading the precincts of St. Patrick's Cathedral, where, it is recorded, considerable damage was done by the floods.

The great monastic establishment of St. Thomas's Abbey, or to give it its correct title — the Abbey of St. Thomas the Martyr — which stood on the site now occupied by Thomas's Cour, claimed or arrogated proprietorial rights over the portion diverted by Dolphin's Barn and "The Pipes," and disputes in consequence arose at times between this powerful community and the civic authorities. This establishment, which was really an English institution, was under the patronage of the King, and its abbots, who were appointed and held office subject to royal approval, were *ex officio* members of the Irish Privy Council and peers of the Irish Parliament, besides

which they exercised judicial functions at the court in the Abbey. It suffered the common fate of all the monasteries at the Dissolution.

At an early period, a reservoir or conduit stood outside James's Gate, and it is recorded that in 1254 water was first supplied from it to the citizens. Important people were allowed to have independent supplies brought into their houses by pipes, and it was usually stipulated that the diameter of such pipe should not exceed that of a goose quill. In the cases of private supplies, there was no tap, and the water was constantly flowing into a tank or suitable vessel to receive it. In 1323 the rent for such service was 10/ a year, and for a subsidiary supply from another person's cistern, the charge was 1/6 a year.

As may be imagined, it was a serious offence to pollute the water supply and one of the statutes dealing with the matter prescribes a fine of 12/6 for "washing puddings and tripes" therein.

The original conduit or cistern near James's Gate was supplemented in 1308 by the erection of another at Corn market through the munificence of John Le Decer, an eminent Dublin citizen, and in 1670 the original one was replaced by a larger structure.

It is recorded that in 1573 the inhabitants of Thomas Street were ordered to pave their street as far as the water course channel, from which it would appear that the supply flowed in an open course — probably in wooden troughs along the street, whence it was conveyed in leaden pipes to the various houses specially supplied.

In 1573 and again in 1689, serious trouble was caused in the city in consequence of interference with the water supply by the Talbots of Templeogue, through the grounds of whose residence it flowed. In 1738 Lord Santry having been convicted for the murder of one of his servants, was sentenced to death, and would have been executed but for the action of his uncle, Sir Compton Domvile, then residing at Templeogue Castle, who when all other means of intercession failed, threatened to cut off the city water supply if the sentence were carried out. The threat was effective, and the noble murderer's escape was connived at by the authorities.

Some yeoman of standing residing in the neighbourhood of Tallaght or Templeogue, was usually entrusted with the supervision and maintenance of the watercourse from the Dodder to the Tongue, the remaining portion being looked after by a corporate

official appointed for the purpose. The old water supply seems to have been superseded about the beginning of the last century, and is now used only for industrial purposes.

“The Tongue,” which is a well-known landmark in the Kimmage neighbourhood, giving name to a townland, is approached by a field-path from the Dark Lane

adjoining the Lower Kimmage road. It is now almost impossible to identify the original course of the Poddle owing to the numerous drains and watercourses with which it is connected, but what would appear to be the principal stream takes its rise near the foot of the Tallaght Hills, passes the Aerodrome and flows about a mile north of Tallaght, thence across the fields to the Fairy Well near Tymon Castle and on to Kimmage.

The addition of the watercourse from the Dodder must have afforded an appreciable measure of relief to the thirsty citizens of 700 years ago as it contains a much larger volume of water than the original Poddle, and is besides, much more swiftly flowing. The old watercourse is still widely known and spoken of as " The City Water."

The above description of the Old Waterways of Dublin was first published in 1912.

Keep up to date by visiting the Association’s website

rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Contact the Association

info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie



The Committee needs members to volunteer for roles in

Environment

Planning

Membership records

Website management

Can you spare 3/4 hours per month to assist?

rathgarresidentsassociation.ie info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie