

Summary of Residents Association work during Summer months

The RA held silent vigils in late May and early June at key junctions in the area and at the home of a landlord to highlight the huge influx of people holding COVID-19 house parties in rented properties. This led to huge antisocial issues and eventually residents were forced to take court proceedings against a particular landlord. The entire episode especially during the court proceedings really demonstrated the strength of a community, who watch out, care for each other.

Ongoing engagement with Environment Dept. Cork City Council on both street litter and house litter problems. We have asked that they be more proactive in policing and enforcing their new bye-laws on the segregation, storage and presentation of household waste. We highlighted the need for urgent action to deal with badly maintained properties including litter strewn around gardens with some properties falling into serious disrepair. They have responded with increased street cleaning but not to what we believe is required. Ongoing engagement continuing.

Many hours put in preparing and collecting data for use on all the media platforms we used during the summer months. Thanks to Catherine, we have been successful in keeping our issues on national and local news throughout the summer.

Contacted and engaged with many landlords on getting their assistance and support on stopping house parties, unfortunately not all would engage with us.

Long time resident Paddy O'Sullivan celebrated his 99th birthday and a surprise birthday party was held in Wellington Square on a lovely Saturday morning in July. Paddy enjoyed being the centre of attention on this special occasion.

Contacted all our TDs and Cllrs in North & South Central requesting their support in getting new legislation on the licensing of rented properties - positive response from most inc. mention at Dail level.

Contacted Minister for Housing on changes required in planning laws to prevent 2/3 bedroom residential properties being converted to multi occupational properties (HMOs), which in effect are a commercial enterprise. Got a reply from the Secretary of the Dept. who agreed to investigate the issue - no real promise on legislation.

Contacted the Taoiseach on the same issue and he forwarded a comprehensive outline of PRTB policy on rented properties. We were already aware of this policy, which doesn't really meet our needs so we have requested a meeting to outline our concerns.

Huge volume of work done on compiling list of rented property details inc. landlord details and whether or not the properties are registered with PRTB. 70% not registered out of just over 250 properties. Preparing file to be sent to PRTB Head Office in Clonakilty.

Another huge volume of work also done on compiling a list of residents complaints so they can be used at a further date if required.

Weekly (sometimes daily) check on Riordan's Joinery development to ensure they are complying with planning permission. Requested and received archaeological report on site - no evidence of previous burial ground, which was a concern to some residents.

Held meeting with private architect on the proposed social housing development(Part 8) proposed for the former Ryan's Garage site on Glasheen Rd and got some good advice on what should be included in our submission. Based on that submission we have asked Cllrs to arrange meeting with City Planners, Cllrs and ourselves. COVID-19 restrictions have delayed that meeting.

Met with Lorcan Griffin, Senior Executive Planner, City Council on their proposed New City Development Plan. Based on that meeting we have sent in two detailed submissions on what is required, with the main emphasis being the need for a regeneration plan for the area in the interests of creating a sustainable community.

Worked with Scholarlee on the mural on Dorgan's Rd in an attempt to brighten the area - no cost to Residents Association. Looking at other areas where similar work might be suitable.

Positive meeting with Parks Dept. City Council on improving the green area on the walkway from Magazine and Glasheen Rd(near Pres Fields). Due to come back to us shortly with a plan of works.

RA. have requested that City Council consider purchasing properties that come up for sale in the area with a view to getting families to reside here. Brian Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive , City Council requested details of some properties which we have provided.

Met with UCC, Gardai, City Council and Students Union on the holding of Freshers Week. Despite Gardai not being in favour and UCC not supporting the event, Students Union decided to go ahead with a virtual Freshers Week!!!!!!!

Continuing daily engagement with Gardai throughout the week ensured a reasonably trouble free Freshers Week.

Catherine did a huge amount of media work during Freshers Week to highlight again what has been going on here throughout the summer and continuing now into College year.

Appearance by Catherine on RTE Primetime on the need for legislation on private multi occupancy properties.

Ongoing lobbying of Councillors and City Council on the Part 8 development on the former Ryans Garage in Denroche's Cross.

Thanks to the many residents who contributed to all of this work.

