



# Skerries Community Association

Company Limited by Guarantee

*Making a great town even better!*

*Established 1934*

Secretary: Michael McKenna

CRO 100983

Muintir na Tíre-registered charity CHY 6865

Registered Offices:

Skerries Community Centre, Dublin Road, Skerries Co. Dublin

Contact: [info@skerriesca.com](mailto:info@skerriesca.com)

Website: [skerriesca.com](http://skerriesca.com)

## AGM Invitation 2018 & Skerries Community Association Report September 2017 to 2018

You are invited to attend the Skerries Community Association **Annual General Meeting**  
Little Theatre, Dublin Road on **Monday 3rd September 2018** at 8pm.

After the official business, our annual **Jim Quigley Award** will be presented to the Skerries Volunteer of the Year 2018.

See the official Notice for the AGM on the reverse side of this page. Copies of our Financial Statements are on our website and in the Community Centre.

The **Skerries Community Association Ltd.** is an umbrella group comprising many committees, made up of several hundred volunteers, devoted to making the quality of life in Skerries even better. Skerries Community Association is also the parent organisation of Skerries Community Centre. In legal terms, the SCA has the structure of a Company Limited by Guarantee. We are, of course, not-for-profit - but we still must comply with all relevant legislation and requirements for companies.

Our **board of sixteen directors** has the same responsibilities as that of a Board of Directors of any company. In addition to these duties, directors are almost always members of committees as well and form an essential link between the Board and these committees. It is an interesting and very rewarding role.

The SCA wants to open up more volunteering opportunities for people in the area and to give opportunities to people suited to the time available to them for volunteering. There is a wide range of volunteering roles from becoming a board member to working with one of our many groups such as Tidy Towns, Sustainable Skerries, and Age Friendly Skerries, to mention just some of them –see committee reports in this flyer for contact email addresses.

SCA has an agreed Health and Safety policy and Child Protection policy (available on our website) and procedures for adoption and use by all committees which organise activities involving children. Garda vetting has been completed for over thirty volunteers, mainly coder dojo mentors and coaches. We are also working on compliance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

There are almost 1,000 members in the SCA, over seventy of whom have joined by using the online membership form on our website. We would encourage all residents to join, and thereby give us a stronger voice when dealing with officialdom. Raising the profile of the SCA generally and helping new residents become part of their new community are priorities. If you are not already a member you can join by filling in a simple online form on [skerriesca.com/member](http://skerriesca.com/member). Membership is open to all Skerries residents over eighteen and is free.

**Nomination forms** for the Board of Directors of the Skerries Community Association, as well as for the Skerries Community

Centre Board of Management, can be obtained at the reception desk of our Community Centre and must be with our secretary c/o the Skerries Community Centre by Saturday 1 September at the latest. You must be a member of the Association to go forward as a director.

A key role of the SCA is to support the work of our committees, and to facilitate the emergence of new committees and projects.

A full list of member committees which are part of Skerries Community Association is on the last page.



### Bus Connects Local Information Session

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 3.00pm-7.00pm**  
**Skerries Community Centre**

Concerns have been expressed in this part of Fingal that the proposed new arrangements for bus services will bring no improvements and could mean a worsening in service levels.

Proposal for Skerries is to cancel both 33 and 33x, with only a 33a (renumbered 285) to Swords

The Skerries Community Association would urge residents to attend the Information sessions and perhaps more importantly to make their views known to Bus Connects by emailing [consultations@busconnects.ie](mailto:consultations@busconnects.ie)

**Directors:** Geoff McEvoy (Chair); Michael McKenna (Secretary and Vice Chair); Mary Conway (Treasurer); John Coleman; Shay Fanning; John Fitzgerald; Brendan Friel; Tony Graham; Jane Landy; Dee Langton; Nunce McAuley; Karen McCaffrey; Mary Marsden; Joyce Moore; Brendan Sherlock; Niamh Quigley.

