

THE BEAUMONT NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAUMONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MAY | JUNE
2017

DELIVERED FREE TO ALL HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE GREATER BEAUMONT AREA



www.beaumontresidents.ie
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BEAUMONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AGM held on 21st March 2017 in Mercy College Hall at 8.00 pm.

Des Maguire (DM), Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the AGM. DM gave a brief overview of the meeting and read out the Agenda for the meeting.

DM said the minutes of the last AGM were published in the Beaumont News and are taken as read. DM asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes. There were no issues. DM asked for a proposer and seconder for the minutes. Larry O'Connell proposed, Noreen Maher seconded and minutes were adopted by a show of hands.

DM welcomed Noreen Maher (NM) to present her Neighbourhood Watch Report.

"Neighbourhood Watch held an AGM at the Skylon Hotel in October/November 2016. A big discussion took place on the importance of Neighbourhood Watch and the role played between the Community Garda and the N.W. Representative. Twenty-eight representatives covering most of the H District areas were present.

The statistics for crimes committed/solved in the Whitehall Santry, Beaumont Kilmore and surrounding were listed and discussed. These discussions centered largely on burglaries and housebreaking. Sergeant Nolan advised us that the new Garda initiatives in the H District to combat burglaries and housebreaking were working and are; i) Operation "THOR" Targeted and integrated approach to criminals involved in this type of crime. ii) Operation "CREEPER".



Back row L to R: Brian Gibbons, Jo Somerville, Cecilia Roche and Ann Cullen.

Front row L to R: Kevin Lyons, Joan Ennis (treasurer), Des Maguire (chairman), and Mariee O'Dwyer (secretary).

iii) Operation "CROSSOVER". iv) Divisional Task force -Burglary Response Unit. v) Text Alert

Sergeant Nolan advised that 60% of burglaries involved entry via the front door and 3% via front windows. There was advice re type of front doors, mortice locks and the necessity to lock porch doors properly. Gardai John Durr, Martin Lynch and Fran Chaney split the new format for meetings from the end of March 2016 per Sgt. Nolan H District into 3 different areas, which are presently monitored. Each of these areas hold their own separate meetings, which

are shorter and more relevant to its own immediate problems.

The H District Community Policing Unit now consists of only three Gardai whereas originally, it was a squad of ten. So that the Gardai are stretched to cover the entire of "H" District which stretched from Griffith Avenue to Dublin Airport and from Ballymun to Coolock. Unfortunately we lost Sgt. Nolan in December -he was transferred to the Phoenix Park. We are lucky to have a great Garda namely Fran Chaney to take care of Beaumont /Ardmore / Montrose and Kilmore.

BRA New Syndicate Lotto

Beaumont Residents Association is forming a new syndicate lotto from 1st June 2017.



There will be two chances to win each week (lotto and lotto +) with a total weekly spend of €10. All existing BRA Members who have renewed their subscriptions by 31st May and all new BRA Members who have paid their subscriptions by the same date will be eligible to join the BRA new syndicate lotto for free and will be in with a chance to share in the lotto winnings for the following 12 months. Winnings of €20,000 and over will be shared equally among all BRA syndicate members. Winnings of smaller amounts will be lodged to the BRA Bank account. Should BRA win a number of small amounts throughout the year and the sum of all such wins amount to or exceeds €20,000, then the total winnings will be shared among all BRA syndicate members (2017 / 2018) in June 2018 or earlier if deemed appropriate by the BRA Committee. The decision of the BRA Committee is final and binding in all matters in relating to the BRA syndicate lotto. Make sure you receive your BRA Membership card, it is your receipt of payment.

Be sure to renew / pay your subscription before 31st May and be in with a chance to win big money twice a week for the next 52 weeks –and all for free. To assist the BRA Committee in choosing the luckiest numbers, please write your lucky number (one number) on your subscription envelope. BRA Committee will then choose the luckiest numbers from all the numbers we receive. The 6 luckiest numbers will then become the BRA syndicate numbers and the same numbers will be used each week.

