

# Glounthaune COMMUNITY NEWS

May / June  
2021

## DRAFT CORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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**F**ollowing consideration of public submissions and careful consideration by our local councillors, Cork County Council have published the Draft Cork County Development Plan and it is now available for the public to read and make submissions.

The plan documents are available at [www.corkcoco.ie/en/cork-county-development-plan-2022-2028](http://www.corkcoco.ie/en/cork-county-development-plan-2022-2028). Cork County Council have also opened a virtual consultation display available online at: [www.innovision.ie/cork-cdp](http://www.innovision.ie/cork-cdp)

### GENERAL POLICY

The Development Plan lays out the direction of development in Cork County for the period 2022 to 2028. The core strategy sets out the locations where housing development will be focused. According to the plan, 50% of housing growth will occur in the county close to Cork City with Carrigaline, Midleton, Carrigtwohill and Cobh set for substantial growth.

### GLOUNTHAUNE

Volume 4, South Cork, includes the Glounthaune draft local area plan. The proposal set out for Glounthaune is: *'The vision for Glounthaune to 2028 is to secure an increase in the population of the settlement, balancing the maximisation of the sustainable transport benefit offered by the railway station, with development appropriate to the character, setting and scale of the village, in conjunction with a significant enhancement of local services and community facilities, and to strengthen infrastructure provision.'*

The plan recognises the recent growth in Glounthaune and that this has given rise to an increased need for community facility provision and suggests the following: *'The village needs additional community facilities to include a playing pitch, tennis/basketball court and community/sports hall'*.

It calls for new development to take place close to the train station and that any developments provide pedestrian and cycle permeability and connectivity to the rail station and provide high quality public realm. Public realm can be defined as spaces that can be freely accessed by the public.

In addition, the Dry Bridge and the Old National School (community centre) are now on the list of proposed protected structures.

Have a read of the 5 pages that plan the future of Glounthaune (p163 -p167 Volume4) and make a submission with your views, if you agree, disagree or have other ideas!

Submissions can be made online, [www.yourcouncil.ie](http://www.yourcouncil.ie) or by post to: **Senior Planner, Planning Policy Unit, Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork. T12 R2 NC**

Deadline: Thursday 1st July 2021.

Glounthaune Sustainable Development Committee would like to thank our local representatives: Cllr. Anthony Barry, Cllr. Alan O'Connor, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan and Padraig O'Sullivan T.D. for their great assistance.

### ASHBOURNE HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT

The owners of Ashbourne House have applied to Cork County Council for permission to redevelop Ashbourne House and Gardens. The plans will be available on Cork County Councils planning website on [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie)

The redevelopment will see the construction of 8 detached houses, the conversion of Ashbourne House into apartments and 7 apartment blocks ranging from 2 to 4 storeys with 86 apartments. The redevelopment will change the centre of Glounthaune.

The House and Gardens hold a much loved position in Glounthaune's recent past. During its time as a hotel operated by the Garde Family, it was the social heart of the village, with a popular bar and function room. As well as the historic gardens, there were two tennis courts which hosted a tennis club and lessons; and an outdoor swimming pool which provided summer excitement for all the local children. We are certain there will be a lot of different opinions on the proposal.

Glounthaune Sustainable Development committee have previously highlighted that the redevelopment of Ashbourne House has the potential to make a significant contribution to the integrated development of Glounthaune, function as a focal point for the village and a meeting place for the community. Accordingly, GSD will make a submission on this current proposal.

Any observations regarding this planning proposal can be sent before May 27th to:  
The Secretary, Planning Department, Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork

Quote the Planning reference number 21/5072, and include the fee of €20.

Glounthaune seems to be the epicentre of housing in Cork County, this application brings the number of live planning applications to 504 dwellings (232 houses and 272 apartments), including two proposed Strategic housing developments.

Construction continues on the final phases of Harpers Creek.

*Contributed by Glounthaune Sustainable Development Group*

## NOTICE OF THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Glounthaune Community Association (GCA) will take place on **Wednesday 26th May at 7.30pm via Zoom**.

For the first time ever, our AGM will take place using the Zoom Meetings platform. This may not be everyone's favourite medium at this stage, but it does offer the benefit of checking in with the activities of the GCA from the comfort of your own home and without needing to book a babysitter!

### AN INVITATION TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

We have received a number of requests recently to attend our monthly meetings, however these are closed to Committee members only. So, this is your opportunity to find out what we do, and how you can get involved. You don't have to make a huge commitment. Meetings are held monthly, via Zoom at the moment, and are kept to a maximum of one hour in duration. New members can bring fresh ideas and energy and are very much welcomed.