# NOTICE OF THE SCA AGM TO MEMBERS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Skerries Community Association CLG (SCA) will be held **in the Little Theatre, Dublin Road, Skerries on Monday the 3rd of September 2018 at 8 pm** to transact the Ordinary Business of the Company, that is to say: –

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31 Dec. 2017
3. To elect Directors to the Board
4. To elect Members to Skerries Community Centre Board of Management
5. To reappoint Dempsey Mullen as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration
6. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting of the Company.

**Dated this the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, by order of the Board, Michael McKenna, Secretary.**

- NOTE 1. No person other than a Director of the Company retiring at the meeting shall, unless recommended by the Directors, be eligible for election to the office of Director at any general meeting unless, not less than three (i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018) nor more than 21 days (i.e. 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018) before the date appointed for the meeting, there has been left at the registered office notice in writing, signed by a member duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which notice is given, of his/her intention to propose such a person for election, and also Notice in writing signed by that person of his/her willingness to be elected. [A Nomination Form is provided below].
- NOTE 2. The names of candidates who have consented to stand for election to the Board of Management of the Community Centre, together with the names of their proposers and seconders, shall be given in writing to the Secretary, and shall be posted on the Community Centre Notice Board at least seven days prior (26<sup>th</sup> August 2018) to the holding of the Annual General Meeting. [See Nomination Form hereunder].
- NOTE 3. Copies of the Directors' Report and Financial Statements will be available to members at the Community Centre at least seven days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting.



## **Nomination for election to the Board of Directors of SCA CLG**

**or to the Skerries Community Centre Board of Management [please underline the appropriate Board]**

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for election to the Board of:

Skerries Community Association CLG OR Skerries Community Centre (underline one)

Printed name and signature of Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name and signature of Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_

I consent to my nomination for election

Signature of nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NB: Nominee, proposer and secunder must be members of the SCA

NB: Please return nomination forms to the Community Centre no later than Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

## Chairperson's Report

Earlier this year, the SCA hosted a welcome event for new residents of Barnageeragh Cove. The event wouldn't have been possible without the support of Skerries Educate Together. A few years ago, the school's Board of Management approached us looking for community reps to join them. This spirit of co-operation has grown stronger and closer over the years. In Skerries we are apt to refer to people (good-naturedly) as "blow-ins" – even those who have lived here for 50 years! But it is vital to remember that as our town grows, so too does our community. It is crucial, therefore, not just to strengthen the links we have, but to actively seek to form new ones. In my time on the SCA we have tried (and I hope succeeded) to do both. We have championed (rightly) our member committees, but also supported where we can other groups such as the Men's Sheds and Skerries Youth Support Services (to name but two). I hope we will always continue to do so.



This year we also extended our links beyond Skerries, entering into partnership with Dunleer Community Development Board. We have been working with them to explore rolling out their very successful Better Energy Communities scheme to Skerries. If this first year is a success, this scheme has the potential to be a significant addition to the work of the SCA and an exciting new part of our work in the community.

It was business as usual for our committees, who have had a full and active year. Our work on the Townpark Masterplan over the years is now showing fruit with exciting developments for the

Skatepark Committee. The Tidy Towns Committee continue to represent the best of Skerries – both figuratively and literally. And the renovations of the Community Centre roof are a less visible but no less significant credit to their Board, who always ensure that what revenue they generate goes right back into maintaining this essential community resource.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers, on committees and off them, who gave their time this year to our community. Nothing to the benefit of our town would be possible without them. I would also like to thank those Council officials and elected representatives who have been helpful and supportive of our work this past year.

On our board, I would like to officially welcome Niamh Quigley who was elected onto the board at the last AGM. Niamh has been an active member of both Soundwaves and the Rás Stage End committees – two groups whose work practically defines the Skerries calendar each year. I would also like to acknowledge Tony Graham who is stepping down this year. Tony has done Trojan work over the years maintaining our online presence. We cannot reach out to our community without keeping the lines of communication open, but it's often a thankless job so his thanks here is long overdue.

