

THE BEAUMONT NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAUMONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MAY / JUNE
2021

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

E: info@beaumontresidents.ie W: www.beaumontresidents.ie



BRA.Beaumont



@BRABeaumont



Beaumont Drive-in Fruit & Vegetable Market on Beaumont Road.
Existing single 2 storey warehouse and bungalow to be demolished and replaced by 2 blocks of apartments up to 8 storeys in height if the current Planning Application is granted by Dublin City Council.

Beaumont Drive-in

Planning application to develop the above site on Beaumont Road, was lodged with Dublin City Council, Planning department on 12th April 2021. The development consists of 99 apartments in 2 blocks ranging in height from 3 up to 8 storeys and has 40 underground car parking spaces. The 99 units are made up of; 66 1-bed, 30 2-bed and 3 3-bed apartments. All are 'build to let' which means that none are available to buy.

The deadline for submissions of observations was 17th May 2021. Beaumont Residents Association submitted a detailed observation through its Town Planning Consultant, Michael O'Neill. D5+D9 Neighbourhoods Partnership also submitted its observation. BRA is a member of the Partnership, which is an umbrella organisation, formed by Residents Associations, Residents Groups and small Business Groups in Dublin 5 and Dublin 9, to act as their recognised representative body on common issues.

The Partnership represents more than 5,000 homes & businesses and more than 12,500 residents. More than 150 local and not so local residents have submitted individual observations. Councilors, Gilliland, Roe, Batten, O'Toole, Connaghan, Butler, Muir, Heney, Flanagan and MacDonncha, together with TD's, Roisin Shorthall and Sean Haughey, have submitted observations. All observations are asking Dublin City Council to refuse Planning Permission for the development in its current form. It is the clearly expressed, democratic, overwhelming demand of residents and communities in the greater Beaumont, Whitehall, and wider adjacent areas, that this development be refused Planning Permission.

Failure by Dublin City Council Planners to take account of the clearly expressed democratic wishes of so many people, would inflict a devastating blow to democracy, deliver a serious dictatorial rebuke to the will of the people and result in a lessening of respect for authority.

Extracts from the Planning Application documents, "..... the scheme aims to create a focal point within Beaumont while also being driven by best practice urban design principles responding to each of the adjoining street edges....."

Beaumont already has a focal point, we don't want this ugly carbuncle in our face, which if built will never heal, integrate or go away. This towering ugly development has no relationship or empathy whatsoever with adjoining streets or its environment.

"..... developing this site will provide a significant visual + psychological improvement for the current and potential residents....." This may be meant as a joke, but it is a bad joke. The statement is just wishful thinking and is a downright insult to all residents of Beaumont, Ellenfield and beyond.

".... following on from a previous consultation with Dublin City Council Planning Department in September 2020, a maximum building height of 8 continued on page 4

Benefits of Beaumont Residents Association Membership

Communications Network. BRA operates a 24/7 communications system which is second to none. As a BRA member, you are always connected, you are never alone, and you are never without help. BRA communicates via; phone, text, email, messenger, Facebook and twitter.

Helpline. BRA operates a 24/7 phone helpline for members.

Text Alerts. BRA operates a 2-way Text Alert system. Members receive text alerts and members can send text alerts where there is a perceived potential threat or suspicious activity in the vicinity. Text Alerts from Members are responded to within minutes and Gardai are notified.

Text Messages. BRA sends messages to members, warning them of; water outages, power interruptions, etc.

Text Notices. BRA sends notifications to members of; death, upcoming events, etc.

Representation. BRA is a single representative strong voice for its members.

Crime Prevention. BRA is proactive in preventing crime. Members can instantly contact the BRA Team via text or phone to report an incident or suspicious activity in their area.

Community Participation. BRA builds, bonds and connects the community.

BRA Lotto Syndicate. Members have free participation in the twice-weekly National Lottery draws and they share in the winnings.

Community Garden. BRA operates and manages a community garden for its members.

Community Social Events. BRA hosts several free social events annually for members including Christmas parties and Family Sports & Fun Day.

Neighbourhood Watch. BRA operates Neighbourhood Watch in conjunction with Community Gardai. BRA works closely with the Community Gardai to make Beaumont safer for all. BRA is part of the Garda text alert network.

