



# Skerries Community Association

Company Limited by Guarantee

Established 1934

Secretary: Niamh Quigley

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)

## It's our town – let's shape its future together!

### AGM Invitation 2019

Little Theatre, Dublin Road on **Thursday 5th September 2019** at 8pm.

**Skerries Community Association** is the legal entity supporting Skerries Community Centre and a number of committees, made up of several hundred volunteers, devoted to improving the quality of life for all in Skerries. The Association is a not-for-profit and is incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG).

The board of sixteen directors is the governing body and is responsible for overseeing the organization's activities. Some directors are also members of committees and form an essential link between the board and these committees. Directors also take on additional tasks and manage issues and projects from time to time.

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. One of our directors acts as a contact point for Garda Vetting procedures.

We would encourage all residents to join the SCA and thereby give us a stronger voice when dealing with state agencies. Building a strong sense of community and helping new residents become part of their new community are priorities. 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.

**Vacancies (3): Director, Skerries Community Association (SCA)** Are you looking for an opportunity to contribute to community development in Skerries? Have you ideas on how the SCA could do more and how you could help? No previous experience of being on a board is needed. We want to build on what has been achieved and be a stronger voice for the town.

**What we are doing and want to do better:** Supporting local effort to get the best quality of life possible for all Skerries residents; representing residents' views with state agencies; supporting the work of Skerries Community Centre Board of

Management and SCA groups such as Tidy Towns, Skerries Town Twinning, Skerries Age Friendly Committee, Sustainable Skerries, Skerries Skatepark Committee and Skerries Cycling Initiative

**When and where do we meet?** Meetings take place in the Old School (which is part of the Skerries Community Centre), once a month, September to July from 8-10 p.m. on a week night evening. Between meetings communications are done mainly via email. Time commitment in addition to meeting attendance is about two to three hours per week.

See **Nomination Form** bottom half on next page. Copies of our Financial Statements are on our website and in the Community Centre.

Nominations, duly signed, must be sent to Secretary SCA c/o the Skerries Community Centre by 1 September 2019 at the latest. You must be a member of the Association to go forward as a director – to join go to [skerriesca.com/member](http://skerriesca.com/member)

**After the official business, our 2019 Jim Quigley Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented.**

## Come along to the AGM and join the conversation.



An update on a number of important issues appears on the last page of this flyer!

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



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## 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 Thursday the 5th of September 2019 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. 2018
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 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2019, by order of the Board, 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. 2nd September 2019) nor more than 21 days (i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019) 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 seconds, shall be given in writing to the Secretary, and shall be posted on the Community Centre Notice Board at least three days prior (2 September 2019) 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 Form

**For election to the Board of Directors of SCA CLG or to the Board of Management of Skerries Community Centre [please underline the Board for which you are nominating]**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

I consent to my nomination for election

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

NB: Please return signed Nomination Form to the Community Centre by 2 September, 2019.

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

## Chairperson's Report

Whether it is a mini roundabout, a children's playground, the plans for a new Drive thru fast food place, a road opening, a landfill opening, water supply problems and odours from the waste water treatment plant, lifts not working at the train station, it is likely that the SCA will be involved in trying to put together a response that reflects what is in the best interests of the town and its people.

And then there is the work done by SCA groups like Skerries Tidy Towns and other committees like Age Friendly Skerries (reducing isolation for older residents); Town Twinning (Gallic/Gaelic cultural and social exchange now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year); Sustainable Skerries (empowering people to be more sustainable since 2008); Skerries Cycling Initiative (fighting for the coastal cycle route and generally encouraging people to get on their bikes) etc. The excellent Newsflash keeps us in touch with what's going on in the area. We have unfortunately lost several groups in recent times: Skerries CoderDojo is dormant, Soundwaves is in abeyance and as the Rás Tailteann couldn't find a sponsor this year so we had no Rás Stage End Committee in 2019.

Our Community Centre, which first opened in 1982, is an engine room of community activity. Run by manager Sharon Guinane and staff under the supervision of the Board of Management (all volunteers), the Centre is the physical manifestation of the SCA. Many of the sports and arts groups in the town depend on the SCA and the Community Centre for facilities to operate, and all are in need of additional space.