This is the last report I will be writing as my time as Chairperson of the SCA has come to a close. It has been a privilege in my years on the SCA to work with a dedicated group of people and to see up close the tireless work of an army of volunteers. The faces may change over time but the energy, good-nature and community spirit remain a constant. The most rewarding part of this role is to share in the energy of those who volunteer to make our town even better. To them always, goes my sincerest thanks.

Sincerely,

Geoff McEvoy,

Chairperson, Skerries Community Association

August 2018

## Our Committees

### Tidy Towns Committee



Having won the National Competition you would think we could rest on our laurels but not so. We continue to work to present the town to its best, protect its heritage, our environment and work towards a sustainable future for our town.

The win brought people to Skerries. They continue to come and why not?

How many towns do you know that have two beautiful beaches both rocky and sandy, a scenic harbour, a lovely coastal walk, a vibrant town and to crown it all two windmills and a watermill, all within a stone's throw of each other.

This year saw the unveiling of the Tidy Towns sculpture at Red Island. This is a replica of the Tidy Towns award which was designed by our own Shane Holland. Shane agreed to design this much bigger version of the trophy for us. The four swipes of the trophy represent, architecture, heritage, water and plant life all of which we must take into consideration when entering the competition

We launched our Skerries Tidy Towns reusable cup made from the world's fastest growing, rapidly renewable crop, bamboo.

It feels a bit like thick card but it is light and can hold hot liquids. And because bamboo is naturally sterile it is lovely to drink from and has no taste residue so it doesn't taint your drinks. The lid and sleeve are made with matte food grade silicone specially designed for hot liquids. We have the Skerries Tidy Towns logo around the top and the slogan 'No excuse for single use' around the bottom'. The whole cup is dishwasher safe and if it is treated nicely it will last for years. But best of all, when it comes to the end of its natural life it goes back to nature along with organic waste.

Our final big project this year was our pollinator for new estates initiative to raise awareness of the problems facing our pollinators. We hope to extend this project to all interested residents this year. We will offer pollinator friendly ornamental plants and herbs, flowering trees and fruit bushes to residents to plant in their gardens.

If you are interested in being part of our pollinator programme please contact us through our Facebook page or speak to any member of the committee.

Or you can make contact by email to [maevemcgann@gmail.com](mailto:maevemcgann@gmail.com)

**Ní neart go cur le chéile!**



- Contact: [tidytowns@skerriesca.com](mailto:tidytowns@skerriesca.com)

### Skerries Cycling Initiative

**SCI** continues to work with local representatives, council officials and local groups such as Skerries Tourism to improve cycling and walking in and around Skerries and along the beautiful coast of Fingal.



The recently extended Barnageera Road (aka Distributor Road), which now links to the R127 Coast Road, will include a good quality two-way cyclepath and footpath parallel to the new road as it passes through the new Barnageera Cove/Hamilton Hill housing estates. Unfortunately it ends abruptly at the junction with the coast road, highlighting the need for better cycling and pedestrian access towards Ardgillan and Balbriggan and towards the town.

With the opening of the Distributor Road/R127 junction, new traffic patterns will emerge which will help clarify the priorities for improved infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians in and around Skerries.

The SCI is represented on the Strategic Policy Committee for Transport in Fingal Co. Council (Ray Ryan). In that forum we continue to seek the completion Fingal Coastal Way, which will create an important amenity running from Balbriggan to Sutton and which will eventually become part of the proposed East Coast Trail, a coastal route connecting us north and south along the east coast. Consultants are expected to be appointed soon for the design of cycling provision for the Fingal Coastal Way in the Balbriggan-Skerries-Rush-Donabate sectors.

Ray Ryan, Chairperson, Skerries Cycling Initiative.

