

THE BEAUMONT NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Beaumont Residents Association

Volume 3, Issue 2

**Delivered Free to All Homes, Schools, Hospitals and
Commercial Premises in the greater Beaumont Area**

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2005

COLLINSWOOD DEVELOPMENT GETS 'GREEN LIGHT' FROM DUBLIN CITY PLANNERS

Dublin City Planners decision to grant Planning Permission for a development on the old RTE site in Collinswood, flies in the face of local residents, local Councillors and indeed the Council's own Development Plan 2005-2011. A decision on 27th April 2005 to grant permission is being appealed to An Bord Pleanala by Beaumont Residents Association and a decision is not expected until the autumn.

We cannot blame our Councillors for not supporting us on this occasion. At a meeting on 18th April 2005 in Dublin City Council's offices in Bunratty Road, Coolock, Collinswood Planning Application was up for discussion among Councillors and Planners. I attended the meeting at the invitation of Councillor Larry O'Toole. The Planning application was discussed at some length, a number of photographs were shown and a 3D model of the development was put on display by the Planners. All of the Councillors present appeared to have done their homework and acquainted themselves well with the development and the objections. The many objections were clearly articulated by each Councillor and all argued against the development. A vote of the Councillors was unanimous to refuse permission. I came away from the meeting thinking Planning Permission would certainly be refused - how wrong I was.

It is worth mentioning that two of our most immediate Councillors; Paddy Bourke and Terence Flanagan were not at this very crucial meeting - even though both had been lobbied in advance and provided with copies of our objections.

I have since learned that under recently changed rules, Councillors decisions are not binding on Planners, though it is common practice to take some cognisance of their wishes - particularly when Councillors decisions are unanimous. In this case however, the Planners in their self conferred superior vision decided to ride roughshod over the decision of the Councillors and the concerns of almost 14,000 individuals represented by ANDRA (Alliance of North Dublin Residents Associations) and BRA who lodged objections to the development.

This absolute and total disregard for local peoples concerns and the legitimately expressed democratic will of the people through their elected Councillors, is very worrying indeed. How can we tell our teenagers and young adults to have trust in the democratic system. How can we encourage them to cast their votes at election time, when the system has spectacularly failed us. The 'Powers that be' would be well advised to take note - if they have not become too elitist and removed from the people who put them there.



REFUGE FROM THE 'AXE MAN' REFUSED
These 100 year old trees are to be chopped down to make way for new 4 storey apartment blocks on Collinswood site. Dublin City Planners refused to save the trees.

KID'S SPORTS & FUN SUMMER FEST

**Saturday, 25th June 2005 @ 2.00 pm
In Coolgreena Close Park**



Members Children Only, Aged 1 - 12 years
VARIOUS DISTANCE RACES TO SUIT ALL AGES

**Egg & Spoon Race • Penalty Shoot-Out •
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Glamorous Granny & Granddad Competition**

LOTS OF PRIZES, MEDALS & TROPHIES TO BE WON

**COME ALONG AND MAKE THIS A
GREAT DAY FOR THE CHILDREN !**

TWO FANTASTIC COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES IN THIS ISSUE



1. Two Executive Tickets to see **Elton John** in RDS Main Arena, 2nd July
2. Two Executive Tickets to see **Scissor Sisters** in Lansdowne Road, 24th August

Beaumont Residents Association engaged the services Grainne Mallon & Associates, Town Planning Consultants & Architects, Merrion Square, Dublin 2, to prepare a detailed Technical and Professional submission to Dublin City Council. I am satisfied that a proper and well researched objection was submitted. This was done at some considerable financial cost to our Association. It is abundantly clear to me, to our Consultants and to many others who take an interest in such matters, that our objections were not given due consideration or examined in any great detail. The more scenically amongst us can be forgiven for thinking a 'deal' was done long before the Planning Application hit the desk in Dublin City Council. There are many disturbing omissions on the Planning Permission granted, a couple of examples; The Council's Development Plan 2005-2011, states that a Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment be carried out and submitted as part of the Planning Application for this type of development but none was submitted. Even though we requested an Impact Assessment in our objections, it continued to be ignored and none was requested.