If you're not in you can't win and it could be us!

FAMILY SPORTS & FUN SUMMER FEST

SATURDAY, 17TH JUNE 2017 @ 2.00 PM
IN COOLGREENA CLOSE PARK

VARIOUS DISTANCE RACES
TO SUIT ALL AGES

Bar-B-Q • Bouncy Castle • Penalty Shoot-out
Face Painting • Nails Painting • Fire Tender
• Garda Patrol • Free Sweets & Drinks • Discount Shop

TROPHIES, MEDALS
and GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON.

COME ALONG AND MAKE THIS A GREAT
FAMILY DAY OUT!

BRA MEMBERS ONLY
EVENT DEPENDENT ON WEATHER CONDITIONS.

We are also most grateful to the BRA Team for operating a Text Alert communications system.

Always report any suspicious characters, cars, and vans to the Gardai. Better to be sure than to be sorry. Remember you are the eyes and ears of Neighbourhood Watch".

DM thanked Noreen for her report and asked if there were any questions? There were no questions. DM can we have a proposer and seconder for the Neighbourhood Watch Report. Sister Kathleen was the proposer and Angela Lee was the seconder. The report was adopted by a show of hands.

DM welcomed Laura Ennis to present the Secretary's Report.

The first meeting of the 2016 Committee took place on 12th April 2016. The following officers were appointed to the committee: Des Maguire, Chairman. Laura Ennis, Secretary. Joan Ennis, Treasurer.

Cathal Tuffy, Deputy Chairman. Cecilia Roche, Deputy Treasurer.

Thornwood Estate Development was thrust upon the new committee without warning and decisions needed to be taken quickly. There was much disquiet, concern and anger in the community with the lack of communications and miscommunications from Dublin City Council. An EGM was held on 5th April 2016 only one month after the AGM on 8th March. The EGM generated huge interest and the hall was packed to capacity by the numbers attending. It was agreed at the EGM that BRA should challenge the decision to have Thornwood Estate designated 100% for Social Housing. The challenge generated huge amounts of work for our small committee. Each member worked tirelessly on the project from March until August 2016. The committee attended numerous meetings with the various parties including; Professional Planners, Barrister, Tuath and other. Many of these meetings were held during normal working hours, meaning members to take time off work in order to attend. Full details of the Thornwood challenge was published in The BEAUMONT News (July August 2016)

The annual Sports & Fun Day had to be cancelled, due to lack of resources. The committee were fully engaged with the Thornwood challenge....." (report continued on page 3)

DM thanked Laura for her report and asked if there were any questions? There were no questions.

Phillis Redmond proposed and Paddy Kelly seconded and the report was adopted by a show of hands.

DM welcomed Joan Ennis to present the Treasurer's Report.

Joan presented figures for both income and expenditure for the various events during the year. Membership in 2016 remained steady. The BRA P&L showed a significant loss for the year. The loss was directly attributed to the costs associated with the challenge mounted against Thornwood. Had BRA not been involved in the Thornwood debacle, the P&L would show a small profit. Despite the loss, the BRA balance sheet remains healthy and strong.

DM thanked Joan for her report and asked if there were any questions?

Member 1; Did Colmcilles GAA Club receive a fee for the hire of their hall for the Christmas party?

Joan Ennis; no they did not. Member 1; do you know they had an event the night before and used all the gas so they knew there was none left for us. DM we know that now, it is unacceptable that we were left in the cold and it took from the party. Unfortunately we were not made aware of the situation in advance of the party and when we did find out, there was not enough time to replace the canisters. Member 1; they did know. DM yes but we didn't know. DM asked if there were any further questions. There were no more questions.

Ann Cullen proposed, Noreen Maher seconded and the report was adopted by a show of hands.