- Contact: [cycling@skerriesca.com](mailto:cycling@skerriesca.com)

### Sustainable Skerries

Sustainable Skerries has been in operation since 2010. We are a small volunteer group involved in promoting sustainability and resilience within the community.

Our projects have involved setting up Skerries Allotments, a community harvest group, sustainable living course, a low waste workshop, water conservation community energy. Currently, we are working with the Men's Shed, Skerries Mills and Fingal County Council to set up a community Garden.

But we need your help. We are inviting local people to get involved, in whatever way they want, to allow the community to become stronger, more self-sufficient and resilient.

- Contact: [sustainable@skerriesca.com](mailto:sustainable@skerriesca.com)

## Our Committees

### Skerries CoderDojo

**Skerries CoderDojo** is a monthly coding club that any young person aged 7 to 17 can join and attend for FREE! At the Dojo, they learn skills such as building a website, creating an app or a game, and explore technology in an informal, creative, and social environment.



Bookings for our monthly sessions open about a week before the event on our Eventbrite page. Sessions are free but participants must bring a laptop (or book one of our four laptops) and also bring a parent if they are under 12. Sessions take place on the second Sunday of each month, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Little Theatre. As well as being an SCA committee, we are also part of the international CoderDojo movement <http://coderdojo.org/> We're always on the look-out for helpers to assist as time allows. We're especially looking for mentors who'd like to pass on their coding skills to the next generation!

- Contact: [coderdojo@skerriesca.com](mailto:coderdojo@skerriesca.com)

### Age Friendly Skerries Committee

Over the past year, the Age Friendly Town Committee has continued its work to make Skerries a better place in which to live, work and grow older. One of the World Health Organisation's key themes under the Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is transport.

In 2018, as part of its Annual Age Friendly Action Plan, the Committee undertook to look more closely at the issue of community transport and, how we might address this issue to enable older people in Skerries to participate more in everyday activities in the town. The Committee was supported in this action by 'Flexibus-LocalLink', the new Transport Coordination Unit for Meath, Louth and Fingal through its Community Fund Initiative.

A community Transport Consultation Workshop was held in April 2018 with the support of Skerries Rugby Club. Over 60 older people from Skerries and Rush and representatives from Statutory and Voluntary Service Providers had their say on transport matters in the town and surrounding areas.

Following the workshop, the Committee decided to develop an Age Friendly Community Transport Survey in order to ensure that the voice of older people who cannot get out of their homes is also captured as part of the process.

The Committee would like to thank members of the many senior citizens groups in the town including Skerries Active Retirement, Skerries Men's Shed Group, Skerries Cards Group and the Community Day Care Centre who participated in the survey. We would also like to thank the HSE and the Skerries Public Library for all their support in this initiative

If you are over 55 years of age and would like to have your say on the matter of community transport why not drop into the library and collect a copy of the survey. A report on community transport and recommendations for the future will be produced before the end of the year – so watch this space.

For more information on the Skerries Age Friendly Town initiative go to YouTube "Skerries Age Friendly Town" and/or on the SCA website.

Contact: [skerriesagefriendly@skerriesca.com](mailto:skerriesagefriendly@skerriesca.com)

### Rás Stage End Committee



The Rás is Ireland's number one cycling event. It is an annual, eight-day, stage race around Ireland. In 2006, it finished in Skerries for the first time. The local committee arranged such a brilliant welcome for them that they have been coming back ever since!

The continued success of the Rás in Skerries is due in no small way to the fantastic support given by the local people here in the Town. It would not be possible for us to organise the local community events and for that we thank the people of Skerries.

- Paul Deans for the An Post Rás- Skerries Stage End Committee; Contact: [skerriesrasendstage@gmail.com](mailto:skerriesrasendstage@gmail.com)

### Skerries Skatepark Committee

It's been a 4 year journey from when Nunce McCauly of the SCA first organised a public meeting at Joe Mays. Since then we have worked to secure a site, secure funding and most important gain the support of the public community by listening to their requirements and concerns. The winning design is very exciting and we strongly believe this will be a very popular addition to Skerries as a sports and recreational facility. Once again we thank all those who have supported us over the year and staff at Fingal County Council who guided us through the process of creating a public facility.