Road safety issues and associated hazards in relation to a new junction onto Beaumont Road, were highlighted in some detail in our submission but were completely ignored by the Planners.

Our appeal to An Bord Pleanala, prepared by Grainne Mallon & Associates is a hard hitting report on the Planners decision. It concludes that the Planners did not afford proper consideration to the more than 30 submissions made to Dublin City Council.

It appears to us that the new powers given to the Planners are excessive and have made them more than a little dizzy, arrogant and less caring. They appear to be answerable to no one - not even willing to abide by their own laid down guidelines. Let us hope that the Professionals in An Bord Pleanala are more reasonable; afford us a fair and proper hearing and deliver a decision that will help restore our confidence in the Planning Process.

SPOKESPERSONS

TRAFFIC - Signals, Safety, Ramps, etc.:	Phyllis Redmond Tel: 837 5857
TRANSPORT - Buses, Bus Shelters, etc:	Tom Darby Tel: 837 3069
ENVIRONMENT - Litter, Refuse, Drains, etc.	Pat Martin Tel: 087 7711980
PLANNING - Planning Permission, etc.	Joan Ennis Tel: 837 1396
CRIME - Gardaí and Associated Matters:	Deirdre Higgins Tel: 087 6398816
TIDY NEIGHBOURHOOD - Grass Cutting etc:	Tony King Tel: 837 8436
TIDY NEIGHBOURHOOD - Grass Cutting etc:	Frank O'Driscoll Tel: 837 5919

If you are experiencing difficulties with your official Service Providers (Dublin City Council, Dublin Bus, Gardaí etc.) please call our relevant Spokesperson above. He/she has relevant expertise in a particular sector and will liaise with the relevant Authority on your behalf and endeavour to expedite a speedy solution.

Please understand - contact the Spokesperson only when you have exhausted the normal channels - they are not a 'first port of call'.

IT'S CLEAN-UP TIME

This year the former Tidy Districts Competition has been renamed "Dublin City Neighbourhoods Competition". A big emphasis placed on litter control. Efforts are also on attempts to eliminate ugly growth of



weeds. If each household would attend to the area in front of their own home these problems could be eliminated immediately. This is not always possible due to age and infirmity. I would therefore, ask the able among you to assist by doing a little extra and be a good neighbour.

As judging takes place in June and July, I would ask for a big effort immediately. Please get together with others to form teams if possible and adopt a road or section to maintain as follows; a) cleaning litter, b) removing weeds, c) sweeping up, d) edging grass verges, e) refraining from parking on grass verges.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Tony King, Tidy Neighbourhoods Spokesman

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AGEING: A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Two years ago I completed forty years as a Carmelite Priest and celebrated my 70th birthday all at the one time. My assignment as Prior and Parish Priest in Whitefriar's St also came to an end. I didn't know what to do so I opted for a course in the Milltown Park Institute. They provide there a wide variety of study courses for people of all age groups who wish to enhance their lives. It turned out to be a wonderful experience.



I chose a varied course but one series of talks sticks out in my mind. It was entitled 'Middle and Later life' and it covered all aspects of the journey through those years. The lecturer, who was female, seemed to be speaking to me right through the course. Her method was simple. She asked us to write down our feelings about life at its different stages. That was challenging. She asked us to write down how we felt about God at each stage. That too made me think. What she had to say continues to this day to make me reflect on the wonder of life which we so often take for granted. She made me realise that when we are younger we can be so busy with the struggle of living that we don't have time to realise just how great a gift life itself is. We pay little attention to how life is changing all the time or allow change in a real way to affect and influence us. Often it takes a huge event like death of a dear one or a serious illness or a family problem to make one slow down and begin to count one's blessings.

After the course I was left with the idea that change in itself is a huge blessing even if at first it seems a huge intrusion into our lives. Up close having to change usually hurts big but when you stand away from it and try to see it in an overall plan, you can realise it's maybe a blessing in disguise. After all, we see change in the very rhythm of the seasons and we experience it in our bodies as they to age and change. When we meet a friend we have not met for some time we immediately can see the change in them. Probably, they also see the change in us also. Moreover, some people seem by nature to be able to accept it easier than others and usually they are happier people for that. Yet there are others who never come to terms with changing circumstances. So how do others see you as you grow older? Would they be able to say that you have really adjusted well?