DM I would like thank our Road Reps as without the help of these people it would be very difficult for the committee to do all the work. The Road Rep's we would like to thank are:

Frank Gurry, Aidan Buckley, Kay Maguire, Martin Culhane, Robert Evans, Lisa Whelan
Freda Parkes, Leah Kelly and Derry Lynch.

I would also like to welcome our new Road Reps, Sarah-Jane Maguire, Ed Monaghan, Paul Dowling and Con Harrington. Is there anyone else that would like to become a Road Rep? There were none.

DM I would like to thank the people who give up their time to help out during the year:

Sam Bolton, Michael Maher (Coco the Clown), Noreen Maher (Fund Raiser), Olivia Bolton (Face painter), Ciara Roche (Nail painter), Robyn Gavin & Jessica McMahon (Santa's Helpers) and Shane Maguire (D J)

DM unfortunately we have four members resigning from the committee this year. Laura Ennis who was our Secretary for 2016 has decided to step down as she has purchased a house outside the area and moving-in shortly. Laura has helped with BRA events for the past 10 years and took up the role as Secretary last year. I would like to thank Laura for all her help over the years and wish her the best in the future.

DM Bernadette Howard has resigned from the committee due to personal reasons. Cathal Tuffy has resigned as he moved to the country last summer and Peter Montague has also resigned. I would like to thank them all for their time on the committee and wish them well.

The remaining outgoing committee members proposed, seconded and reelected; Anne Cullen, Cecilia Roche, Des Maguire, Joan Ennis, Kevin Lyons and Mariee O'Dwyer.

DM as you can all see we have lost four members so we are now struggling with only six committee members, we need more people on the committee. In any event, BRA will continue but we will not be able to do all the things that are required. Are there any additional volunteers? Kevin Lyons I would just like to say in relation to new committee members, if there is anyone that would like to come onto the committee it would be much appreciated. It is only one hour a month for a committee meeting and then helping out at 2 or 3 events during the year. Two people indicated their willingness to join; Jo Somerville (Shanglass Road) and Brian Gibbons (Dromnanane Park). Both were nominated, seconded and deemed elected by a show of hands. DM thanked Jo and Brian and welcomed them to the committee.

DM asked is everyone happy for the subscription to remain at €20? The vote was unanimous in favour of no change and was passed by a show of hands.

DM I would like to thank out supporters who provide us with help and donations throughout the year: Beaumont House, SuperValue, EBS Collins Avenue, Lanigans Funeral Home, Byrne's Butchers and Doherty's Haven Pharmacy. Rosemary Lynch (Principal) for providing the hall this meeting free of charge and to Toby (caretaker) for having the hall set and ready for the meeting. Austin McCoy and Lorcan RA for providing Lorcan Scouts Hall to BRA for the childrens Santa Party each Christmas.

DM is there any other business?

Sister Kathleen; I would like to thank you all for the work that you all do. It is very much appreciated. There are a few new people after moving onto our road and I hope they all join the BRA.

Member 1; I would like to bring up about the traffic problems at the Mace shop. The volume of trucks around the area is ridiculous there is going to be a serious accident soon. As far I am aware there is a weight restriction for trucks in the area. The trucks are pulling up and are blocking the view, you can't

see anything. The shop should have a loading bay for deliveries.

Ann Cullen; BRA was in communications with Dublin City Council about getting a loading bay for Mace but unfortunately the space didn't reach the required specifications.

Member 1; trying to get into my house on Shantalla Drive is a joke. DM there are issues at the junction of Shantalla Road / Drive for some time, that's why we got bollards installed in that area. Member 1; its the speed of vehicles as well that is a factor. DM we will contact Dublin City Council and see what they recommend for a solution. I think many of the cars parked in front of the shops are not real customers, I feel this area is being used as a park and ride facility and thereby adding to the traffic problems. Member 1; cars are not only the issue, it is also the trucks. DM yes but if the cars are parked in the customers area all day, there is little room for the trucks to park and make deliveries. It maybe a good idea to restrict deliveries certain times. DM are there any other issues? None. DM would members be interested in joining a BRA lotto syndicate. BRA had such a syndicate a few years ago and it was a great source of interest for all members and all seemed happy with it. However, we did win any big money and in the era of cut-backs we decided to stop investing in the lotto. Member 2; would it not be a lot of work to collect the money from people? DM it will be done through the subscriptions at no additional cost to Members. Resident 3; it may encourage more people to join BRA. Larry O'Connell; how much will it cost? DM around €10 a week. Member 4; great idea big money in the Euromillions! No harm in trying it for a few months.