If you would like to attend the meeting email [admin@glounthaune.ie](mailto:admin@glounthaune.ie) with the subject 'AGM' and we will send you invitation to join in.



### COLM BURKE TD

Cork North Central

I am contactable by email and phone should you require assistance (see contact details below).

Stay safe and follow the public health guidelines.

*Colm Burke*

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## ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2021



Here are some photos from our Covid-Friendly St. Patrick's Day Driving Parade. It was a beautiful, sunny day in Glounthaune. The people of our Community came outside their houses and waved their flags at the passing parade of vintage cars, tractors, and families in their own cars. Thanks to Fitzpatricks and Ballymaloe Foods there were treats and sweets to throw out to everyone along the way. And there were lots and lots of smiling faces. A much needed boost after three solid months of level 5 lockdown. Many have said that this was the best St. Patrick's Day parade ever! What do you think?





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## BEE SWARMS - WHAT TO DO

Bees are renowned for their role in providing high-quality food (honey, royal jelly and pollen) and other products used in healthcare and other sectors (beeswax, propolis, honey bee venom). But the work of bees entails much more!

The greatest contribution of bees and other pollinators is the pollination of nearly three quarters of the plants that produce 90% of the world's food. A third of the world's food production depends on bees, i.e. every third spoonful of food depends on pollination.

In short, we need the bees! Swarming is a natural process by which bees grow their hives. As a hive gets too crowded, the queen bee will leave with approximately 40% of the hive, leaving the remaining bees behind to raise a new queen and continue on. Swarming in Ireland typically occurs in May and June, though swarms can also be seen later into the summer. The swarms can appear in a variety of places - in bins, under car wheel arches, trees, gable ends of houses - anywhere they feel safe enough.

The Swarm can be saved and housed in a new hive, and this will allow a new hive to form.

If you see a swarm, please do not worry. Please look up <https://swarms.ie> to get the name of a trained beekeeper who will come and rescue the swarm.

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We are lucky to have a local resident Mauro, who is dedicated to saving the bees. He has an Instagram page [@buzzofnatureofficial](https://www.instagram.com/buzzofnatureofficial) where you can see him in action with the bees (sometimes without any suit!!), and has other bee and honey related products.

Additionally, there is always a need to put these new hives somewhere, so if you have a bit of space, why not consider have a hive relocated to your garden, or field. The beekeeper will tend to them, and in return for providing the space, you'll get a few jars of honey. A win-win.

So remember - save a swarm, save the bees, save the planet.

Contributed by Richard Cuddy

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## GARDEN BUTTERFLY MONITORING



**W**ould you like to record the butterflies in your garden and help to conserve Ireland's butterflies? If so, please sign up to the new Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme co-ordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. To participate you must first register your garden. See here for more information <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/monitoring-scheme-initiatives/butterfly-monitoring-scheme/get-involved/garden-butterfly-monitoring/>

### PLEDGE YOUR GARDEN FOR POLLINATORS

The National Biodiversity Data Centre, with support and funding from the Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officers, are asking you to Pledge your Garden for Pollinators. They have produced a brochure to help explain what you can do in your garden. If you would like a copy of this leaflet email [corkheritage@corkcoco.ie](mailto:corkheritage@corkcoco.ie) or to download a copy go to <https://pollinators.ie/gardens>.

So many homeowners are beginning to see their gardens in a new light. They want to make their gardens more wildlife-friendly and contribute small patches of pollinator-friendly habitats to our landscape. In order to celebrate this, and to encourage more gardeners to follow suit, we are asking you to 'pledge your garden for pollinators', so that we can track the creation of these pollinator-friendly pits stops dotted across the island.

To help with this, a four-page brochure has been produced to help to explain this concept. This brochure explains how anyone can make any garden - big or small - more pollinator-friendly. By taking simple steps in your garden, you will help to provide much-needed food and shelter for our pollinating insects, while at the same time creating a beautiful, colourful garden for you and your family to enjoy.

*Contributed by Conor O'Brien*

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## THE LEGAL PROCESS OF DIVORCE



**F**rom my experience as a lawyer, I know that there is a good way and a bad way to divorce. How you approach it at the outset will determine how it will end. It will determine how well you survive it and how good your relationships with all (including children and extended family) will be post-divorce.