One really big question to be faced as we age is just where God fits into all of this? Does my faith support me as I try to make the necessary adjustments? Is my heart at peace about the past and the past happenings? Do I still hold onto old grudges and still resent those who hurt me? Can I say that my trust in God is fuelling my journey into the future? His grace will never fail but do I really believe this? If not maybe like the man in the gospel we could say; 'Lord I do believe but help my unbelief'.

Here then are a few reflections on ageing that may help.

- Your prayer life should be moving towards feeling comfortable when you close your eyes and just think about God's love for you...
- Health is a wonderful gift and if it holds out well then enjoy it fully.
- It's natural that health will begin to decline and that brings huge change for us. There are no pat answers to this problem. Try to cope and remember the wonderful example of Pope John Paul in his last illness. He joined with the Lord in his passion.
- There are many different ways the elderly can contribute to society, so be part of some of those ventures. Stay as active as you can as long as you can and share activity with others who are like minded. e.g. Active Age Groups.

- One sign that you are making progress is if small things no longer upset you and you are more peaceful and happier within. This should show in a developing sense of humour or simply smiling more often at those who care for you.
- The older the wine, the better the taste; Someday someone will depend on your experiences to face the changes they are being challenged to make.
- In his book; 'Psalms for Every Mood', Kevin Lyon says of ageing; People see me now as a survivor
'Look', they say; 'Isn't he great for his years'.
Give me Lord the grace to age well,
To feel kindly to the end.

May those sentiments be all of ours also.

Fr Frank O Gara O.C.
The Presbytery, Beaumont

COMPETITION TIME

Competition No. 1: Two Executive Tickets to see **Elton John** in RDS Main Arena, 2nd July

QUESTIONS: a) Where in Beaumont is there a new National Lotto Machine?

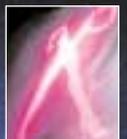
b) Who offers BRA Members discount on Gents Fashion?

Post answers to our Post Box in the Shell Shop or Shantalla Post Office. Closing Date: 27th June 2005

Competition No. 2: Two Executive Tickets to see **Scissor Sisters** in Lansdowne Road, 24th August

QUESTION IS ON OUR WEBSITE

Answers accepted via our web site only.
Closing Date: 15th July 2005



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Niamh Doherty MPSI

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Noreen's News



THE SENIOR CITIZENS TRIP to Skerries on the 1st June was a great success. The 'day out' was organised by Garda Jim Murphy, Santry Garda Station. The weather was good and ideal for the beach. A coach picked up the day trippers at Beaumont House at about 2.00 pm and returned with the happy but exhausted revellers well into the night. On the way back from Skerries they stopped of at Sports Link for dinner, drinks and lots of dancing to great music. Many thanks to Garda Murphy for a fantastic day.

I wish to reassure the many customers of **DOHERTY'S PHARMACY** that the pharmacy is not closing down or selling out - they are open for business as usual. The building is for sale but it won't affect the Pharmacy. Jason Doherty reassured me that they will be here for at least another thirty years or more! Jason and his wife Niamh wish to thank all their customers for their continued custom and they are always willing to help by giving professional advice etc.

A similar situation pertains to **INDIA LINK** Indian Food Take away. Is not closing or moving - only the building is for sale. India Link will continue with business as usual.

KITTY'S PARTY HIRE has closed down and the building sold. Kitty's always supported the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party and also contributed to the Kid's Fun Day and the Beaumont Newsletter. It was so accessible to hire out anything we needed for the Fun Day, the Christmas Party or any occasion. We wish Robert Anthony every good wish on his retirement.