Member 5; do you send a text with the numbers? how will you give the money to members if we win? DM we will set a limit so if we win say €50,000 or more the money will be divided equally among the members, any win less than this will go into the BRA kitty. Which lotto do you want to play? Meeting agreed the National Lottery. DM we will keep the same numbers every week.

Ann Cullen proposed a BRA lotto syndicate and Larry O'Connell seconded. A show of hands were unanimous in support of setting up a BRA syndicate lotto and playing twice weekly (Wednesday and Saturday) with a total weekly investment of €10.00.

DM I would just like to mention if any of you have sons, daughters or relatives studying IT or working in IT and interested in helping with our website it would be much appreciated. The individual will gain great experience and will be helping the community at the same time. Services will be supplied on a voluntary basis and the individual will get references when applying for paid jobs. Employers these days are looking for people who do voluntary work with their communities so this will be a great opportunity for a young person trying to gain experience and get on the career ladder. Please ask them to get in touch.

DM we will now hold the raffle. Five winning tickets were drawn from the hat and five prizes were won. DM thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.



Committee of '97 BRA First Committee

20 Years of Change

Beaumont Residents Association celebrates its 20th birthday this year. BRA was born in March 1997 with huge excitement, enthusiasm and expectations and this is evident from the 19 strong members on the first committee. Twenty years on, so much has changed and so little has changed. The committee members of '97 have changed, all have grown older, some grown wiser and some have passed-on and are no longer with us -may they Rest in Peace. The issue which conceived BRA back in 1997; namely Housing, remain an issue for us today. Only last year, BRA Committee was engaged for most of the year with the issue of 100% social housing in Thornwood estate. In 1997, it was the issue of Beaumont Woods housing estate. The common factors and similarities are; both housing deals were conducted under a huge cloak of secrecy. Politicians and Bureaucrats were involved and at the centre of both deals -and total disregard was shown for local democracy and the expressed wishes of the residents of Beaumont. So little has changed! It is therefore, so easy to despair, lose hope and become cynical of everything that is said and done -particularly by Councillors, Politicians, unelected Bureaucrats and others in powerful positions in society. In spite of all this, it is imperative that we try to not lose hope no matter what adversity (perceived or otherwise) confronts us in our work, business or personal lives. Hope is what gets us up in the morning and keeps us going through the day.

BRA has forged a great community here in Beaumont and while there will always be a few detractors; BRA has the overwhelming support of the residents. Crime continues to be very low and Beaumont continues to be one of the safest places in Dublin to live, work and rear a family. We have a diverse community of many nationalities living side by side in harmony. BRA has worked closely with the Gardai over the years to ensure Beaumont is a hostile place for criminals. In recent years the huge reduction in Garda numbers resulting in community Gardai being redeployed to frontline policing, has meant that community Gardai are no longer available to liaise with community leaders, gain intelligence and prevent crime from happening. BRA identified the reduction in community policing as a huge threat to the community and a huge opportunity for criminals. BRA introduced and set up its own 'text alert' scheme which connects each BRA member with the BRA team and in turn communicates with the Gardai. This was the first community alert scheme in Ireland to be operated by the community for the



Standing left to right: Kevin O'Mara, Peter Boylan (RIP), Tom Darby (RIP), Des Maguire, Gerry Hiney, Jean Swan (RIP), Barry Doyle, Lorraine O'Toole, Sean Dooley, Joyce Moore, Richard Phillips (RIP), Joe Bollard and Brian Traynor.