If you find that you are in a situation that you think your marriage has irretrievably broken down and that counselling won't heal the cracks you should consult a solicitor to take advice about what the likely outcome will be for you. Each case is different when the needs of each spouse, children and financial considerations are taken into account.

No rash decisions should be made and you should leave yourself plenty of time for planning and preparation. During this pandemic most of us are feeling more isolated than normal, the scaffolding of family and friends collapsed immeasurably. Hopefully we are seeing a way out of this.

Online counselling, while not ideal, is still available. Mediation should be considered and a solicitor will advise in this regard. If mediation is a consideration, it is advisable to take legal advice before and/or during the process.

In 2019, by an overwhelming majority, Irish people voted by referendum in favour of reform of our divorce laws and the period of living separate and apart is now two out of the previous three years. It is possible to

be living separate and apart while living under the same roof.

We do need specialised family courts as family law cases have unique characteristics and the couple will need to maintain a relationship where there are children and ongoing family responsibilities that need to be shared. Parenting is not easy in the best of times and couples may need to learn new skills in parenting as a separated couple.

Thankfully, reform efforts are underway. The recent publication of the General Scheme of the Family Court Bill by the Department of Justice is the start of an important reform process that will hopefully lead to the establishment of dedicated family courts. Though this proposal is only at the start of the legislative process, it demonstrates a clear appreciation of the challenges that exist and a desire to make a change.

The need for a dedicated family court, in a purpose-built setting is crucial. Divorces, separation, custody battles – these can all take a huge emotional and financial toll on everyone and are all the more difficult when children are involved.



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People feel unable to progress personally and move on with their lives until the distressing family law case hanging over their heads is resolved.

Family law cases are currently held primarily in either the District Court or the Circuit Court, depending on the issues involved.

The Government has positive plans afoot in relation to new dedicated family courts. In the interim, family law matters on consent and interim applications are being heard remotely or in person, with the courts giving time slots for groups of cases. With

widespread vaccination underway we would hope that by the autumn it will be business as usual.

It must also be borne in mind that not all cases are contested before a judge with many cases being negotiated between legal teams and the divorcing couple and only coming to court to be ruled. A negotiated settlement, when possible, may help to preserve relationships and give the parties involved an outcome that helps them to move to the next phase of their lives.

*Contributed by Teresa O'Sullivan,  
Douglas Law*



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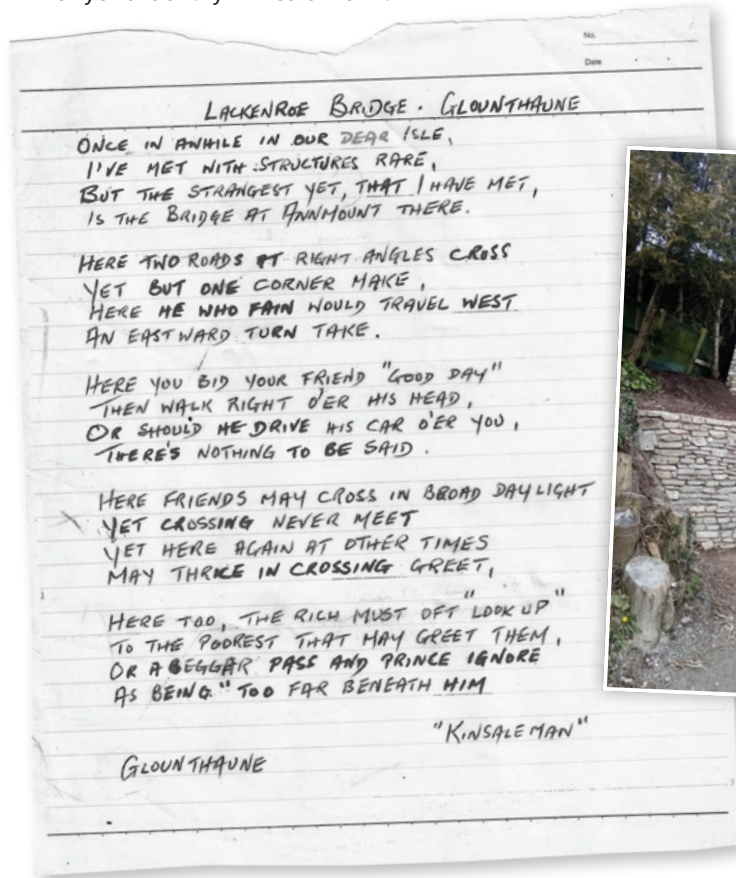
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## DRY BRIDGE POEM AND KINSALE MAN

This poem was handed in to the GCA office after being found while clearing an attic. Can anyone identify "Kinsale Man"?



