

GADRA September 2019 Newsletter

AGM October 16th 7.30 Skylon Hotel

We hope all our residents have had a nice summer break and are ready for a busy Autumn. Following the recent Dublin City Council elections and Local Area Boundary changes we are no longer in the North West Administrative Area. We are very grateful to DCC's Catherine Brophy-Smith, Patrick Smith and Sinead Peers for all their hard work and we are delighted with the lovely new pavements on Griffith Ave and Homefarm Rd as well as their parting gift of three new benches and planters.

The GADRA area is now in two Administrative areas i.e. Dublin Central and Dublin North Central. Over the summer your committee met with Dublin City Council officials from both areas to make sure that we continue to have the same level of attention and that our area is well looked after. Indeed, we have already received two mature Olive trees from Dublin Central for outside Corpus Christi School as part of Pedestrian Safety through Environmental Design. We are also grateful for the increased road sweeping and gully clearing currently being carried out.

GADRA also welcome the safety audit and planned painting of all lamp post on both sides of Griffith Ave being carried out by North Central.

Over the Summer we have also met with the newly elected councillors for both the Cabra Glasnevin and Whitehall Artane area. We have a list of all councillors contact details and what roads are in which election area on our website under local contacts (if you do not have access to this please text 087 3658885 and we will drop a copy to you).

There has been an issue over the summer with illegal dumping of garden waste bags and household waste in the area primarily along the railing of Corpus Christi School and at the end of Bantry road .**It is illegal to dump garden waste/ household waste and those doing it will be prosecuted by DCC** . As an Association we may not receive any bags this Autumn for leaf collection if this continues. Please report anyone you see doing this to DCC.

AGM

Our AGM will take place on Oct 16 at 7.30pm in the Skylon Hotel. We have many exciting plans to discuss on the night including our Beta leaf mulch project, plans for an historical walk through the area, Planting Sustainable Pollinators and Pocket Parks. Craig Benton Master Composter (EPA) will be explaining our Beta Leaf mulching project on the night (more details below). Local Gardai will also be in attendance. We are inviting Councillors from both areas to discuss these initiatives as well as Crime, Metrolink, BusConnects and Pedestrian Safety through Environmental Design

Leaf Project

We discovered earlier this year that the leaves we had been bagging were being sent to landfill. Therefore, in association with the Dublin North West Area Partnership (DNWAP) and DCC we are setting up a Beta Project whereby our leaves will either be transported to a community garden for leaf mulch or be used by residents in their own gardens for leaf mulch. Residents throughout the whole area will be given wire cages for their gardens to put the leaves into - once they are kept wet you will have leaf mulch to use on your borders and gardens with 3-6 months. The cages will be given out for free by the DNWAP, the wire was donated by Trinity College and Craig Benton (Master Composter) will be at the AGM to explain how to compost the leaves. DCC are making a short video about this project which we will also put on our website as will DCC.

Metrolink

We are very alarmed at the TII plans to put in a permanent above ground structure, including a maintenance carpark, into the south west corner of Albert College park. When this shaft was mentioned in the consultation period on the Preferred route (with only 17 words referring to it in the consultation booklet) we immediately asked if it was to be above ground, what size, etc. etc. We along with many of you were told at open days that this structure was most likely to be just a grill in the ground. We learnt two days before the close of public consultation period that the shaft is in fact a permanent above ground structure of 40 meters x17 meter in diameter and is in fact 3.5-4meters above ground- we have the very poor and unprofessional "hand" drawing that was given to us on our website. This drawing does not include the planned car park. The TII have not in our opinion fulfilled their obligation under the Aarhus Convention to consult publicly on this structure. The TII state that they will only discuss the shaft at the design stage, but we feel our residents have the same right as all other residents to be consulted. The Ballymun road and Albert college Resident Associations are looking for the Collins ave station to move from the church grounds to the NW corner of Albert college Park (beside DCU entrance) which would be below ground and eliminate the need for the above ground shaft to be put into the park. We fully support Metrolink and do not want the TII lack of consultation to cause unnecessary delays, but we feel an above ground permanent structure including maintenance car park in a public park warrants full consultation. We issued through our solicitors FP Logue a letter to TII -see website for details or text for a copy

Independent Expert for Metrolink

We have been requesting Independent expert advice for residents from the start of this project. We have recently learned that TII plan to tender for an Independent expert panel- We have major issues with this as by its very nature Independent experts need to be independent so for the TII to write the tender document and set terms of reference and also chose the experts means that this process

is not independent. This tendering process and the selection process of setting up the independent expert panel needs to be carried out by Dept of Transport. To have the TII/NTA managing this process risks compromising the independence of the relevant experts nominated, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The scope of the tender needs to be broad enough to cover all known areas of concerns and to include unanticipated structures/issues that arise which are not presently in the public realm. The scope also needs to allow for the possibility of recommendations and for these outcomes and recommendations from the independent experts to be fed back to TII/NTA. If this mechanism is not in place it would lead residents/stakeholders to think that the experts as chosen by TII are just in place to rubber stamp the TII plans. The Dept of Transport needs to oversee the interactions of the residents/stakeholders, independent experts and the TII/NTA. We need you to contact your local TDs and the Minister for Transport to ensure that this happens.

Bus Connects

As you are aware we have major issues with the Bus Connects both the network redesign and Core Bus Corridors phases and we continue to state this project is fundamentally flawed in that the right of those citizens with a disability have not been addressed, the consultation has been online based thus not allowing residents not online to participate and the plans for island bus stops makes bus journeys impossible for the visually impaired. We have throughout looked for open inclusive and transparent consultation which is not what is happening. The NTA throughout the city are consulting with small groups along the CBCs ignoring the residents who will be most impacted on the diverted routes. We continue to request a Do Nothing in this area until Metrolink is operational and hope that residents will continue to support this approach. We would like to be clear that GADRA have not been invited to attend any meetings with the NTA since last March (meeting notes of same are on our website) and we are not involved in whatever meetings appear to be ongoing with pockets of residents in certain areas. We again state that all residents along the CBC and along the diverted routes should be consulted equally. GADRA's position in relation to BusConnects consultations is that all residents should be treated equally and fairly. Accordingly any resident who feels that they will be impacted by the project and wish to attend a meeting with the NTA in relation to their concerns please contact us at info@gadra.ie or by text and we will endeavour to facilitate same. We are particularly concerned for residents on Stella, Rathlin and the Rise. GADRA issued a letter to NTA via our solicitor FP Logue on Sept 11th requesting that NTA design a Public Participation Procedure that is compliant with EU Directive

We are collecting a sub again this year as given the magnitude of the issues we are facing we have increasing costs including increasing printing cost and legal advice. Please return the envelopes to the addresses on the envelope or bring to the AGM.

Busy times for all of us so get involved in one of the social projects, or the environmental planting or helping with newsletter drops or lobbying and get emailing!! Our website and phone have been busy with website getting nearly

12000 hits already this year. We need a couple of road reps for each road too as with the increased newsletters it is important that people are not delivering to large roads on their own.

Email Info@gadra.ie Phone 087365885 Face book