

GADRA

The Griffith Avenue & District Residents Association - August 2016

Upcoming AGM.....

Soon you will be hearing from us about the upcoming AGM for our association. While the committee will have a lot of issues to bring to the meeting regarding our activities in recent months, the AGM provides an opportunity to hear from all of our members and allows the sharing of ideas and issues in our area.

So, we would encourage all residents to come along to the meeting – notification will be provided approximately 1 week in advance and if there are any issues you like to see on the agenda or addressed in the Q&A please feel free to speak with your road representative in advance so we can assure it gets on the agenda.

In particular we would be delighted to see new residents in our area, this will give you a chance to get to know what's hot and what's not in our area and you'll get to meet some of your new neighbours at the same time! Needless to say we are always interested in attracting new blood to come forward, so, if you would be interested in joining our committee, please let us know.

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide a flavour of the committees activities which are broad and wide ranging and while a detailed discussion can be accommodated at the AGM we want to provide members with a feel for what we've been up to since we last met as an association. From this, you will see that we have been engaging on your behalf with a wide range of bodies to ensure that the interests of the residents in our area are addressed and taken on board during decision making concerning both long and short term developments.

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM which will be held on Wednesday, September 21st @ 8pm in Na Fianna!

Coming soon.....the GADRA website

We've been working to put together a website to share information and keep in touch with residents. We hope to formally launch this in September around the time of our next general meeting so please watch this space....



While we want to keep the website very user friendly we are talking with developers on design to ensure members can see who committee members are, how to contact us, new residents can download application forms and so on.

We've been looking at other similar sites and hopefully we can put in place an interesting and functional site that can help our residents keep abreast of what's happening in the area while at the same time providing input and feedback

Does your grass verge look like this?

We are fortunate in our area to have many tree-lined roads with grass verges. It's sad to see visitors not respecting the grass verges and it's even more disappointing to see residents who destroy their own and their neighbours' verges.



Please take care when parking and respect both your own and your neighbours' verges as we strive to keep our area looking well and ask your visitors to do the same.

FixMyArea App

Some of you may not be aware but there is a very helpful app for those with smartphones.

FixMyArea is the new way of taking care of your community without breaking a sweat. Spotted a problem? Just pull out your phone, snap a picture, and let the Council take care of the rest!

FixMyArea gives you a direct line to Dublin City Council and lets you report issues immediately so you get your problem fixed faster, and they get thousands more eyes on the ground, keeping them up to date. It's fast, streamlined and, with the Council app, easier than ever!



The really good news is that you **don't have to have a smartphone**, you can also use websites such as fixmyarea.com or fixyourstreet.ie

In need of help? Some useful numbers

- **Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)** 0761 07 2000
- **AWARE** Depression/Support 6766166
- **Rape Crisis Centre** - 1800-212122
- **Samaritans** - 1850-609090

Parks Department – thank you!

We would like to express our continued appreciation to our friends at the Parks Department of Dublin City Council, in Albert College for their support of our neighbourhood. They have once again excelled in providing us with summer flower displays in our area and we are very grateful for the support in our

efforts to maintain and enhance the general environment.

Recent updates

Some great progress in recent months with a major tree pruning along Griffith Avenue which is very welcome and also the introduction of bollards along The Rise.

We wanted to bring to your attention that the Gardai offer an excellent service every Tuesday from 10:30 to 12:00 where the Community Garda is available to sign official forms such as passports etc at the parish halls at Corpus Christi. This means residents can avoid the travel to Santry for such activities.

Also the committee is represented at a quarterly liaison meeting with Dublin City Council and the Gardai (Drumcondra/Glasnevin community forum) where we share information and requests from residents on items such as traffic issues, crime and graffiti. This is effectively a one stop shop for maintaining our overall environment.

Planning applications

Over the last 12 months the committee continued to monitor planning applications in our area. Where we had concerns on issues that would set a bad precedent for the area we have made the appropriate observations / objections to Dublin City Council. In some cases we had requests from residents for advice on planning applications they were making or with regard to planning applications they were concerned about.

We do provide support and advice upon request however, we recommend that any residents with concerns familiarise themselves with the planning procedures for Dublin City which can be found at <http://www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services/planning> this is a very useful site where you can

- see weekly planning lists,
- search for previous applications
- download planning application forms
- And even look at the overall City Development plan.

Bogus callers – Gardaí Alert!

The Gardaí at Santry have asked us to bring to residents' attention an increase in incidents of bogus callers in our area.

A few golden rules apply:

- **Never allow any person whom you don't know to have access to your house**
- **Always look out your window first to see who is at your front door**
- **Do not open your front door if you are unsure who the caller is.**
- **Do not engage with strangers at your door unless you have a prior appointment made with them**
- **All genuine operators from companies e.g. Bord Gais, ESB, NTL will have official identification visible**
- **DO NOT hold large amounts of cash inside your home at any time**

GADRA ask that all residents keep an eye out for any suspicious persons or vehicles in the area. If you have any suspicions ring Santry Gardaí at **6664000**.