Annual subscription €25.00

All these benefits are FREE to BRA Members

Cool Community Garden

The Cool Community Garden is a new initiative by Beaumont Residents Association, supported by Dublin City Council. Work commenced in Autumn 2020 and is now in its first growing season. The garden is part of Cool Community Green at Coolgreena Close and is managed, maintained, and operated by Beaumont Residents Association (BRA) in conjunction with Dublin City Council (DCC).



The raised beds in Cool Community Garden

Beaumont Residents Association volunteers manage the day-to-day activities in the garden and in the green. DCC provides grant aid to BRA, based on funding applications from BRA and subject to availability of DCC funds. Dublin City Council performs grass cutting services in the whole of the green as required during the growing season.

Councillor Allison Gilliland is a huge supporter of this project and without her it would not have materialised. Cllr Gilliland took a particular interest in our plans at the outset and saw the benefits in what we were trying to achieve, and accordingly, she fought successfully to get funding from the Council to get the project moving. The first phase of the project was complete earlier this year and all the funds were spent. Cllr Gilliland came to our aid once again and has approved more funding which will allow us to proceed with phase 2 of the project.

Cool Community Garden initiative is a non-profit making entity that offers its volunteers a space in which to conduct gardening activities such as growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers. The garden practices organic, biodiversity and sustainable gardening, and is undertaken jointly by all its volunteers. The ethos governing the initiative is that of an open, all-inclusive community garden that will be utilised as a resource for teaching, research, education, training, and community engagement. Cool Garden volunteers have a meitheal approach, and a cooperative ethos, working together in harmony within one overall cohesive plan. Everyone in the garden is equal, regardless of age, gardening skills, nationality, colour, race or religion -and everyone must be treated with respect, courtesy and dignity at all times. The volunteers worked hard over the past few months, constructing wooden frames beds, setting down the frames in the garden and filling the frames with soil to form raised beds (plots) for planting.

BRA members are welcome to participate (as volunteers) and be part of the community project. Volunteers must be aged 18 years or more. BRA membership extends to spouses and children of BRA members. Children are welcome to participate in the garden provided they are accompanied by

a parent or guardian and are appropriately supervised. Rules are in place to ensure that the Cool Community Garden is a safe, inclusive, and an enjoyable experience for all its volunteers and visitors.

The Cool Garden project includes enhancements to the whole green area. Much work has been done on this already. The perimeter path, which was almost completely overgrown was cleared and widened and has made huge positive difference. Designer flower beds along the front of the green has transformed the area into a colourful welcoming place. A large area of 'wildflowers meadow' is sown and we are eagerly looking forward to big bursts of colour as the lush meadow grows and develops over the summer months. A temporary fence is erected around the meadow to protect the seeds and young shoots from being trampled.

The use of the green has increased dramatically since the enhancements were made and this is wonderful to see. Babies in buggies, kids kicking football and elderly with walking aids, all enjoying the newly discovered amenity space -which was there all the time.



The flower beds in Cool Community Garden

BIG THANKS TO:

Councillor Allison Gilliland for believing, supporting, and finding funds for the project. Members First Credit Union for their generous sponsorship deal over the next 3 years. Madeleine Ebbs, DCC for her courtesy, help and guidance. Sharon Harvey, Garden Designer for her creativity and hard work. Our Meitheal of Volunteers for their interest, enthusiasm, time, and community spirit.



Easy ways to Join and Pay your BRA Subscription.

You can pay your BRA annual subscription €25 in any of the following ways:

- Cash or Cheque to: BRA Post Boxes in Beaumont House and in the Post Office.
- Cash or Cheque to: Your local BRA Road Rep.
- On-line Bank transfer to:
IBAN No. IE92 BOFI 90073814614687 BIC: BOFIE2D
- Credit / Debit Card to: 086 0557740
- Revolute to: 086 8575814

If paying via on-line banking, ensure you include your name as payee.

We are Recruiting!

We want more Members, We need more Helpers,
We need more Committee Members,
There is huge work to be done, We have battles to fight,
We need resources to win the war.

