

Newsletter of the Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association

Autumn 2025

Joan McArthur with baby Wren Hadfield - Capturing the spirit of SAMRA. Oldest and youngest committee members!

UPDATES

- Village Ideas
- Flood defences
- Community Centre
- Glass bottle Development
- Sustainable Energy
- Sean Moore Awards
- Beach Pollution
- Join us!



SAMRA



Sandymount & Merrion
Residents Association

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Village Ideas starts to take shape



The essence of the Village Ideas project presented at SAMRA's AGM in April 2025 is to unlock the village's enormous potential and further develop its relationship with Dublin Bay.

The project was initiated by SAMRA in 2023 and designed by world renowned Grafton Architects, with funding from Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee.

Collectively the Village Ideas Project wonderfully illustrates an integrated holistic plan of ideas for a series of projects to improve the public realm right across the village. The ideas are intended to achieve this through the enhancement of the physical appearance, functionality and experience of the village and its links to the bay. The theme of Traffic Calming is central to these ideas, identified by surveys to be a top priority which will most effectively contribute to the safety and quality of life for the residents and visitors.

In the heart of the village the main theme of the ideas is to re-pave sections of the roads and footpaths to create traffic calming, improve pedestrian navigability, improve the amenity of the village centre, and introduce more aesthetically pleasing surfaces, using granite paving materials of various shapes and sizes. The ideas also include the provision of additional public amenity spaces around the village and at the bay, improved landscaping, and accessories such as lighting, bins and drainage covers.

SAMRA has actively engaged with the leadership team at Dublin City Council since 2024, and we are delighted to say that the team has welcomed the Village Ideas initiative and have started working to advance the first project

This will involve the re-design of the northeast side of Sandymount Green, to re-pave the footpaths and road surfacing and to improve soft landscaping, to provide traffic calming and a much more attractive streetscape, for both its use as a throughway with parking, as well as a pedestrianised zone during summer weekends.

Continued on next page....

Village Ideas starts to take shape continued....

There are many steps to making the project a reality such as a Non-Statutory Public Consultation, detailed design, planning permission, tendering, issuing the contract and then installing the various enhancements. This will take some time, but we are grateful to Dublin City Council for its commitment to advancing this first project and further public realm improvement projects identified by Grafton Architects, on a phased basis in the years ahead.

In tandem Dublin City Council is developing a parking strategy for the village and completing a traffic study. It is also examining options to improve wayfinding in the area.

The Village Ideas Project also identified a number of smaller projects, called *Small Moves, Big Impact* projects, to improve Sandymount's public realm. These include providing story boards at various locations with information on subjects such as local heritage, literary and ecological assets.

Other projects involve the provision of improved public seating, signage, and more landscaping. In the Sandymount Green, proposals include providing new seating, including along the two walls of the substation, and additional bins.

SAMRA is pursuing funding from various sources for these projects, including through local Councillors. Ultimately, these small projects would be implemented by DCC.

Village Ideas Community Engagement Programme

SAMRA is planning a large-scale community engagement programme around the Village Ideas project which will include a public event and will have a facility for the whole community to engage and provide feedback.

We are waiting for grant approval from the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee for this and will notify the community when it's ready to go live.

Flood Insurance – Help needed

Draft proformas have been created for an on-line survey of Sandymount residents, to gather hard data necessary to further our conversation with our senior public representatives regarding the difficulty in securing cost-effective flood insurance.

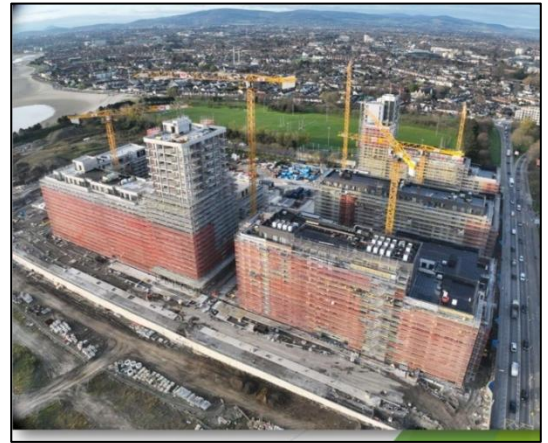
This is a big issue for the area but also a national issue, that needs government engagement. If you have expertise in this area and could help, please get in contact with us. It is intended that this will be developed for re-engagement with the insurance companies and government. samracommittee@gmail.com

The survey will be on-line, and your support is needed.

