

Dear Members and Residents

In these unprecedented times as we grapple with COVID-19 and its consequences for us all, the SAMRA Committee would firstly like to extend our very best wishes to all our Members. We hope you are well and staying safe.

We are very conscious that a large number of our Members and Residents fall within the “at risk” groups as defined by the HSE, i.e. aged 70 years or older, have a long-term medical condition or have a weak immune system. In consultation with DCC and other groups, we wanted to gather some information that we hope you will find useful.

General information on COVID-19

As recommended by Government, the HSE website (www.hse.ie) has the most up to date and accurate information regarding the virus, what you need to do to protect yourself and others, and what to do if you think you may have contracted the virus. We would urge members not to share advice, however well meaning, from other sources given the risk of misinformation.

DCC / ALONE partnership

Dublin City Council has announced a new partnership with ALONE to provide support and assistance to older people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with Pobal and the Dublin City Age Friendly Alliance, these partner organisations will be working together to align with the sector, streamline requests for help, and ensure that vulnerable older people across the country receive the support and assistance that they need. If you need support, or would like to make a referral, **please call the support line on: 0818 222 024.**

The support line is designed to be a single point of contact from which all requests can be assessed and processed appropriately. This will be achieved by bringing together An Garda Síochána, community partners, volunteers and Dublin City Council to provide a national response and create a model that other groups and local authorities can replicate. The organisations will work together to ensure that all staff and volunteers providing supports are fully trained and Garda vetted, and adhere to best practice guidelines for dealing with older people.

Other initiatives

We are also aware of other initiatives launched in the local area to help support residents during this time. Unfortunately SAMRA has no means to vet or endorse these initiatives, so we would ask that any residents who choose to use these services take appropriate care when doing so.

- GAA / Clanna Gael: Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA have organised a group of players, mentors and club members to provide help. If you need assistance, or know anyone locally who may be vulnerable, you can contact them via email on HELP@CGFGAA.ie or text Peter McCabe on 087-2350212.
- Localsupport.ie / Randall: a number of individuals in the local area have posted offers of help on this website: www.localsupport.ie

SAMRA contacts

If you are a particularly vulnerable person, or know someone who is, and you would prefer to speak directly to a member of the SAMRA Committee, please contact one of the following:

- David Turner (Chair): 089 985 8666
- Joan MacArthur (Treasurer): 086 639 4701
- Stephen Hurley (Secretary): 089 448 9020

Other SAMRA activity

While COVID-19 understandably has taken up the majority of everyone's time and energy lately, we continue to work on the priorities we agreed at the SAMRA AGM in January. For example:

- we are working on an exciting project to compile and digitize historically important photos and memorabilia relevant to the local area
- we have actively engaged with DCC in relation to a number of important planning applications
- we also have a number of plans underway to bring together the local community once the current restrictions on movement and gatherings are lifted.

As ever, please do get in touch with your Committee if you have any thoughts or ideas for how we can conserve and improve Sandymount. We can be contacted by email (info@samra.ie) and through our website (www.samra.ie). We are also contactable on Facebook, Twitter and by phone (see above).

Finally, please continue to follow the HSE guidelines in the weeks ahead so that we can hopefully overcome this virus as soon as possible. Stay safe and be well.

Best wishes

Your SAMRA Committee