Covid Cancellations

Covid 19 has caused the cancellation of almost all social life, social events, and social interaction for more than 14 months. Lockdown, washing hands, working from home, face masks, zoom meetings, talking through windows, frontline workers, the back garden, walking, takeaway pints, the 5k zone, the PUP, the bubble, on-line shopping, click-and-collect, home deliveries, vaccines, and variants were the main conversation topics. Tony Holohan and Luke O'Neill became new icons and household names, their words were listened to intensely and regurgitated by all sections of the media and so it was wall-to-wall Covid 24/7. The highlight of the day was around 6.00 pm when Tony would walk out to a news conference, deliver his gospel for the day and then reveal what everyone was waiting for; the number of Covid 19 new cases for the preceding 24 hours. Almost all domestic radio, tv channels and social media covered Tony's talks. Luke O'Neill was wheeled on to other radio and tv programmes armed with his smiley face, casual dress, and his man-on-the-street language, he would endeavour to explain what Tony had said and he would always find a little chink of light to provide hope for all of us.

BRA has lost members to the Covid and our sincere condolences to all who have lost loved ones during this terrible time. The sadness of the loss, exacerbated by not being able to say a proper 'goodbye' and the restrictions on the number of mourners attending the funerals. Neighbours were great and came out and lined the street to show their respect as the cortege passed - it was all they could do. It has been a long 14 months and there is still a bit to go, people are exhausted mentally and physically but the end line is in sight and so is the starting line for the next normal.

The activities of BRA committee were significantly curtailed. The main BRA activities including AGM 2020, Family Sports & Fun Day 2020, Christmas Party 2020, and AGM 2021 were all cancelled due to the pandemic. The BRA Team worked hard to keep it together, kept in touch with members via text messaging, phone, prayer meetings, and house visits. The BRA Team organised several competitions and quizzes. The 'Easter Cheer' competition, run in 2020 and in 2021, where residents decorated their homes with Easter colours, Easter bunnies, etc, brightened up the neighbourhood, raised community spirits and was a great success. Halloween competition was run along similar lines. Houses were decorated and made to look very spooky and scary. There were lots of entries, and the kids were highly creative. Lots of prizes and goodie bags were delivered to the winners and many runners up. A number of prize quizzes were held during the year and at Christmas time. All these activities were designed to keep connected and to boost community spirit and moral through the darkest days and months.

BRA started a 'community garden' and 'community park' in the autumn of 2020. Funding was obtained from Dublin City Council for the project. Our sincere thanks to Councillor Allison Gilliland for taking a particular interest in the project, believing in it, and for pursuing and assisting our application for funds. The green at Coolgreena Close has been transformed in the last 9 months and is now a real amenity for the community. The perimeter path was widened and cleaned, decorative flowers were planted at the front of the green, and a wildflowers meadow was developed and sown. An area of the green in the north east corner was fenced off to create a community garden. All the work in the garden was done by volunteers. Raised bed frames were constructed and put in place before being filled with soil and seeds and plants sown. A composting system and a rainwater harvesting system is installed in this eco-friendly biodiverse garden. Considerable work, effort and time was spent by the wonderful meitheal of volunteers to get the 'cool community garden' to where it is at right now. This project was well timed, well suited and an antidote to the covid pandemic. There are plans to further enhance the garden and the green and make it an attractive space for all age groups to use and enjoy. It is open to all BRA members to get involved and participate in the community garden; new volunteers would be very welcome.

BRA membership dropped last year for the first drop in many years. We were not able to deliver subscription envelopes and we believe this to be the main factor. This year subscription envelopes will be delivered but again because of Covid the envelopes will not be collected. There are many ways to pay your subscription as listed on the envelope. We would welcome new members; we would welcome returning members and we just love our current members. BRA continues to participate twice weekly in the National Lottery, it could be us! and you could share.



Beaumont Residents Association Committee 2021

Back row L to R: Kevin Lyons (Deputy Chairman), Mariee O'Dwyer, Marie Gaughan (Deputy Secretary).
Front row L to R: Joan Ennis (Treasurer), Brian Gibbons (Secretary), Des Maguire (chairman), and Jo Somerville.

Mary Hopkins and Neil Farrell joined the committee in 2019 and stepped down in 2020. The committee is reducing in numbers while at the same time, the workload is increasing.