## EASTER BUNNY SPREADS SMILES IN GLOUNTHUAUNE

The Easter Bunny, Mr. Hoppy, was working in Flower Power Florist for Easter weekend and decided to surprise the kids in Glounthaune Village Playground on Easter Saturday with a few sweet treats!



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### LITTLE ISLAND INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, L.I.D.C.

Formed in 1991, the Little Island Development Committee provides monetary support in the areas of community, sports, clubs, infrastructure and education, which benefit the communities of Little Island and Glounthaune. LIIDC has supported a variety of projects including, St. Vincent De Paul, St. Lappan's Conference, Enable Ireland Cork Adult Services, Eastgate, Foodcloud, Leaside FC, Erins Own H&F Club, Little Island Scouts, Little Island & Glounthaune primary School, Meals on Wheels, Glounthaune playground and St. Lappan's Church are some examples.

The committee members are volunteers from the member companies, which comprise of:

- Cara Partners
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- Liam A Barry
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- FMC

Each company donates an annual contribution to a fund which is then awarded to support a variety of projects within a 12 month period.

#### THE LIIDC OBJECTIVES ARE:

To provide Financial Support for projects and schemes of a developmental or recreational nature which benefit the local community.

To provide a Forum for communication between the local community and Industrial and Business interests.





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## DEMYSTIFYING SUNCREAMS AND SUN PROTECTION

### *Suncare is the new skincare*

We are exposed to the sun's rays anytime we are outdoors or near a window, including traveling in our cars. Sun protection of our skin is very important.

### UVA AND UVB

The sun emits UVA and UVB rays. Generally speaking we can consider the UVA rays as the

aging rays and UVB rays as the burning rays. UVA rays go deeper into the skin and are the cause of the signs of premature aging including wrinkles and loss of skin elasticity. UVB rays cause the skin to burn and blister. Unprotected exposure to both UVA and UVB rays may cause damage to the skin which leads to skin cancer. The good news is that we can help protect ourselves from burning, aging and more importantly the risk of skin cancer by using sun protection

### UV INDEX

The UV Index is a measure of the intensity of the sun's rays. At a level of 3 or above sun protection is required. The Irish Skin Foundation recommends that we use sunscreen daily from April to September.

### SPF

SPF stands for Sun Protection Factor. The number tells you how long the sun's UVB rays would take to redden your skin when using it compared to the length of time it would take for it to burn without sunscreen. For example, it would take you 30 times longer to burn your skin while wearing a sunscreen with SPF30 than it would without any sunscreen.

### BROAD SPECTRUM SUNSCREEN

Early sunscreens only protected from UVB rays, hence SPF referring to UVB protection. This was before the danger of UVA rays was understood. So look for a sunscreen that is broad spectrum and protects against both UVA and UVB rays

### PHYSICAL/MINERAL SUNSCREENS AND CHEMICAL SUNSCREENS

There are two types of sunscreens.

**Chemical sunscreens** once they have been absorbed into the skin, convert the sun's UV rays into heat and then release that heat from the skin. They may cause irritation in children and sensitive skin. They are usually thin in texture and spread easily

**Physical or mineral sunscreens** sit on top of the skin and deflect and scatter the UV rays. They are considered safer. They may feel heavy and leave a film on the skin and may rub off or sweat off more easily.

Some sunscreen products contain both types of ingredients.

### HOW TO USE SUNSCREEN

Choose a broad spectrum sunscreen that protects from both UVA and UVB rays. The Irish Skin Foundation recommends at least SPF 30 for adults and SPF 50 for children.

Use plenty – about two tablespoons.

Press into the skin.

Apply 20 minutes before going out.

Use as the last step in your skincare routine.

Reapply every two hours, or more often if you notice burning, if sweating a lot (for example during exercise), or if you are in and out of water.

Chemical sunscreens not recommended for children under 6 months

### REMEMBER THE 5 S'S OF SUN SAFETY

- Slop on broad spectrum sunscreen (see above)
- Slip on clothing
- Slap on a hat
- Seek shade
- Slide on sunglasses

This advice applies to children and adults, and remember even on a dull day the sun is up there above the clouds

### SKINCARE WITH SPF

It is generally considered that a separate sunscreen offers better sun protection than skincare containing SPF. However it is better to use a moisturiser containing SPF than no sun protection at all. Another point to note is that some skincare products contain ingredients like Vitamin C and Retinol with whom sunscreen application is required.