NEIGHBOURHOODWATCH. Our bi-monthly meeting took place on Monday 18th April at the Pastoral Centre, Beaumont. The meeting was very well attended by all the Residence Associations in the H District (starting at Richmond Road, Drumcondra and going all the way out to the Airport). Beaumont is considered the best area and the safest regarding crime and anti-social behaviour - thanks to Neighbourhood Watch and our good community relationships with the Community Gardai and Sergeant John O'Driscoll, who has given us tremendous support over the past eight years and always willing to help us in anyway he can.

LORCAN & DISTRICT ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (LADARA)

We have eighty-six members and meet twice a week. On Tuesdays we have such activities as Bowls, Table Tennis, Cards and Scrabble. On Thursdays we have talks on various subjects and on alternative Thursdays we organise half-day outings. Once a year we have a Mystery Tour, which this year will be held on 23rd June.

RESIDENTS OF COOLGREENA ROAD

informed me that they recently observed two men from the Dublin City Council, cleaning up the laneway from Coolgreena Road to Beaumont House. It was very dirty and in a mess with rubbish of every description. The Residents went on to say that the men did such a good job of cleaning it up, that they rang DCC Head Office and complimented them on a job well done. Our Spokesperson on Litter, Pat Martin made the request to DCC. Nice to see a good and effective response. Pat also requested a clean up of Coolgreena Close and action is expected here also.

AS SUMMER HOLIDAYS

are approaching, make sure your home does not show telltale signs that there is no-body home. Tell a reliable neighbour if you are going on holidays and leave a key with them- asking them to leave some lights and the radio on at night or pulling the

blinds and taking the post from out of the porch. Make sure you cancel milk etc. before going away. Enjoy your holidays!!

WELCOME JAMES CHEN a new contributor to The Beaumont News. James is a student from China, living in Beaumont and he will be giving the views of the Chinese and other International people now living in Ireland - the New Irish.

However, we did have one incident in April, in which two young girls of around 16 years and 19 years of age, knocked on a door of a local resident - quickly said her cat had run into the house, proceeded into the dining room and over to the man of the house who was sitting in an armchair, tried to pull him up, perhaps to see if there was a wallet etc. The other girl ran up the stairs and took the lady's handbag. One of them was caught trying to do the same thing at another house. She was arrested and taken away. It transpired they were from Tallaght. They looked well dressed and they drove a white car. *The motto is don't open the door to strangers.*



Jack Corcoran plays the Last Waltz

JACK CORCORAN, our local Musician is retiring from playing at all events including the Senior Citizen's Party. Jack's music and tempo kept all the

Senior Citizens of Beaumont very happy each and every year since 1997 at their Christmas Party. It's sad to see Jack go, but we wish to thank him so much for making all those Christmas Parties so uplifting and enjoyable with his music. Jack informs me that he started to play music way back in 1962. He first started playing the piano and then the keyboard. He played in a 'three o' and they called themselves "The Clavichords". This name was taken from the first keyboard in Ireland, which was called "Clavioline". Jack and his band played at hotels and dance halls all over Dublin until the show band scene finished in the late 70's. Jack stressed that in those days there was no alcohol served in Ballrooms only minerals. The pub scene took over then from around 1980 until 1990. Jack was a resident musician with Maher's Log Cabin for seven to eight years. The band broke up and Jack went solo, playing the keyboard whenever he was asked and he supported the local community at a few events over the last ten years or so. So a big thanks you to Jack for all his kindness, dedication and loyalty over the past seven to eight years. Jack and his wife Patricia will be guests of honour at our Senior Citizens Christmas Party this year, Please God.

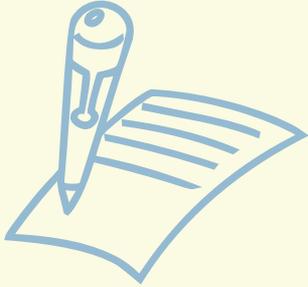
MERCY CONVENT: First year Transition Year Students got through to the All Ireland Build A Bank Competition. Six pupils from Our Lady of Mercy, Beaumont, received their prizes as one of three winners of the Dublin Area Final of the AIB Schools Build a Better Bank Competition, held in the Roganstown Golf and Country Club. The six girls are Suzanne Swan, Aisling Connolly, Karen Cosgrove, Erin Van Landon, Lisa Hehir and Laura Conway. Laura McDonnell, second year two has won several swimming competitions and was photographed coming out of school, at her home and while training and interviewed for Nation Wide by R.T.E. in April 2005. Claire O'Rourke, Third Year two, represented Ireland in Taekwondo in Azerbegin in March 2005.