DOORSTEP CRIME!...Don't be a Victim



Never entertain unexpected trades persons (or other services) calling to your door and under no circumstance allow them into your home. If you haven't ordered it, don't buy it.' Door steppers' are the biggest threat to our community and particularly to our elderly. Because these guys operate in daylight, in clear view of the public and they do not burgle their way into homes and force the hand-over of money; they are regarded by many as legitimate traders and service providers. They do however, target the elderly and vulnerable (victims), talk their way into homes, insist on starting work that is not ordered or required and then demand extortionate money for unfinished work. Doorstep crime is a huge threat to our community and to our members. We must all make a serious effort to ensure Beaumont is a hostile area for 'door steppers'. Not reporting suspicious activity is facilitating criminals to ply their trade and prey on others -it could be you next time.

WELCOME TO BEAUMONT



Richard Gaughan, Gardener, inspects the 'welcome to Beaumont flower box' which he maintains for BRA. Richard has kindly agreed to continue his sponsorship of the 3 flower boxes for 2021. The sponsorship includes planting and maintaining the flower boxes throughout the year. A resident of Shantalla Park and BRA member, Richard is an experienced, skilled, safe and reliable Gardener -and a person the BRA Team can recommend to its members. Call Richard on: 087 6867689 and he will have your garden looking beautiful in a very short time. Whatever your gardening needs, Richard can help. E: rpgaughan@gmail.com

Front Elevation (from Beaumont Road)



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storeys has been utilised to create a 'Fulcrum Building' at this busy intersection It could be easily interpreted from this statement that Dublin City Council Planners gave the Developer the nod for 8 storeys at a post planning meeting and the Planners are now just playing a game with residents, ticking the boxes, and pretending to take residents and their observations seriously.

".... The design has been developed from analysis and sensitive consideration of the surrounding residential communities to address the challenge of integrating a high density development in an established neighbourhood and by providing a landmark building on a prominent corner position along Beaumont Road" This is another very questionable statement and the immediate residents would justifiably claim the statement is just spin and more fake news. There is no evidence whatsoever, to suggest the design has given any consideration to surrounding residents. Rather it has maximised the development of the site in terms of density and height. We do not want an eyesore high rise landmark building on Beaumont Road, full of transient people, stealing our privacy and blocking our natural light.

The development plans include the demolition of an existing boundary wall

to make way for a new pedestrian access from pedestrian access from Ellenfield, through the site and onto Beaumont Road. This would be disastrous for residents on the quiet, peaceful, and tranquil cul de sac on Ellenfield Road. The road will also become a carpark for the development's residents due to the few car parking spaces in the development. The proposed new access will present a significant security risk as it will create a new lane connecting Ellenfield Road with Beaumont Road. It is widely accepted by Gardai, Councillors and residents alike, that lanes are habitats for gangs and propagate antisocial behaviour, and all that entails. The proposed lane will be no different. BRA has in the past, and with the assistance of Dublin City Council, closed problematic lanes in the area and extinguished rights of way, which achieved the desired positive result.

The invaders have landed in Beaumont, they are well armed with Architects, Engineers, Planners, Bankers, and Political Clout. They have deep pockets bulging with euro virus which could infect and render neutral robust planning defences and vaccines. The vulture raiders are ruthless and relentless in the targeting and pursuit of their prey, they meticulously plan their every move, and they are skilled at subduing threats that get in their way. The first skirmish of the first battle has started in what may be a protracted war. **We don't have Brian Boru to fight off the invaders on this occasion, but we do have BRA.**

Member First Credit Union proudly supports the Beaumont Residents Association

When you borrow and save with us, you're funding our support of a variety of local community initiatives.

Thank you!



It's about being a good neighbour



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WANTED!

TRADES PEOPLE * HANDYMAN * SERVICE PROVIDERS * PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BRA is seeking tradespeople, service providers and professionals for its Members. Individuals and businesses residing/operating in Beaumont (or adjacent areas) and who are interested in providing their services to BRA Members for small / medium domestic jobs / projects are invited to register their service offering with BRA and they will be placed on an approved list of service providers, following appropriate vetting.

Please email: info@beaumontresidents.ie and tell us about your service.

E: info@beaumontresidents.ie W: www.beaumontresidents.ie