Glass Bottle Consultation Forum

Developer Lioncor is forging ahead with some 570 apartments in Phase 1 of the Glass Bottle Development due to be available for occupation in Dec/Jan. A further 324 apartments will be completed in Phase 1B by mid-2026. Phase 2 (500 apartments) will begin construction in mid-2026.

The offices element of the commercial space, which is mainly located along South Bank Rd, will be developed by the Ronan Group as the Dublin office market recovers.



We understand that a hotel is in Planning and that the Ronan Group is examining the possibility of incorporating a hospital in the development.

The main issues brought up at the Forum, again, on behalf of SAMRA were:

1. Luas to the site. At the May meeting of the Consultation Forum SAMRA, requested a clear understanding of the timeline for the Luas extension to serve the development. Brian Hanney, who is Dublin City Council's Area Manager for the South East Inner City and Pembroke area, tabled a reply to this request from the Minister for Transport's office. Incredibly, the provision of the Luas is seen as "*one of the longer-term proposals in the National Transport Authority's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, for delivery from 2037-2042*".

SAMRA along with both the Councillors and the other local area reps expressed great dissatisfaction with this timeline. The Councillors and the developer are to pursue the matter, but we won't hold our breath. At least the Dodder Bridge, which will link the site directly to the south quays, is due to be in place by 2029. It will be a public transport/taxi/cycling and pedestrian bridge only, i.e. no private cars.

2. Study/audit of services and facilities. At the previous meeting SAMRA asked to be provided with a list of services and facilities to be provided in the development, and the possible requirements for the surrounding areas. This request was discussed in more during the May meeting. The other local representatives and the Councillors also agreed that it should be done, and Dublin City Council is to consider it. Of particular concern is the current pressure on GP services in the area for those with GP Services Cards and the possibility of further pressure on those limited services from the development. At the other end of the scale, there is only one space designated in the development for a pub, to serve a town akin to the size of Kildare town.

3. Sean Moore Rd/ Beach Rd junction. Also at the previous meeting, SAMRA requested that a left turning filter light be provided at this junction, to allow more time for traffic turning left off the road onto Beach Rd, while also allowing traffic heading for the East Link from Beach Rd to do so at the same time.

Locals say that there are long tailbacks in each direction, and the filter light could help alleviate this. DCC are to further consider this request.



Pedestrianisation of Green cut short

2025 was the 5th year of pedestrianisation of the north east side of Sandymount Green, which is enjoyed enormously by the community. It is facilitated by Dublin City Council and this year it ran from May to the end of August.

It was expected that it would run to the end of September as in the previous 4 years and as per street sign-posting (*see photo above*) but was unexpectedly closed on 30th August by Dublin City Council following representations by 4 people.

SAMRA and the Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association (STTCA) jointly made a representation on behalf of the thousands of residents to reinstate it - but to no avail.

To measure if this support for the initiative is holding up, SAMRA and STTCA petitioned the views of residents (visitors were excluded) who were congregating around Sandymount Green on Sunday 24th August during the dog show. There were 9 canvassers who attended the area for 90 minutes. The views of 242 individuals were requested. Of these 2 expressed opposing views to pedestrianisation and extending it to September; one was a trader who did not give a reason, and one was a resident who was opposed to the loss of parking.

240 petition signatures were collected supporting keeping the pedestrianisation at weekend until the end of September.

If we had more time available, we are confident we could have captured the views of twice as many residents and the numbers in favour would have been the same.

As significant as these signatures are, what they do not capture is the extraordinary levels of enthusiasm for pedestrianisation and its extension until September expressed by survey participants.

SAMRA has since requested the issue be debated by Pembroke Councillors in the near future, with the purpose of understanding the decision-making mechanism and giving certainty to the 2026 pedestrianisation programme, which is needed by traders and organisers alike.

We hope normal service will resume in 2026.