### SELF-TANNING PRODUCTS

Don't forget there are many self-tan products available if you would like to have a healthy glow or a sun-tanned look without any of the risks of too much exposure to the sun.

Please feel free to call us here in the pharmacy with questions regarding sun protection. We stock a wide range of sunscreens for all ages and also some lovely new sunglasses.

This article was compiled with information from: The Irish Skin Foundation, The Irish Cancer Society, Skin Cancer Foundation and product information of our suncare products

Contributed by Sile FitzGerald MPSI, Careplus Pharmacy



## TOWNLANDS - PART OF OUR HERITAGE [PART 2]

**P**art one of "Townlands" appeared in our March/April issue and included introductory material along with the townlands of Dunkettle, Kilcoolishal, Ballyhennick and Ballynaron. This issue covers Lackenroe, Johnstown, Killahora, Killacloyne and Harpers Island.

**LACKENROE** - An Leacan Rua (451 acres). This townland shows minimal variation in its name over the centuries. In 1655 the Down Survey spelt it Lackenroe. In 1655 the Registry of deeds spelt it Lackanroe. In 1840 the ordnance surveyor spelt it in Gaelic Leacain Ruadh. He noted when translated, it means "The Red Glen hillside or slope". Subsequently, he felt the Red Glen was probably more correct. It reflected the features which gave the townland its name Lacken meaning Glen and Roe, meaning red, reflecting the type of underlying stone. Roe is, in fact, an Anglicisation of the Gaelic Ruadh. This townland covers a substantial area stretching from Glenmore Bridge in the north to and including New Glanmire in the south. The property was acquired by a member of the Hoare family (who were mainly merchants and bankers) before 1769. An ancestor of his, Major Edward Hoare, was a major in Cromwell's army and acquired substantial estates in County Cork. The family are mentioned again concerning Killahora townland later on.

**JOHNSTOWN** - Baile Sheain Gall (145 acres) This adjoins Killahora townland. It would appear that this name is anglicised. It was much easier to pronounce than the oldest reference to this townland in 1655 in the Down Survey, where it is described as Ballysheangaule. In the 1659 Census of Ireland, it is described as Ballyshongaul. In 1660 in the Book of Survey and Distribution, it is described as Ballyshangaule.

The first time it appears to be characterised as Johnstown is in the Taylor and Skinner Map of 1777, and continued in the Grand Jury map of the area around 1811. As the mansion house Johnstown was noted in the Taylor and Skinner map (1777), I believe the occupant at the time was a Captain Wakenham and he may not have been too happy with the Irish version, particularly as the translation could be interpreted as "Homestead of the stranger or foreigner". Another possible translation is "Homestead of the old standing stone". The word "Gallen" can be translated to standing stone, however, the addition of the word Shean (old) to a standing stone is superfluous in my view as by its very nature, a standing stone is ancient anyway. As it happens, Sheangaule was often used by the Gaels to distinguish the Old English (Norman origin) from the New English (Tudor period) settlers.

**KILLAHORA** - Coill an Horaig (424 acres) This could well mean Hora's (or Hoare's) wood unless, of course, there is evidence through documentation or local knowledge of an ancient church in this area. The ordnance survey mentioned above opted for Coill An Horaigh (Hore's wood) as the translation for this townland. In fact, there was a family locally named Hoare who owned the townland of Lackenroe in the eighteenth century. They could trace their ancestors back to a major in Cromwell's army, but prior to that, an ancestor who arrived with Strongbow around 1169. The ancestor's name was LeHoare and he settled in Wexford at the time. The only conclusion we can reach is that the prefix Kill is no guarantee that the area is named after a church, whereas there is much more chance it is if the word Cill is the prefix. Cill almost certainly, in its original

translation, meant a monastic settlement, especially if it can be shown to predate the ecclesiastical reforms of the twelfth century. Hence we have CilleaspogLappin in Little Island, although not a townland but the name of a church that predates 1198 (Probably from seventh century) and traditionally felt to be a monastery originally. In the north of our Parish we had Cillaspogmullane.

**KILLACLOYNE** - Cill Mhic Leighin (328 and 184 acres North and South). This townland name varied very little over the centuries. In 1240 spelt Kill McClyne. In 1599 spelt Killeclein. In 1655 Down Survey spelt Killecloyne. In the ordnance survey spelt Killacloyne, however the surveyor opted for Cill Mhic Leighin as the likely Gaelic translation for this townland. However, again there was a suggestion in the surveyor's notes that it could mean "The wood of the lawn or meadow". In fact, it appears to have been Liam O'Buachalla in 1939, in his aforementioned research, suggested the

Irish version. There does not appear to have been any record of an ancient church in this townland.