We are very proud of our students and their successes.

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More News in Our Next Newsletter



Letters to the Editor

A GREAT DAY IN SKERRIES

Dear Sir, I want to express my thanks to the members of the Gardai and the Ladies from Kilmore, for a great trip to Skerries on 1st June 2005. Noreen Maher was asked to get some members from our Association to fill the vacant seats on the coach. I was one of the lucky ones. We left from outside Beaumont House about 2.30pm and we had about 2.50 hours in Skerries. Some played Bingo and the Gaming machines while others went walking around Skerries. It was a beautiful afternoon. Back to the bus at 5.30pm and on to Sports Link for a beautiful 3 course meal and a few drinks. Music and Dancing continued until midnight. It was really great and a lovely crowd. Many thanks to all involved. *(Jo Buggy)*

TREES TOO TALL

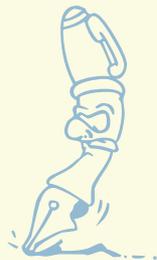
Dear Sir, I would like to know if there is any law which will compel my neighbour to cut down trees which have reached higher than the rooftops and are impeding the sun coming into my garden. I have approached them a number of times but so far no response. *Thanking you. BRA Member, Shanglass Road.*

A ROUNDABOUT NOT SO ROUND

Dear Sir, I consider the Roundabout at the bottom of Shantalla bridge to be very dangerous because of the 'outjut' on the footpath on the park side. Cars and buses - particularly buses, come over the wrong side of the roundabout (practically) when descending from the bridge. The result is that vehicles going up the bridge are allowed only minimum space. This footpath 'outjut' should be removed. *(G. Bailey, Shantalla Avenue.)*

GRASS LITTER

Dear Sir, Would the Corporation make sure that the grass cuttings are picked up instead of being left to clean around the road, adding more litter in our neighbourhood. How can we keep our area tidy when the Corporation leave such a mess every time. We plead with you to set a good example by disposing of the grass cuttings in a suitable manner. Make us happy to see you cutting the grass instead of dread. *(Margaret & Desmond Cunningham, Coolgreena Rd)*



RULES OF THE ROAD COOLGREENA STYLE

Dear Sir, I have always been of the opinion that gridlock, lack of courtesy to other drivers and road rage were not issues we in Beaumont needed to be concerned with unless we were on the M50 or one of the other major roads in and around our city.

Anybody who has the misfortune to have to use Coolgreena Road on a regular basis over the last few years will know however that this is no longer the case. As you attempt to drive up or down this road you will invariably encounter one or more of the following little scenarios.

Nobody will give way to traffic coming in the opposite direction. The rules of the road have always shown that if an obstruction (i.e. parked car) is on your side of the road you yield to the oncoming car. **NOT IF YOU ARE ON COOLGREENA ROAD.** Here the rule is if I don't stop then you will have to. And when I do you will drive straight past without a nod or a wave. An odd time you may throw me a dirty look as you pass, as if to say how dare you even think about not stopping.

After enduring this on a regular basis you decide you will outwit these drivers. You will try to plan your journey with military precision and avoid the busiest times. Remember we are still only talking about a quick trip to Artaine Castle or to Mass but it must be planned carefully. So you set out down Coolgreena on your merry little way. It all starts well enough, not many cars coming up, mostly people like yourself who are driving with courtesy. Then you approach the junction with Coolatree Park. This is where it gets really hair raising. There are so many people who are in such a hurry that when they drive down Coolatree Park of course they don't have to waste time looking up or down Coolgreena. They just have to drive straight out without even slowing down. If you are silly enough to think that you have right of way aren't you the fool.

.And God help any poor pedestrian who dares to attempt to cross this junction. Sonya O'Sullivan couldn't cross quickly enough for these people.