Community Gardai in our are are Sgt. Brian Nolan, and Gardai Martin Lynch, John Durr and Fran Chaney. Direct lines to them are 6664020 & 6664092 however, in the event of an emergency please call 112 or 999 as serious incidents in our can be responded to by gardai from Santry, Ballymun and Dublin Airport.

After 9pm each evening calls to Santry are re-routed to Dublin Airport for support.

Energy efficiency

Everyone is becoming increasingly conscious of the environment and the need to make our homes more sustainable. What you may not be aware of is that currently there are 2 grants available from Sustainable Energy Ireland www.sei.ie.

The [Better Energy Homes](#) scheme provides grants to homeowners who invest in energy efficiency improvements in one or more of the following areas: Roof Insulation, Wall Insulation, Installation of a High Efficiency (> 90%) Gas or Oil fired Boiler, Heating Control Upgrades and Solar panels.

What grants are available?

Energy Efficient Works		Grant Value
Insulation	Attic	€300
	Wall - Cavity	€300
	Wall - Internal Dry Lining	
	Apartment (any) or Mid-terrace House	€1,200
	Semi-detached or End of Terrace	€1,800
	Detached House	€2,400
	Wall - External	
Apartment (any) or Mid-terrace House	€2,250	
Semi-detached or End of Terrace	€3,400	
Detached House	€4,500	
Heating System	Heating Controls with Boiler (Oil or Gas) Upgrade	€700
	Heating Controls Upgrade only	€600
	Solar Heating	€1,200
Bonus Grant	For 3 rd measure	€300
	For 4 th measure	€100
Building Energy Rating (BER)		€50

The [Warmer Homes Scheme \(WHS\)](#) aims to improve the energy efficiency and comfort conditions of homes occupied by vulnerable households in receipt of the National Fuel Allowance Scheme through the installation of draught proofing, attic insulation, lagging jackets, low energy light bulbs and cavity wall insulation where appropriate.

This scheme is available to homes which meet the following criteria:

- Owner occupied non-Local Authority homes
- Constructed before 2006
- The owner is in receipt of one of the following
- Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme
- Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and with children under 7 years of age
- Family Income Supplement
- In receipt of the "One Parent Family Payment"

NCT Test Reminder

NCT will not advise you when your test is due. You need to contact them yourself and arrange your test From December 2014 driving without a valid NCT will incur 3 penalty points.

Feral Cats

If you have a problem with wild or feral cats you can contact the Cats Protection Association of Ireland at 8 Mornington Park, Malahide Road. Phone 01-8512005 or call DSPCA.

Dog fouling

Dog fouling continues to be a major problem in our area. While most people clean up after their dogs, others see no problem in leaving their dogs' mess in public spaces. Offenders should note that Dublin City Council has been asked to extend their awareness campaign to our area. To report fouling phone 1800-251500.

Barking dogs

The EU Commission considers noise in the environment as one of the main scourges of modern life. Disturbances and disputes can arise from unchecked car and house alarms, barking dogs, loud music and late night parties. The committee regularly receives complaints about dogs barking. The District Court can make an order requiring the reduction of excessive barking. Before complaining to the Court, you should complete the relevant form available from Dublin City Council's website: www.dublincity.ie/RecreationandCulture/AnimalWelfare/or phone T:01-2222222

Introducing the Age Friendly Programme

Over the next 30 years the number of people in Ireland over the age of 55 will double and the number over 80 will quadruple. Ireland is now in an ideal position to prepare for successful population ageing.

Ireland's Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is a national programme being rolled out across the country to ensure that our counties, cities and towns are age friendly and meet the needs of senior people.

It is adapted from the World Health Organisation's Global Age Friendly Cities' and Communities' programme, which says that "In practical terms an age-friendly city adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities." Dublin was the first capital city in the world to adopt a city-wide approach to becoming age-friendly.



For more information on how you can participate in the Dublin area please go to <http://www.dublincity.ie/agefriendlycity>

Here you will see examples such as:

- Aqua Aerobics
- Book clubs
- Ladies club
- Art groups
- Chair aerobics
- Knitting groups
- Fit4Life
- Coffee mornings
- Bingo

As part of this initiative, Dublin City Council allocated, €30,000 for "Tone Zone" in Albert College Park

Volunteering in Dublin

Everyone can volunteer and there are volunteering roles out there to suit all interests and skills. There are countless volunteering opportunities for people to take part in. Opportunities can range from community welfare, special needs assistance and youth work to adult education, advocacy, fundraising and everything in between.



On I-VOL, you can find over 3,000 available volunteering opportunities across Ireland. To help inspire you and get you started, we have compiled some of the most popular volunteering activities and causes on I-VOL. When you have an idea of how you'd like to get involved or whom you would like to help out – browse [I-VOL](http://www.dublincity.ie/ivol) to click, connect and volunteer!

So really, with all the problems we see and hear of every day, there are lots of opportunities where you can make a difference and give something back.