**HARPERS ISLAND** - Inismaclaidin. (69 acres). Is an island townland of about 69 acres at the eastern end of this Parish. Liam O'Buachalla researched the origins of this name. Obviously, it appears to have been anglicised. He concluded that the island's name was Inismacladin (McClyne's Island). The townland adjoining this island to the north was KillmacClyne, now Killacloyne. It is possible that at some stage, it came into the ownership of a man named Harper. At the time of the ordnance survey circa 1840, it was in the occupation of Reverend Robert Bury. Even though interviewed by the ordnance surveyor he could not assist as regards the origin of the name. This seems very strange as his family, incidentally, were in Little Island for two generations at that stage.

*Contributed by Paddy Twomey*

### Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan



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me.*

☎ 086 1940762

f Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan

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## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS DURING COVID-19



Citizens Information are receiving a lot of employment related queries regarding public holidays which are often referred to as bank holidays. We have had four so far this year (Jan, Mar, Apr & May) and have five more to look forward to (June, Aug, Oct, Dec x 2) in 2021.

On a public holiday, most businesses and services close for the day and most employees are entitled to one of the following public holiday benefits:

- A paid day off on the public holiday
- An additional day of annual leave
- An additional day's pay
- A paid day off within a month of the public holiday

If you do not normally work on a Monday, then you are entitled to one-fifth of your normal weekly wage for that day.

Part-time employees qualify for public holiday entitlement if they have worked at least 40 hours during the 5 weeks ending on the day before a public holiday.

An employee should ask their employer which of the above applies to them at least 21 days before a public holiday. If the employer does not respond at least 14 days before the public holiday, then the employee is entitled to a paid day off on the day.

Speaking about public holiday entitlement during Covid-19, John Beausang, Citizens Information Manager for the Cork City North area said, "During lay off or short-time working, you still are employed by your employer and your contract of employment remains in force. This means that you are entitled to benefit from any public holidays that occur during the first 13 weeks of your lay off. For any employee needing advice or further information around public holidays and the implication of Covid19, they can contact us in complete confidence, we provide free, independent and non-judgmental assistance and advice."

For anyone needing information, advice or who have an advocacy issue, they can call a member of the local Citizens Information team in Cork City at 0761 07 6950 (City Centre) or 0761 07 6850 (City North), they will be happy to assist and make an appointment if necessary. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm. Alternatively, you can email us at [cork@citinfo.ie](mailto:cork@citinfo.ie) or [hollyhill@citinfo.ie](mailto:hollyhill@citinfo.ie) or log on to [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) for further information.



## GLOUNTHAUNE HOMES TRUST



Glounthaune Homes Trust application for planning permission for the development of 12 two bed dwelling houses of three varying types as part of an independent living scheme was lodged last March 2021 and the planning authority have now responded seeking further information on the case for exceptional rural housing need, storm water drainage solution, a lighting design presentation, a natura impact statement on the stream, a bat survey, a landscaping plan, an ecological impact statement and a construction management plan. We have already engaged with the persons of experience in these varied matters to see how we can satisfy the requirements as set out soonest. The effect of the request for additional information simply means that construction commencement will hardly reach our September 2021 target. That said, we will actively proceed with our response in the hope that the delay will not be too much. Further details may be had from our Hon. Sec 086 832 5769.

*Contributed By William Cuddy*

## SENIOR ALERT ALARM UNITS

Please note that the Senior Alert Units are the property of the GCA.

Must be returned to the Glounthaune Community Centre when no longer in use: due to death or taking up residence in nursing home.

*Contributed by Jill McNamara*





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## HARPER'S ISLAND GETS THE CORK COUNTY MAYOR'S COMMUNITY AWARD 2021

The annual Mayor's Community Awards celebrate and acknowledge the volunteers and communities who work together across Cork County. Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, the 2021 awards were held virtually on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley presented a total of eleven awards; three from each division of the county, South, North and West Cork with one overall community and voluntary group award and one overall individual award selected from these nine divisional award winners.

Mayor Foley commended all nominees on the night for their commitment and dedication to their communities.



Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley Mayor's address:

"It was an honour for me to virtually host this year's Community Awards. This was a particularly important event for me as Mayor, and for many people in Cork county, in providing a formal opportunity to thank community groups and volunteers who have played such a vital role in our response to the challenges of the past year.