Then just when your heartbeat is returning to normal you are at the junction with Beaumont Road. You are naive enough to think you have to stop here for a break in the traffic. The person behind you knows that as with the Coolatree Park junction you just keep going and the poor driver you pull out in front of will stop in time and won't get annoyed with you. Of course if they do you can just give them a filthy look and keep going.

Perhaps someone could let me know what I am doing wrong in my life that I can drive up and down Coolgreena Road at the correct speed, with courtesy for my fellow road users and I don't have anywhere important enough to go to that entitles me to disregard the rules of safety and courtesy that I assumed all road users learned before they got behind the wheel of a car. *(BRA Member, Cooleen Ave.)*

IT'S ONLY AN EXAM

Dear Sir, here we are again at exam time. Have you got a teenager sitting the Junior or Leaving Certificate? If so, are you're probably encouraging them to continue studying as they haven't much time left - or are you reminding them of how many points they need, to get that all important College place. Maybe you are telling them that it really would be beneficial to them to get up an hour earlier and do a little bit of extra study before breakfast. Then hopefully you are reminding them that you are not putting them under pressure. That all your lecturing is for their own good. And if you really want to go the extra mile fill their plates with loads of green vegetables each dinner time and insist they finish the lot. Sometimes even with the best of intentions we as parents can get so focused on the dreaded exam that we forget the bigger picture.

Think back the years to when you sat your own exams. Remember how you felt when your parents went on and on about studying, enough sleep, getting enough honours and would you be better off applying for the Bank or the Civil Service? And God help you if you even suggested meeting up with your boyfriend /girlfriend at the weekend. It was always going to be their fault if you failed the Leaving !!!!!

Now come back and look again at your teenager. Chances are they are reasonably comfortable in the knowledge that they have done enough work to get through and go on to College or get a start in their chosen career. No amount of worrying on your part will make them do better than their personal best. At this stage all you can do is reassure them that you are proud of them and that you love them and you support them. Remember, at the end of the day it is only an exam. If your child does well (as most of them will) be happy for them. If they don't do as well as they hoped, don't be disappointed. They can always sit it again next year. The best result we can hope for is that we all come out of the experience, happy, healthy and hopefully a little wiser. *(BRA Member, Cooleen Ave)*

INVITATION NOTICE

We are delighted to receive your letters and comments of whatever nature. Your thoughts, concerns, comments, news, stories, etc. are welcome. The best letter published will receive a prize of €50. All letters must have an address and signature. *Name will not be published on request.*

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Des Maguire, Editor.

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THE 'NEW IRISH'

爱尔兰的中国人

My name is James Chen. Thanks to the Beaumont Residents Association for giving me this opportunity to talk to you all about us - the international people, in order to let you all get to know us better.

I am in Dublin since January 2001. I was 18 years old when I arrived. The reason I came to Ireland is because I always wanted to try a different culture, to meet new people and have a different life. Then I got the chance to come to Ireland. It was really exciting and also the biggest challenge I have ever had.

It was only when my feet landed in Dublin that I realized I was totally on my own.

The first problem that came to me was language. Most foreigners like me, come from non English speaking countries, we all have a very difficult time with language. The most common situation is dealing with some professions, such as opening a bank account. So that is why the language schools in Dublin are so popular.

The second problem is the financial. The education fees for International students are very expensive. For example, a degree course in some public colleges such as DIT is about €10,000 a year which is cheaper than DCU, UCD and others. The Irish government allows international students have 20 hours per week part time job, but it is still not enough to cover the education cost. So there are only about 10% of international students in Ireland who are actually in colleges. So that is why we all call it a big challenge, only about 10% of us can make our dreams come true. Most of the others will return to where they come from. It is a cruel thing but true - but compare to America and other countries, Ireland is the better place.



But it is the culture gaps which separate us and it is getting bigger and bigger. If both of us could make a little difference such as giving a smile when you meet one of us, just a little smile will make a big difference between you and us. Let's do it now!

Looking back over the four years I have been through. I am so glad I made the decision to come here. The experience and the pain really made me grow up. I really enjoy the life in Dublin. After the four years, I feel that my home is in Dublin.