Apart from the manager of the Community Centre and her staff, everything the SCA does happens through voluntary effort. Skerries should be proud of what has been achieved by its volunteers.

However (and there always is a "However," isn't there?) the volunteering effort needs to be continuously renewed, and we need to be adapting to changing circumstances to remain "fit for purpose" in meeting the challenges and to continue to make our great town even better.

The Directors of the SCA Board of Management play a crucial role here. Traditionally, most people who became directors of the Association were already members of one or more of the groups/committees under the umbrella of the SCA. This was useful to the board for keeping abreast of what was happening at committee level, but it often meant that committee demands limited the time many directors could apply to dealing with company business per se. With the number of active committees under the SCA now reduced to a handful, there is now some space around the board table, so to speak, and this gives us an opportunity to recruit some new directors who are not members of SCA committee/groups. They would be in a better position to engage with issues and challenges that arise from time to time. I'm thinking of things like the Town Park Development Plan, liaising with new communities and residents' associations, proposals for road works, facilities and services for young people, transport and traffic management issues and creating a more inclusive community. Other directors would then be freed up to focus on the company governance "stuff" such as revising our constitution (Articles and Memorandum of Association), GDPR, Finances and Accounts, Insurance, Website and PR, and so on. With 16 director positions (currently 3 vacancies), the work can be spread fairly so that no director is overloaded.

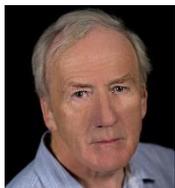
"The Association is representative of all interests. So we want to involve all members of the community in making Skerries a better place –socially, environmentally, culturally, recreationally and so on. Hence identifying local needs and problems is important. Then we have to take initiative to solve them. This may be on our own as a community or in co-operation with the county council or other statutory agencies." [Jim Quigley, Chairperson SCA in an interview in 1982].

After a year as Chairperson of the SCA, I now want to get a conversation going about how best to move forward. I think Jim Quigley's description in 1982 of the role of the SCA is as valid now as it was then, but I'm convinced we need to change the way we go about identifying needs and meeting the challenges.

If you would like to get involved in the conversation email: [chair@skerriesca.com](mailto:chair@skerriesca.com) and let me have your thoughts. If you know someone who you think would make a good director, talk to them about nominating them for a director position. SCA board meetings take place in The Old School (which is part of the Skerries Community Centre), once a month, September to July from 8-10 p.m. on a week night evening. Between meetings communications are done mainly via email and telephone. Time commitment in addition to meeting attendance is about two hours per week.

And please do come along to our AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> September in the Little Theatre, The Old School (starting 8 p.m), and join the debate - or just have a listen.

It's our town – let's help shape its future together!



*Michael McKenna*

Michael McKenna has lived in Skerries since 2000. He joined Skerries Cycling Initiative and Skerries Guerrilla Gardeners around 2011. In 2014 he became a director of the SCA and served as company secretary from 2016-2018. He is chairperson since September 2018.

## Our Committees

### Tidy Towns Committee

Well, the judges have been and gone now. We are all very anxious at this time of year while we wait for the results of the National competition to be announced on the last Monday in September. However having worked since January painting, washing, planting and cleaning we know Skerries is looking well.

There is so much to enjoy in our town; the views, the natural environment, the sculptures, the businesses, all keeping our town vibrant and alive.

The bird sculptures all commissioned by TidyTowns are very important as they are based on the wild birds which we see around us every day.

Our latest information panels, also commissioned by TidyTowns and erected this year are the Wildlife Safari Trail at the Brook which encourages all to view the flora and fauna of the coast and the Mills.



The Mountains of Mourne panel (pictured above) introduces those who do not recognise them, to the Cooleys and the Mournes, which can be viewed from Red Island as Percy Ffrench saw them so many years ago. Don't forget to sing along as you stand in front of the panel looking out to "The Mountains of Mourne sweeping down to the sea...!"

All of the above and much more (e.g. newly designed seaside friendly planting in our flower beds, the continued efforts to eradicate invasive plant species which are taking over from our native plants, our continued pollinator-friendly project offering free plants to residents for their gardens - and we cannot forget the monument to our big win in 2016) are the legacy which TidyTowns leave for residents into the future.

