

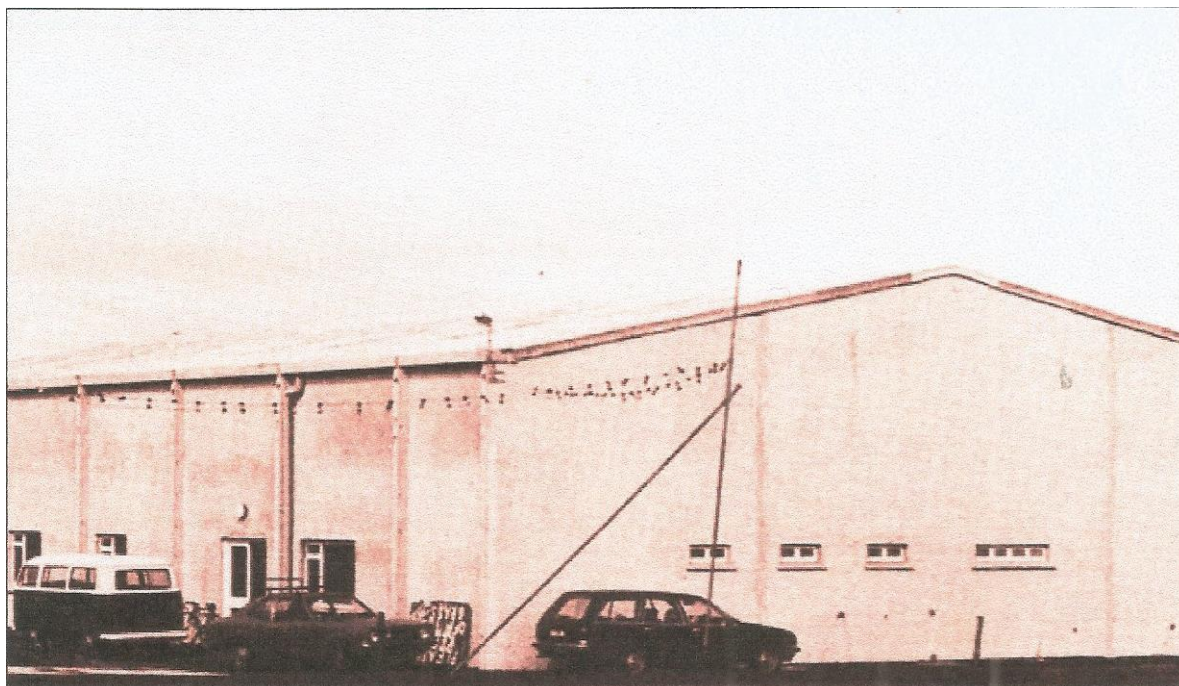
History of Rathcoole Community Council .

A PARISH Association for Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas was discussed during the second world war. It formed and divided into sub groups - each group being responsible for a particular aspect of village life.

With the building of the dual carriageway, which opened in 1968, new housing estates became home to many people. A new Catholic church and new schools were planned for Rathcoole; the Bank of Ireland and the Credit Union came. Until then the Catholic churches were at Saggart and Newcastle. St. Finian's hall in Newcastle was the parish hall. People came from many areas to make new homes in Rathcoole village. They integrated with the older residents and they all had a common purpose so Residents' Associations were formed. The Rathcoole and District Residents' Association became the umbrella body for the estates' associations

Community centre

By 1968 the Dual Carriageway formed a definite physical boundary between Rathcoole/Saggart and Newcastle. With a potential large young population, the local Garda Sergeant, Jim McKeever, foresaw the need to proceed with the erection of a recreation centre/hall for the south side of the carriageway. At a meeting he convened in the old library he was elected Chairman of a new Committee known as the Community Centre Association. Fund raising began - raffles, sponsored walks and carnivals all helped but sites were getting very expensive. Ten years later the Community Centre, which had been discussed for thirty years, was opened. Photo below was taken in September 1978.



The Community Council

Newcastle became a separate parish in 1974. In the same year, at a public meeting at the old library, the Rathcoole and District Residents ' Association and the Community Centre Association united to form the Saggart and Rathcoole Community Council under the Chairmanship of John Nolan of Crookshane. The primary objective of the new body was to promote community welfare. Throughout Dublin, community councils that were non-sectarian and non-political were coming together. The Community Council met with Government departments about matters of local concern; with Dublin County Council and later with South Dublin County Council on matters such as amenity grants, housing developments, playing fields, public lighting, roads, etc. and with private individuals as the need arose.

Members

The Chairmen of the Community Council in the last quarter of the century were John Nolan, Brian Mooney, Jack O'Brien, Catherine Quinn (who became a member of South Dublin County Council), Paddy Gavin Michael Harrington, Denis McHugh, Tom Foley and P. J. Reidy. The two General Secretaries were Tony Kearney and Joan Curran.

Other long serving members were Kay Bayle, Paddy Bectin, Maurice Boland, Annie Brady, Michael Broderick, Margaret Brunkard, Irene Clark, Stephanie Donnelly, Keel Duggan, Michael Ganly, Ena Havelin, Ann Keegan, Pamela Keogh, Marian Kiernan, Vera McCormack, Denis McHugh, Esther McGuirk, Mary Sheil McNally, Celine Malone, Marie Moore, Michael Mulally, Paddy Murray, Tony Murray, Ml. O'Brien, Francina O'Neill, Harry O'Reilly, Carmel O'Riordan, Jack Quinn, Noel Quinn and Joe Ryan.

In 1999 the Saggart and Rathcoole Community Council celebrated 25 years since its formation.

Since then the Community Centre and the Community Council has continued to thrive, In 1995 in order to comply with legal and accounting requirements the community council registered itself as a limited Company becoming Saggart and Rathcoole Community Council Ltd. company number 237850. Long serving members at the time were Paddy Murray (chairman)Joan Curran, Stephanie Donnelly ,Harry O'Reilly, Peter Gaynor, Esther McGuirke, Mary McNally, Michael Broderick, Christy Mc Donald and Sean Reid who expanded the Community Centre and and set up dedicated IT and music facilities.

The council is a non-political, non-sectarian organisation. The primary objective of the Community Council (as stated in its constitution) was and is to promote the Community welfare

Reference

A history of Saggart and Rathcoole Parishes by Maeve Mulryan Maloney book published 1998.