I really hope I could do some thing to make you know us better and help to build the friendship between you and us. Most of us come here alone, we need friends and we are willing to make friends with Irish people.

I hope I can tell you more in future issues of The Beaumont News. Good bye until the next time.

James (Shichun) Chen, Shantalla Road.

LETTER FROM SANTA

Greetings from Toyland, Northpole, I would like to thank the committee of the Beaumont Residents Association for the invitation to the children's Christmas party last December.

It was a pleasure to meet all the children there. I hope they enjoyed themselves. My elves and I are very busy getting ready for next Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all at the party again in December.

*God bless,
Santa.*



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Garda Patrol

By Garda Shane Graham, Clontarf Garda Station

I have been requested by Beaumont Residents Association to give some sort of ideas as to what a Community Garda is and how he/she may differ from any other member of An Garda Síochána. I am now going to try to explain what being a community Garda in the "J" district entails.

Basically a Community Garda is the same as any other member of An Garda Síochána in that he/she deals with various incidents and complaints, has powers of arrest and investigates crime. The difference between a Community Garda and the other Gardaí is that a Community Garda is assigned to a particular area. He/she is in that area as often as possible whether that be on the beat, on mountain bike patrol, mobile patrol or in the district public order van.



A Community Garda is sent into his/her area to integrate with the community and to assure them that we are available and approachable if they ever feel that they require the Gardaí of just need some advice on a particular problem. The Community Garda also liaises between residents associations, Neighbourhood Watch Programmes and particular Gardaí or units within An Garda Síochána. If an area is having problems with crimes such as burglary or car theft, residents can get in touch with their Community Garda who should already be aware of these problems and can arrange for Crime Units or Detective Units to pay extra attention to these areas. The same goes for Public Order Problems. If residents inform their Community Garda that they are having problems with youths gathering in the area drinking, littering and generally

causing annoyance the Community Garda can arrange that this area is given extra attention through Public Order Patrols. At the end of the day the community belongs to residents of that community and Community Gardaí are here to listen to your reports and complaints, act on them and to try to ensure that you can live in your neighbourhood in peace.

If anyone has any ongoing problems in their area or needs to speak to the Gardaí in relation to anything, don't hesitate to contact me at the Community Policing Office at Clontarf Garda Station on (01) 6664800.

He/she can be called upon by residents in their area to assist them with any minor or ongoing problems that they might need advice or assistance from the Gardaí in relation to. When I say minor I refer to incidents such as public order incidents, anti social behaviour which may not be minor to the person reporting them but are regarded as minor in comparison to serious incidents such as armed robbery, rape or murder which would be investigated by specific units with An Garda Síochána. He/she is a uniformed police officer so that they are visible to residents in their area when they are on patrol.

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ON PRESENTATION OF BRA MEMBERSHIP CARD

Beaumont Convalescent Home closed its doors ahead of schedule



Beaumont Convalescent Home closed its doors weeks ahead of schedule. Future use of the building not yet disclosed even though rumours are plenty. Closing this Nursing Home at a time when there is an acute shortage of beds in General Hospitals due to a shortage of places in long stay Nursing Homes, makes little sense. The Sisters of Mercy are entitled to withdraw from the running of the Nursing Home and sell it to the highest bidder, the Department of Health should step in and acquire this desperately needed facility.

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COOLGREENA CLOSE PARK UPGRADE GETS FUNDING



We recently met with Eoin Ward, Parks Superintendent, Dublin City Council, on the site. We agreed three basic enhancements be carried out this year. Firstly, the wall at the front of the Park along Coolgreena Close be removed and the ground sloped down to the footpath and grassed. Secondly, a walkway be constructed around the perimeter of the Park with wheelchair access. Thirdly, the low wall at the northwest corner be repaired where damaged and railings fitted on top. These three improvements will make the Park more user friendly and encourage the local people - both young and old, to use it as an amenity. It should also make it less attractive for litterlouts to dump their litter inside the wall - as it will no longer be there. Mr Ward promised that the works would commence later in the summer. We have been lobbying for these improvements for over seven years so one could say it is a case of persistence paying off.



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