So we thank all those who have supported our efforts in the past and hope they too will carry on into the future.

If anyone is interested in receiving free pollinator-friendly plants for their garden please contact a member of the committee or leave your name in the Community Centre and we will contact you.

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

### Skerries Cycling Initiative (SCI)

SCI works 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.



Our pictures show a new cycletrack in Ballygossan (red) and along a recently opened section of Barnageeragh Road (grey) which now merges with the R127 Coast Road. The section of the road through Barnageera Cove has a relatively good quality off-road cycletrack but the rest of this increasingly busy road (from its

start at the junction with Dublin Road to Skerries Point) provides a great opportunity for putting in proper infrastructure for cycling. Good news is that consultants have been appointed at last for the design of cycling provision for the Fingal Coastal Way in the Balbriggan-Skerries-Rush-Donabate sectors.



More good news is that Fingal County Council has lodged an application with An Bord Pleanála to develop The Broadmeadow Way – a walking and cycling route between Malahide Demesne and Newbridge Demesne.

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.

Ray Ryan, Chairperson, Skerries Cycling Initiative.

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



Hawthorn Crataegus Monogyna

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

### Sustainable Skerries



Sustainable Skerries held a Global Café in Skerries Mills with the aim to identify the key priorities for its activities for the next number of years, dealing with sustainability and resilience in Skerries. Participants were invited to contribute ideas to different issue-based discussion groups, including:

- Water supply/leaks/wastage
- Food Waste/Composting, Food Miles
- Are you fed up with our throw-away culture? – Skerries Repair Café
- Single Use Plastic
- Energy Security

As a result of these discussions, the inaugural Skerries Repair Café was held in the Spring of 2019, with many more to follow.

Sustainable Skerries helped establish a new Skerries Wellness Festival, based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

We organised a bumblebee workshop with Dr Thomas Murray from the National Biodiversity Data Centre which collects and manages data on Ireland's biodiversity in order to document and protect our wildlife.

The Group has lots of plans for the future. We have revitalised our online presence with an active website, <https://sustainableskerries.wordpress.com/> and a Facebook page, where you can find interesting articles pertaining to sustainable living and biodiversity.

Look out for announcements of future events and join us to make Skerries more sustainable. It is more important than ever now.

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

### Skerries Skatepark Committee

The Skatepark is now constructed and we look forward to the official opening. Already it is showing itself to be popular with lots of skaters, scooters and BMX users of all ages.



We thank all those who have supported us, especially staff at Fingal County Council who guided us through the process of creating a public facility and of course all the local support at each stage of the development.

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

### Age Friendly Skerries Committee

Skerries Age Friendly looks for ways to make Skerries a great town in which to live, work and grow old.



Age Friendly is working with LocalLink to develop initiatives to address the transport needs of older people in the town. The aim is to help the town's older people to stay active and engaged. In early 2019, Skerries Age Friendly presented the findings and recommendations of their transport survey to the Transport Coordination Unit, Flexibus.

Of those surveyed, 55% were over 75 years and 35% were over 55 years. When asked "If transport was not an issue where would you like to go?" Shopping, attending medical appointments, social and cultural events, Mass, Post Office and Credit Union scored highly.

As part of the Fingal Age Friendly county Initiative, a number of older adults from Skerries took part in the ACORN Smart Technology Project. The ACORN pilot project is examining how smart technology can improve the health and wellbeing of older adults in urban and rural communities. The aim is to develop a tablet device with software that is geared to encourage older people to go online. The findings from the trials will be used to inform digital policy at both national and local government level.



If you want to find out more about Age Friendly Skerries, email [skerriesagefriendly@skerriesca.com](mailto:skerriesagefriendly@skerriesca.com). - Mary Conway

### Rás Stage End Committee

The Rás Tailteann Ireland's premier international cycle race first came to Skerries in 2006 and has finished in Skerries every year since with the exception of 2019

An Post backed the Rás for many seasons, but it ended its sponsorship in 2017. The event was then run in May 2018 using a reserve fund built up over many years, but with that fund now empty and with the organizers having exhausted all opportunities in relation to sponsorship for a UCI race this year they were left with no alternative to pull the race for 2019

With the 2019 international event put on hold Rás organisers have continued to explore every opportunity to secure sponsorship and are doing what they can to bring back this international event next year, with the hopes of coming back stronger in 2020.