Each year these awards celebrate the best of goodwill, generosity and altruism in our communities. These virtues, and the people that hold them, contribute immeasurably to the quality of life in Cork county. The actions of these individuals and groups resonate countywide, strengthening the bonds of our communities and spurring us all on to achieve better for the social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of our towns and villages. In the past year, these virtues have saved lives.

Community groups and volunteers are essential to ensuring that people's needs are met, that everyone can access available resources, and that community wellbeing, charity and environmental conservation continue to be supported.

The Overall Group Award went to Harper's Island Steering Group for their Trojan work on the Harpers Island Wetlands Project, converting a lost 70 acre area between the N25 and the Cobh to Middleton Railway Line, all nominees are true examples of community activism.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who took part, to the wider volunteer community and to my fellow elected members for their nominations."

Garry Tomlins video clip outlining the Community involvement with the Harper's island project was featured in the award ceremony.



Contributed by Conor O'Brien

## HARPER'S ISLAND - CALLING ALL LOCAL HISTORIANS

We hope that by now you have heard of, or even visited, Harper's Island Wetlands nature reserve.

We are currently gathering together as much information as possible on the history of Harper's Island. The earliest verifiable specific reference to the island found so far is in the Down Survey (1655 - 58). On the map it was called Harper Island and was under 'arable pasture'. Did you know that there was a hurling tournament held there in 1888 and a flying display in 1931? We have great information about life on the farm from the folklore commission written by Margaret Fitzgerald (aged 12) in 1935/7. We know the farmhouse was used during the War of Independence. There is a Lime Kiln integrated into the farmhouse building. The farmhouse itself is a very interesting building but we have no idea when it was built. We are fairly sure the sea wall at Harper's Island was built in the early 1800s by the Reverend Robert Bury but we have no details.

If you would like to help us and have any stories, photos or historical documents relating to Harper's Island we would love to hear from you. Please send any information to: [jim@irishwildlife.net](mailto:jim@irishwildlife.net).

Contributed by Jim Wilson





## GLOUNTHAUNE TIDY TOWNS



This year as we head into second vaccination territory for many members of the group, the ability to meet and work with fellow members on projects around the community is eagerly anticipated with a whole series of new challenges.

### LITTER PICKING

The groups have been meeting regularly through out the lockdown every Tuesday morning and "distance picking". The times have now moved for the summer months to their new group pick-up time of 7pm.

Come and have some fun and join the pickers . . . there is as always plenty to do.

### 2021 COMPETITION

This is a strange year for Tidy Towns as there is a new competition but without the spectra of an unannounced inspection. This competition is being judged by the quality of the entry only. Ailbe Ryan has taken up the preparation task with enthusiasm and will like any "examination" entry be trying to garner marks income by milking some of the obscure sections of the rules.

If anyone has input for Ailbe - photo's of improvements or of eco projects/initiatives undertaken by your household then please forward to Ailbe via [ailbe.ryan@hotmail.com](mailto:ailbe.ryan@hotmail.com)

### HARPER'S ISLAND

The Harper's Island Project won the Mayor's Award for the best community project in County Cork. The Glounthaune Tidy Towns Group provides one leg of the support group for the project along with the Glounthaune Men's Shed, Birdwatch Ireland (Cork), and Cork County Council.

We have been informed that funds are now available for improvements to enhance the entrance to Harper's Island and that these are being actively pursued by the County Council. Kudos to Anthony Barry for spotting an opportunity here to get funding. The improvements will improve pedestrian access and increase the number of car parking spaces.

### THE TREE

The County Council are in possession of a report from a tree surgeon that has identified this iconic Glounthaune meeting point as being diseased and a danger. It apparently has to be removed. How can we replace the tree? Ideas to Angela Reidy, Chairperson of Tidy Towns please.

### WORKS AROUND GLOUNTHAUNE

- The cycleway is now well advanced and the landscaping has commenced.
- It is changing the character of Glounthaune and the loss of so much of our well tended roadside grass is regrettable. However the use it is getting is encouraging and it will be a valuable amenity.
- The narrowing of the road makes the overtaking of the lycra clothed cyclists who continue use the road rather than the cycleway more dangerous and caution is urged here.

- To say that we were disappointed by the churning of the grass on the railway side of the road during the works would be an understatement but we are assured that this will be repaired and all will be made good.
- The tree planting either side of the road towards the Elm Tree is an excellent start to naturalising and the planting and bollards segregated area are promising. We understand that extensive wild flower seed planting will also be used. The team has been liaising regularly with the engineer in-charge.