Work on Sandymount Flood Defences Progressing

Dublin City Council and the appointed design consultants, Jacobs, are progressing with the preliminary design of the proposed Flood Defences along the seafront. This work includes various surveys, sea level and wave modeling. Progress is roughly on programme for the generation of preliminary options for the defences scheme by mid-2026.

A meeting was facilitated by Minister Jim O'Callaghan to discuss the issues surrounding the Flood Defences Project and Cycle Way routing.

Kevin "Boxer" Moran who is Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation and Minister O'Callaghan, and Deputy Ivana Bacik took part in active debate.



David Turner, Deputy Ivana Bacik, Minister Kevin Boxer Moran, Audrey Hanley and Minister Jim O'Callaghan.

Also in attendance were Gerry O'Connell, Dublin City Council Flood Defence Engineer, an executive from Jacobs, Dublin City Council Officials, and from SAMRA, Dave Turner and Audrey Hanley. The meeting was also attended by members of the Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association.

Gerry O'Connell said options would be developed by Q2 2026, around which decisions could then be made. The Minister said that the objective of achieving the Flood Defence was priority #1 but that it would be worked at each decision point of accommodating a Cycle Route. However, the Flood Defence project could not be put at risk of delays by combining the two as a single scope. This optimisation will only become clear as the options become developed. The meeting was constructive and positive with a pledged desire to work this forward together.

Some of the amazing Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association volunteers keeping the village neat and tidy.

Thank you!



Sandymount and Merrion Beach - deliberate pollution by Uisce Eireann

Once again we have gone through a summer with a beach swimming ban on what was once a Blue Flag beach.

Sandymount and Merrion are in the bottom two worst performing beaches across Ireland.

The St Alban's outlet, which Uisce Eireann owns, typically discharges raw sewage once per month and is a major contributor to this pollution. It also produces toxic hazardous conditions on the beach when ponding occurs.

Signage and clean-up are the two actions that are a first step to addressing the immediate issues in this area of major pollution.

We have made numerous representations to the state bodies responsible for the pollution (Uisce Eireann) and the pollution regulator (the Environmental Protection Agency) but clearly, they just do not care to address this serious pumping of sewage onto a beach of a protected Biosphere.

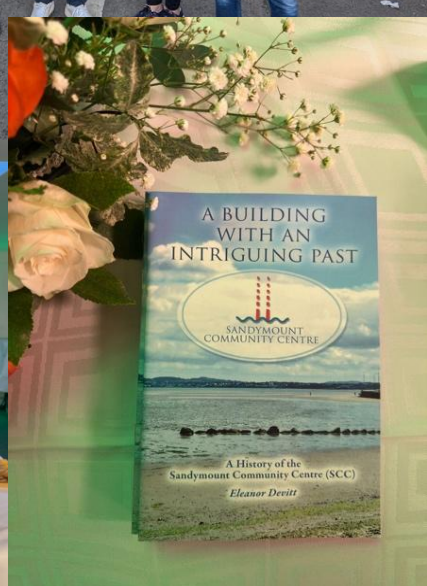
We have sent out personal letters to every public representative. We intend to escalate this and if anyone wishes to get involved with SAMRA's continuing work in this area - please get in touch.

Here is Deputy Eoin Haye's Instagram post highlighting the issue on Sandymount Strand. He is also following up with the Minister for Environment to request prioritising these works.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DPofY3MjUtH/?igsh=MTN5NnFsNWExcDRudw=>
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Sandymount Community Centre



Sandymount Community Centre is thriving

sandymountcommunitycentre.ie

A Season of Community at Sandymount Community Centre

Since the Summer Party, the Centre has been steadily active - welcoming familiar and new faces and providing programmes that support families and older residents alike.



In June, we marked Bloomsday with a thoughtfully curated evening of themed discussions, music and song, accompanied by light refreshments. The occasion offered a calm, sociable setting for neighbours to connect around a shared cultural moment.

July focused on practical support. With the assistance of guest experts from Google and local student volunteers, our Digital Drop-In Summer Camp provided adults - particularly older attendees - with one-to-one guidance. From troubleshooting phones and tablets to building everyday digital skills, participants reported increased confidence and reduced stress in using their devices.