Seated left to right: Carmel McDonald (RIP), Anne Maher, Chris Foy, Noreen Maher, Deirdre Higgins and Irene Molloy. Sadly a number of the committee have died over the years, may they Rest in Peace.

community. This empowers each BRA member to act as a community policeperson. Garda-operated text alert scheme operate fairly widely in other parts of Dublin and across the country. The main differences between BRA text alert system and the Gardai text alert system are; BRA is a two-way communications system, meaning any member can contact the BRA Team at any time and will receive a response within minutes. The Garda system is only a one-way system. BRA text system can and is used not for emergency alerts but also for a host of other messages including; lost/found items, important events and death notices. In addition, BRA has today, a whole suite of communications tools to communicate with its members including; telephone, email, Facebook, website and text. For many of our elderly members, the telephone remains the easiest method of communications –and we have a special helpline number which is manned 24/7. BRA is anxious to develop and expand its email communications system for members. Email is low cost, can be used at anytime from anywhere and large amounts of data can be delivered quickly. It is envisaged that the current hard copy Newsletter (The Beaumont News) will move to soft copy in the not too distant future and be delivered to members via email. At the centre of everything BRA does are the needs and wellbeing of its members –their safety and security was and will continue to be our number one objective. Here's to the next 20 years!

A few facts and statistical comparisons / changes over the last 20 years.

1997:

- Mary McAleese was inaugurated as the eighth President of Ireland
- John Bruton was Taoiseach
- Average industrial wage was €22,500
- OAP (non-contributory) was €4,563 per annum.
- Price of a Pint was €3.00
- Price of a new house in Dublin was €122,600

2017:

- Michael D Higgins is President.
- Enda Kenny is Taoiseach
- Average industrial wage is €37,200
- OAP (non-contributory) is €11,804
- Price of a Pint is €5.00
- Price of a new house in Dublin €405,600
- Ireland's homeless figure has passed 7,000 for the first time.

**Cheers to the next
20 years!**

WELCOME TO BEAUMONT

'Welcome to Beaumont' signage will be erected on the perimeters of Beaumont in the next few months. Thanks to our new friend in Dublin City Council; Catherine Brophy-Walsh. It is planned to erect a sign on Skellys Lane opposite Montrose, on Beaumont Road near Collins Avenue and on Shantalla Road adjacent to the flyover bridge.

Secretary's report continued from page 2

and had no time or resources to plan and run the Sports & Fun Day in 2016.

BRA Christmas Party: The Christmas party was held on 26th November 2016 in

Whitehall Colmcilles GAA Club. There was a very good turnout and the guests appeared to enjoy the food, the band and the dancing. On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to the members who attended the Christmas party for the less than adequate heating in the hall. This unfortunately was a technical issue to do with Colmcilles and was beyond our control. In an effort to further reduce costs, bus transport was not provided and we were delighted to see that the absence of transport had no adverse effect on the number of guests attending.

BRA Santa Party: This was held on Sunday 4th December 2016. Unfortunately, the turnout was very low compared to other years and we have put this down to the low number of children in the age category. There was nail painting, face painting, sweets, drinks, a DJ and presents from Santa for all children. Coco the clown entertained the children with his huge array of games, tricks and competitions. Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this a memorable day for all of the children.

BRA Membership: Membership Fee was increased from €15 to €20 in 2016. There was a slight decrease in membership numbers from 2015. The reduction in membership appears to be due to the number of houses being rented and the considerable numbers of residents who have passing away in the period.



Flower Power holds no currency for Shops on Shantalla Road

In 2015 the footpath in front of the shops on Shantalla Road lower, were repaired and the parking area adjacent was also significantly improved. This work was done by Dublin City Council (DCC) at the request of Beaumont Residents Association. At the same time, DCC erected 4 steel poles with special hooks for the purpose of having two hanging flower baskets from each pole.