- Contact: [skatepark@skerriesca.com](mailto:skatepark@skerriesca.com)



### Crann Padraig Committee

**Crann Padraig** is an environmental group trying to encourage awareness and the benefit of the planting of trees (preferably broadleaf but all trees improve our environment).

Trees enhance an area and add to the oxygen produced. They also provide much needed environment for all types of insects, birds etc. A future project could be a tree park of multi species!

- Contact: [crann@skerriesca.com](mailto:crann@skerriesca.com)

## Our Committees

### Skerries Town Twinning



The highlight of the year for the Town Twinning association was the visit by 29 friends from our twin area (Canton of Guichen, Brittany) who were here from 3 to 8 May. We were delighted to have the support of Skerries Walking Club who helped with a programme of walks and rambles including Donabate & Portrane, Howth Head and the Phoenix Park. Our guests, who included adults, teenagers and children, also enjoyed a guided walk around Skerries, a tour of Ardgillan Castle, a night of music and dance with Rinceoil Fingal and a dinner in Skerries Sailing Club. Overall feedback was very positive. A great visit which was helped by the lovely weather. A "thank you" evening was held for the host families in Joe Mays on 19 June.

We were happy to have a stand at the Open Day in Skerries Educate Together NS on Saturday 28 April to help promote Skerries and its attractions. In June, Brendan Friel travelled to Guichen to represent Skerries at a ceremony to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a twinning agreement between Guichen and the Polish town of Srem (near Poznan).

Plans are already afoot for a visit to Guichen next year. In fact, 2019 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of our twinning agreement. If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information about town twinning please visit our website [www.skerriestwinning.ie](http://www.skerriestwinning.ie) or see us on Facebook or contact Brendan Friel on 087 6181244.

### Soundwaves Festival

When Skerries Soundwaves started in 2004, its founders saw it as their mission to bring as many diverse music and arts experiences to the town as possible. This year Soundwaves is taking a well earned break but we will be hosting 2 Youth Events:



Battle of the Bands – A date in October is yet to be decided as it is still in the planning stage.

Tribal Drumming – Again a date in October is yet to be decided.

Soundwaves Music & Arts Festival has grown over the years and Art Waves has taken on a life of its own so it is a huge project to take on. We are looking for a new Arts Director to help manage and grow even bigger and better.

We are also looking for a new Treasurer who would be willing to help on a voluntary basis as the funding we receive is for the various events and projects.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank Grainne Enright our outgoing Treasurer who has always done a super job with our funding and accounts and I would also like to thank Skerries Community Association for their continued support.

New updates will be put up on our website and facebook page so watch this space.

- Contact: [soundwaves@skerriesca.com](mailto:soundwaves@skerriesca.com)

### Skerries Community Centre

Over fifty clubs and groups use the Community Centre facilities on a regular basis which means many thousands of adults and children enjoying this great facility in our town. There can be few facilities in Fingal that get so much use and still manage to look so attractive, due to the efficient and hardworking team managed by Sharon Guinane.

This year saw the completion of the extension in the old school; a new energy efficient boiler in the old school; and a new roof has been installed in the Community Centre with the help of a sports capital grant.

- Contact: [info@skerriescommunitycentre.ie](mailto:info@skerriescommunitycentre.ie)



### Member committees of the SCA

- Age Friendly Skerries Committee
- Crann Padraig
- Skerries CoderDojo
- Skerries Community Centre Board of Management
- Skerries Cycling Initiative
- Skerries Guerrilla Gardeners
- Skerries Rás End Stage Committee
- Skerries Reaching Out
- Skerries Skatepark Committee.
- Skerries Soundwaves Festival
- Skerries Tidy Towns
- Skerries Town Twinning Association
- Sustainable Skerries