August featured the Redwood Art School Exhibition, during which our halls were presented as an accessible gallery for a weekend. Visitors were invited to explore work from emerging talent and engage with creativity within a welcoming community setting.

Also in August, SCC hosted a stand on the Green to meet residents, share information about ongoing activities, and encourage wider participation. The outreach proved effective in starting conversations, gathering feedback, and highlighting available programmes for all ages.

September brought a notable milestone with the launch of Eleanor Devitt's book on the history of our Centre building, "A Building with an Interesting Past." Held on Friday, 26 September, the event included an author presentation, live harp music, and opportunities for guests to purchase a copy and speak with Ms Devitt.

We concluded the period with Positive Ageing Week (29 September–3 October), delivering a structured programme that included an opening event, a "Challenging Ageism" workshop, a Home from Home "Out and About" visit to Russborough House & Park, a cultural evening, and additional activities from the Centre's schedule. The week underscored inclusion, wellbeing, and lifelong learning as core values at SCC. Thank you to all who attended, supported, or contributed to these initiatives. We look forward to continuing to serve the community in the months ahead.

Sandymount & Merrion Sustainable Energy Community secures SEAI grant approval for €25,000

Sandymount and Merrion Sustainable Energy Community (SAMSEC) was established in 2024. Its aims are to reduce carbon emissions in an area, to help tackle Climate Breakdown and to help residents, local sports clubs, schools etc and businesses to reduce their need for energy and lower their energy bills.

SAMSEC has received SEAI grant approval for €25,000 (incl VAT) to commission an Energy Management Plan (EMP) for Sandymount. The Steering Committee, with generous help from our SEAI mentor, Gerard Doherty, has also just filled in the Request for Quotation, to choose our EMP consultant.

The EMP will consist of an Audit, partly estimated, partly measured, of all energy used in Sandymount, together with a 'Register of Opportunities' of ways to reduce our collective carbon footprint and energy use, reduce bills and become more sustainable. The main focus will be on retrofitting.

As well as specifying, in the RFQ, what we want from Sandymount's EMP, the Committee gets to choose 32 homes and other buildings who will receive cut-price or free energy audits. We will choose these participants as representative of various construction types, to build a picture of how to make most Sandymount homes energy-efficient.

For the domestic sector, we asked for 6 home BER Ratings including a menu of options for retrofitting, 10 Home Energy Assessments (HEAs), and 6 Heat Pump Technical Assessments. HEAs are normally carried out by a 'One Stop Shop' as a first step in improving the home's BER to a B2, and would cost about €700 of which a grant pays half. Interestingly, 'traditional'-style houses, ie. solid redbrick/period homes, need not reach B2. The Heat Pump Assessments are for homeowners wanting to change to a heat pump in homes that are well insulated, to check that they satisfy SEAI grant heat-loss specifications.

For the non-domestic sector, we asked for 10 Energy Audits. But so far we only have 2 applicants, - a sports club and a place of worship. There will be no charge as long as the premises has an energy bill of €10,000 p.a. or more.

We will ask for a financial contribution so that participants might be engaged and interested in retrofits. We will charge €150 for a HEA (normally €350 with the grant) and €100 for the other assessments (normally about €320). SAMSEC will use monies raised for community engagement. There is no obligation, other than that the Energy Audit results will be published in the normal way.

If you are considering any home energy upgrade, and would like to be a participant in our Energy Management Plan for a (cut-price) sample home energy audit, email: samsec@sandymountcommunitycentre



JOIN US

We would really appreciate if you could join SAMRA. Membership has continuously increased and the more members we have the more diverse and stronger our voice can be.

Please share this newsletter edition with neighbours.

Greater membership will greatly help our very active lobbying activities directed at local and national decision makers. These include Dublin City Council executives and committees, and local Councillors, TDs and Ministers.

If they know we represent the interests of the majority of residents, they are more likely to advocate on the issues we raise on your behalf.

We will continue to keep you up to date on issues we are working on, on your behalf.