According to Catherine Brophy-Walsh, Environmental Liaison Officer with DCC, the poles were installed at the request of the shop-owners. At a subsequent meeting between shop-owners and Dublin City Council, held in the Beaumont House, it was agreed that the shop-owners would take ownership and responsibility for providing the baskets and the flowers –and the ongoing maintenance thereafter. The total cost of providing the baskets and flowers worked out at about €100 for each shop. Dermot Carew, Proprietor of the Beaumont House –a man who surrounds his establishment with an abundance of beautiful flowers and who also attended the aforementioned meeting, offered his advice, assistance and the name of his flowers supplier, to the shops owners.

Time passed and no baskets or flowers appeared on the flower poles. In early 2016 Catherine Brophy-Walsh made contact with the shops to inquire about progress of the hanging baskets. It transpired that only 4 of the shops were interested in installing the hanging baskets and paying their share of the cost of the flowers. Catherine Brophy-Walsh had a number of subsequent meetings with individual shop owners / managers through 2016 to try and encourage buy-in

from the shops for the flowers. It is worth noting the names of the four shops who expressed a willingness and interest in having the flowers installed and they are; Doherty's Haven Pharmacy, Hair Candy, Alec's Takeaway and MACE. The other premises along the same stretch of shops appear to have no interest in making any improvement and no respect for their immediate area and accordingly have no respect for their customers.

Dublin City Council has set a deadline of 31st May for flowers to appear on the poles, after which time the poles will be taken down and erected in an area where they will be appreciated -as they should be. Catherine Brophy-Walsh has spent a lot of time trying to get the flowers baskets initiative some traction with the shop owners. She is now very frustrated by the lack of buy-in from the shops. The attitude and behaviour of the shop owners in this matter is disgraceful and not acceptable. These shop owners are happy to continue taking from the community without putting anything back -they exercise no corporate social responsibility. and some of these shops are big brand names.

Beaumont Residents Association is hereby making a direct plea to the shops / premises who up to now, have refused to get involved and refused to pay their share of the cost of the flowers. We are asking you to take this opportunity play your part in the community, get involved, and show respect for your customers. BRA will not accept anything less. It may be worth noting; BRA Members are your customers.

BRA SUPPORTERS

Local Shops & Businesses which value your Custom

Please support the shops and businesses which support BRA.

Beaumont House.

Off-licence, Pub & Restaurant

P. Byrne & Sons, Butchers.

Family Butchers

Lanigan's Funeral Home.

Funeral Home

SuperValu.

Lorcan Avenue

Doherty's Haven Pharmacy

Kilmardinny Inn.

EBS,

Collins Avenue

Shop local, save local, social local, enjoy local

WANTED

ELECTRICIANS • GARDENERS • HANDYMEN • MECHANICS • PAINTERS • PLUMBERS

BRA is seeking suppliers of the above named Trades for its Members. Tradespeople, residing ideally the Beaumont area (or adjacent areas) who are interested in supplying their services to BRA Members for a fee, are invited to submit their details to BRA. It is hoped that two names for each of the Trades will be selected and placed on an 'approved suppliers list' for BRA Members to choose from. The BRA Team receives frequent inquiries from its Members seeking the names of reputable Tradespeople. This is an ideal opportunity for Tradespeople to supply their services locally and earn additional income for themselves.

NOTE: BRA is not seeking free services. BRA Members will pay reasonable market rates for quality work, carried out by safe and competent Tradespersons. Suppliers will be vetted before being placed on the approved suppliers list.

Interested Tradespersons are invited to send their details to the BRA Team at:

Email: info@beaumontresidents.ie

Text 087 7730000 or **Post** details into a BRA Post Box in the Post Office or a Post Box in Beaumont House (off-licence)

Thanks to Mercy College

Sincere thanks to Mercy College Principal; Rose Mary Lynch for allowing BRA hold its AGMs in the school hall. Ms Lynch is most accommodating and generous and gives the hall for free. Toby, the Caretaker is equally helpful and accommodating, setting up the hall for the meetings and tidying up after.