



Summary Minutes from IDRA AGM 15th May 2025

Chair's Opening Remarks

- N. Rigney opened the meeting with thanks to attendees and addressing Health and Safety matters for the meeting.
- He thanked Croke Park for the contribution they made towards the installation of the community defibrillator, in Maples House Hotel, accessible 24/7.
- NR also thanked local resident Frank McGurk who provided training to 14 residents at no cost to the Association. IDRA welcomes more residents to undergo this life saving training.
- Appeal for more residents to join the committee (currently only 5 members). Emphasis on variety of challenges facing our residential area, yet a relatively modest time commitment, 2–3 hours per month.

Iona & District Residents' Association – Website development

During the year, NR lead out on the development of a website for IDRA, undertaking the substantive work involved in building the website.

- Features include:
 - Membership portal
 - Latest news updates
 - Historical information on the area
 - Resident engagement tools
- Encouragement for residents to engage online.
- Recognising this development in our communications strategy, the committee developed/approved a Social Media and Data Protection Policy to provide guidance and governance on IDRA social media, available on the website:
<https://www.ionaanddistrictresidentsassociation.com>

AGM minutes 2024

- Secretary (C. Lynch) presented minutes from AGM 2024 for adoption at AGM – duly adopted. Hard copies available at meeting.

Financial Reporting

- Treasurer, B McCrystal, presented the Treasurer's Report for the 12 months to March 2025. Hard copies circulated to meeting attendees.
- Bank balance: €2,376.78
- Membership fee remains €15/year
- Grants received:
 - €500 from DCC Community Grant
 - €750 from Croke Park Community Fund
- Main expenses included:
 - Planning submissions
 - Printing, posters, and stationery
 - Sound system and website
 - Defibrillator funding (shared with Croke Park)
- €534 held in trust for Botanic Avenue senior citizens

- Accounts were adopted at the AGM.

Constitution Amendment - Area Boundary

- CL reminded AGM of the discussion that took place at AGM 2024, on a proposed amendment to the Constitution:
 - The proposed constitutional amendment is to extend the IDRA boundary on its East side (Drumcondra Road) to include both sides of that road (currently only includes the west side). This proposal follows requests from residents on the East side, to be included in IDRA.
- At the 2024 AGM, it was agreed to hold over this amendment, for a further period to enable residents more time to submit observations and views on the proposed change.
- CL advised that one resident submitted an email opposing the amendment.
- CL opened discussion, on the proposed amendment, to the floor.
- Reasons for and reasons against the proposed boundary change were set out and discussed.
- It was then put to a vote by members at the AGM (that was quorate) and the vote to amend the boundary, was carried by the required majority as set out in the constitution. Specifically all for and against votes were duly counted and the outcome recorded.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

- A. Quinn presented on IDRA's current NHW scheme, set up in 2022 after multiple break-ins.
- Began with 12 streets; now expanded to 20+ streets. Monthly meetings at Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station for anyone who would like to attend.
- Crime statistics reviewed with Gardai and updates sent to residents via WhatsApp monthly.
- Recent concerns over community gardai personnel changes, and reassignments was discussed, with a number of concerns being raised by residents and attending local councillors. Matter to be raised with gardai and Superintendent.
- Residents urged to call 999/112 for any crime event they experience or observe (not just for emergencies). These call line services have been expanded to include reporting of all types of crime. A 'triage' system is in place to prioritise the most serious. But it means that all crime events are recorded and will be followed up by Gardai.
- NHW window stickers available for residents participating in the scheme.
- Crime data – based on reported events
 - Average 1.5 thefts from vehicles/month (mostly bikes)
 - 24 burglaries in the last year
 - 1 reported assault
 - 16 incidents of criminal damage

Sustainable Energy Community Presentation

Gerard Doherty SEAI, presented to the AGM on setting up a Sustainable Energy Community

- Proposal for IDRA to form a Sustainable Energy Community.
- Backed by SEAI and other organisations, with access to grants up to €100,000.
- Process:
 - **Phase 1: Learn** – Awareness and education sessions, energy audits.

- **Phase 2: Plan** – Develop energy master plan, consultant-led audits.
- **Phase 3: Action** – Encourage implementation, pursue further funding.
- Sample home energy audits (6–8 homes per area).
- Emphasis on community involvement, support from engineers and finance-aware volunteers.
- Sheets circulated to gather interested participants (5–6 required to begin).
- Frustration shared around BER assessments and inconsistencies.
- Expressions of interest were asked for and number of residents interested to get involved.

Traffic Review

- Presented by R. Flynn.
- Two previous traffic calming projects stalled.
- BusConnect project set for Autumn – expected increase in traffic.
- Residents concerned about speeding and pedestrian safety.
- Survey conducted:
 - 40% of vehicles exceed speed limits
 - Dangerous conditions for children
- Issues on Botanic Road and surrounding streets highlighted.
- DCC treats arterial roads differently; internal road focus continues.
- Survey responses showed strong support for further action
- Some frustration expressed by Traffic committee, on pace of progress. Other residents expressed similar concerns.

Planning Update

C. Sherry presented on planning activity in the area:

- Ongoing monitoring of weekly planning applications.
- Highlights:
 - Most attic conversions granted.
 - 3 substandard flats replaced with 2 quality apartments.
 - Commercial site on St. Joseph's Avenue under review.
 - 1A Carlingford Road planning refused, now under appeal.
 - Quinn's Pub and Boyle Sports internal wall removed without permission – enforcement underway. Other concerns expressed by residents in relation to the rumoured and proposed development plans.
 - Daneswell Place: Proposed 140+ unit development (20 social housing units), mostly for rent via co-op.
- Concerns:
 - Lack of planning submissions
 - No public updates
 - Traffic and access implications
 - Residents frustrated with retrospective planning applications

Committee Member Elections and Proposed change to the Constitution

- The AGM was advised of the number of members on the committee, who was stepping down from the committee, remaining members on the committee, members for ratification and vacancies.

- Proposed change to the Constitution to increase the serving time limit on the committee from 2 terms X 3 years, to allow up to 3 terms X 3years. The number of members on committee very low and difficulty encouraging new members to join the committee. This amendment would enable retention of valued committee members who are making an important contribution to IDRA. Discussion and voting on the proposed amendment was opened up to the floor and overwhelmingly approved.
- The Chair advised that there were still vacancies to be filled and invited members of the Association to come forward/get in contact.

AOB

- The committee expressed its appreciation of the wonderful work undertaken by the Iona Clean-Up group, thanking Paul for his leadership of this initiative. This group meets monthly on the last Saturday of the month at 9.30am in St Columba's church grounds. Volunteers very welcome.