You can sign up here by choosing the plan that suits you best at [SAMRA.ie](https://samra.ie)

SAMRA.ie

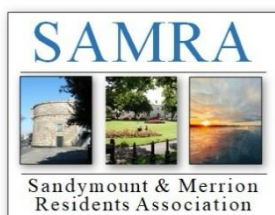
SAMRA Committee:

Committee and Officers 2024-25

Chair: David Turner; **Treasurer:** Patrick Smyth; **Planning & Developments:** Niall McElroy. **Membership Secretary:** Tom Hill

Committee Members: Joan McArthur, Irene Duffy Lynch, Kristin Hadfield, Jeremy Humphries, Jessica Ryan, Karl Anderson, Claire Wheeler, Nick Seymour; Ciáran Arthur, Audrey Hanley

SAMRA is delighted to work very closely with Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association and Sandymount Community Centre to enhance and enrich the community



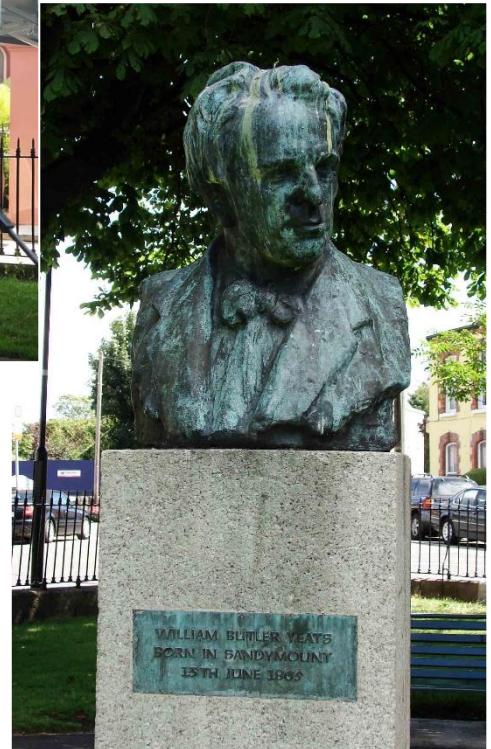
Yeats Day on the Green

This year's Yeats Day on the Green on 13th June was notable for the reading of some new to be read poems such as 'In Memory of Major Robert Gregory' and for some new readers.

We were honoured that Lord Mayor Emma Blain read the first poem and remained for the full programme.

We welcomed participation by the Sikh community who were ably represented by Anhad((10) and Gurey (7). All of our readers, and there were more than 25, ensured that the audience was treated to a wealth of Yeats's best work'

You may recognise some in the group photograph below of those who read such as Emma Blain, Bryan Dobson, Ivana Bacik, James Geoghegan, Marie Heaney, Eoin Hayes, Barry McGovern. Others who read but aren't in the photo included Ambassador Gerasko of Ukraine, Peter Coonan and Dermot Lacey.



Sean Moore Community Awards 2025

Working with our sponsor, the Aviva Stadium, and our media partner News Four, we are delighted to confirm that the Sean Moore Community Awards – first established during the 1988 Dublin Millennium – will again be presented by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Ray Mc Adam on the 10th November 2025 at 8.00pm

The awards for “exceptional community service” were inaugurated to honour the memory of the late Sean Moore, former Dáil Deputy, Minister of State and Lord Mayor of Dublin, who represented the area with distinction for so long.

The awards are open to any person, or organisation, who have made an exceptional contribution to the Community. It is adjudicated on by an independent panel of judges and will be presented at an Awards evening in Clanna Gael Fontenoy's on the 10th November

We invite you or your organisation to consider putting forward a nomination outlining the reasons why your nominee should receive an award. There will be a number of awards presented.

As always, we do not want to limit the criteria involved and therefore do not set a prescriptive account as to why somebody should be nominated. It could be a good neighbour, a long-serving youth, community, or residents' association leader. The person can be young or old, man or woman. You, the community, determine that.

Please send your nominees to the following no later than Friday 24th October at 5.00pm

The Chairperson,
Panel of Judges, Sean Moore Community Awards,
c/o NewsFour,
[13A Fitzwilliam Street,](#)
[Ringsend,](#)
[Dublin](#) 4.

Dermot Lacey - Secretary