### THE VILLAGE PLANTING

Work by the team on the new village approach and village green undertaken by the team with valuable input from Yvonne Bowles is enhancing that area significantly. The spring display was magnificent The wall repairs undertaken by the council team are of extremely high quality and they are to be commended.

*Contributed by Garry Tomlins*







## JOHNSTOWN WILD FLOWER MEADOW



**G**lounthaune During the course of last Summer it was decided by the Tidy Towns committee to carry out a no mow policy on Johnstown Park in line with our biodiversity aims in allowing more available food sources for our dwindling bee population. We were buoyed up by both the results and general feedback seeing the blossoming of cowslip, bluebell, buttercup and many other natural species. Last September( during level 3 lockdown and observing social distance measures) the following group met to decide on a strategy to design a wildflower meadow in Johnstown.



Left to Right: Hester Forde, Peggy Dunne, Paddy Forde, Conor O'Brien and Derry Delaney

Led by the design input of Hester, our internationally acclaimed gardener, a costed plan was drawn up to prepare the meadow and to select and sow a range of perennial pollinator friendly wildflowers over the Autumn period which would then bloom in the Spring. Work began by mowing the area to remove all of the old grass and take it to the recycling centre in Middleton for composting. It was then time to move in the machinery, a digger was used to remove the topsoil and then the remaining grass was scarified to remove the grass roots which would otherwise compete with any bulbs sown here.

The bulbs were ordered by Hester from a high quality approved supplier and included a mix of Daffodil, Crocus, Tulip and Dascia. Randomly chosen circles were drawn up with a white marker as designated planting areas. Many volunteers came forward to help out with sowing these into place with a trowel. In addition a full complement of Yellow Rattle seed was ordered for planting. These were carefully weighed on a kitchen scales into bags at a rate of 1.25g/sq metre and then sown into its selected area. Compost was added to the sown bulbs and the area was roped off with signage to indicate it was now dedicated to wildflower growth. It was now up to Mother Nature to do its work.



In March we were very pleased to see the emerging purple crocus following on a by a host of golden daffodils in April. It was also heartening to see that the natural Yellow Cowslips had seeded and spread as a result of the no mow policy. This rare species is a natural food source for the now

emerging bee population. We look forward to the bloom of the other bulbs set in due course and to developing and improving of this feature in the future.

A Mile Buiochas is extended to Hester for all her expert advice for making this happen. We also say thanks to her understudy, Ms Kathrin Reimer from Germany who came to Ireland to study horticulture and to the many volunteers who came forward and braved the cold of October/ November to set in over 4,000 bulbs. This project was part funded by grant assistance from the County Council through the CEA grant scheme. They have now offered to send a team in May time to do a photo/video shoot of what we hope will be a full bloom at this time. Some examples of the current varieties in bloom are as follows:

Contributed By Ailbe Ryan



*Tulipa sylvestris*



*Narcissus geranium*



*Scilla sibirica*







## GLOUNTHAUNE TRAIN



In Glounthaune, we are blessed to have many scenic walkways. Local groups like the Glounthaune Community Association, Tidy Towns and Men's Shed do a lot to keep our area looking lovely and provide spaces of special interest along our walking routes. One such place is the railway garden created and maintained by Ned Stack. Situated across the road from the Ashbourne walkway between the railway station and Fitzpatrick's Shop, this floral oasis boasted railway sleepers and a signal box. All it needed was a train to complete the locomotive theme. I was asked to paint a steam engine, much like the historic 'Puffing Billy'.

Supplied with a 4 X 8 foot piece of wood, I was once again given access to the Men's Shed for this project. Per my usual approach to artwork, I broke down a composition into easy-to-draw shapes. A train, for example, is composed of rectangles, circles and semi-circles.

I began with a horizontal rectangle for the train engine, a vertical rectangle for the driver's cab, followed by the base and 3 circles for the wheels. Next I drew more rectangles for the funnel, buffer and a semicircle for the front. Finally the details – add the windows, decorative strips of colour, spokes for the wheels. Go ahead and have fun decorating with bright colours and designs!

For information on upcoming projects and reopening of art classes when COVID restrictions allow, check out my Facebook page FB: [www.facebook.com/frazzledmammy](https://www.facebook.com/frazzledmammy) or website [www.frazzledmammy.com](http://www.frazzledmammy.com)

*Contributed by Maeve O'Keeffe*



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*Edited by Conor O'Brien and Brian Cluer*