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

## Our Committees

### Skerries Town Twinning

On 14 August 2019, Skerries celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its official twinning with the Canton of Guichen (Brittany).

To mark the occasion Skerries hosted a group of our Breton friends. The group included Guy Appere, Chairman of the Guichen twinning association (CRIC), deputy mayors Karine Lorgeoux and Emmanuelle Pelletier as well as Marcel Hamel, former Conseiller Général for the area who was one of the original signatories of



the twinning charter in 1994. The visit featured a walking tour of Skerries, a visit to Ardgillan Castle, a social evening in Skerries Harps Clubhouse and a visit to Swords County Council Offices. It was a good opportunity to meet with local interest groups and representatives to share ideas and benefit from the twinning links.

Earlier in July, 28 Skerries people, both young and old, travelled to Guichen for a 5 day fun filled trip. As usual we received a very warm welcome from our host families and enjoyed a busy itinerary. The theme this year was “Marcher et Manger” (Walking and Eating) and as the weather was hotter than anyone expected there was less walking and longer picnics. The group enjoyed walks along the Vilaine river and surrounding area, followed by picnics in the most beautiful locations, such as La Place de la Courbe in Bourg-des-Comptes.



We had a reception hosted by the local mayor where a copy of the twinning charter has pride of place in the Town Hall. Other highlights included a guided tour of the medieval city of Dinan, a traditional Breton night with dancing and a hog roast as well as a pub evening in “L’Accueil Breton” and a musical concert in an old chapel that was recently renovated for community usage.

The modern concept of town twinning, conceived after the second world war, was intended to foster friendship and understanding among different cultures and between former foes as an act of peace and reconciliation, and to encourage trade and tourism. If you are interested in knowing more about Town Twinning in Skerries please contact [bnfriel@gmail.com](mailto:bnfriel@gmail.com) or see our website [www.skerriestwinning.ie](http://www.skerriestwinning.ie) or visit us on FB

### Skerries Community Centre



Skerries Community Centre had a successful 2018/2019 year. The upgrading of the Community Centre facilities continues. All the remaining windows in the Old School have been replaced. Skerries Community Centre got a new roof thanks mainly to Fingal C.C. and a Sports Capital grant. A new boiler system in the old school has worked out to be efficient and economical. Sticky Fingers Montessori was very successful and is going from 2 classes to 3 classes in September. Insurance is a main worry for the Centre as we find each year the insurance cost increases and cover for certain activities is impossible to get. The Community Centre is now a member of The Wheel which is striving as an organisation to help get better and more affordable insurance. Skerries Community Centre would like to congratulate their long standing tenants the John’s Lane bridge club on the purchase of their new premises in Strand Street Skerries and wish them well for the future.

### Updates on some important issues.

1. **Drive Through:** An Bord Pleanála is expected to make its decision on the appeal against the construction of a “drive through collection and service point” at Skerries Point by 25 September 2019.
2. **Hamilton Hill water supply:** Upgrades to the water supply will take place from September 2019. This should resolve the ongoing water issues in Hamilton Hill.
3. **Water Treatment Plant:** Irish Water are due to report imminently on measures to ensure that odour from the plant (situated on the Balbriggan side of Skerries Point, near the new developments of Barnageeragh Cove and Hamilton Hill) does not continue to cause a nuisance to the local residents and school.
4. **Mini Roundabout at the junction of Dublin Road and Barnageeragh Road** (formerly known as The Distributor Road): Report to go to Area Committee in September.

### Don’t miss out – subscribe to the SCA Newsflash!

Nearly every day, an email “Newsflash” containing information on local events as well as “small ads”-type content and notifications is mailed out to its subscribers. If you do not receive it yet, do subscribe! Simply send an email to [newsflash@skerriesca.com](mailto:newsflash@skerriesca.com) with the subject: “Subscribe!”