

Reeling in the Years

with the

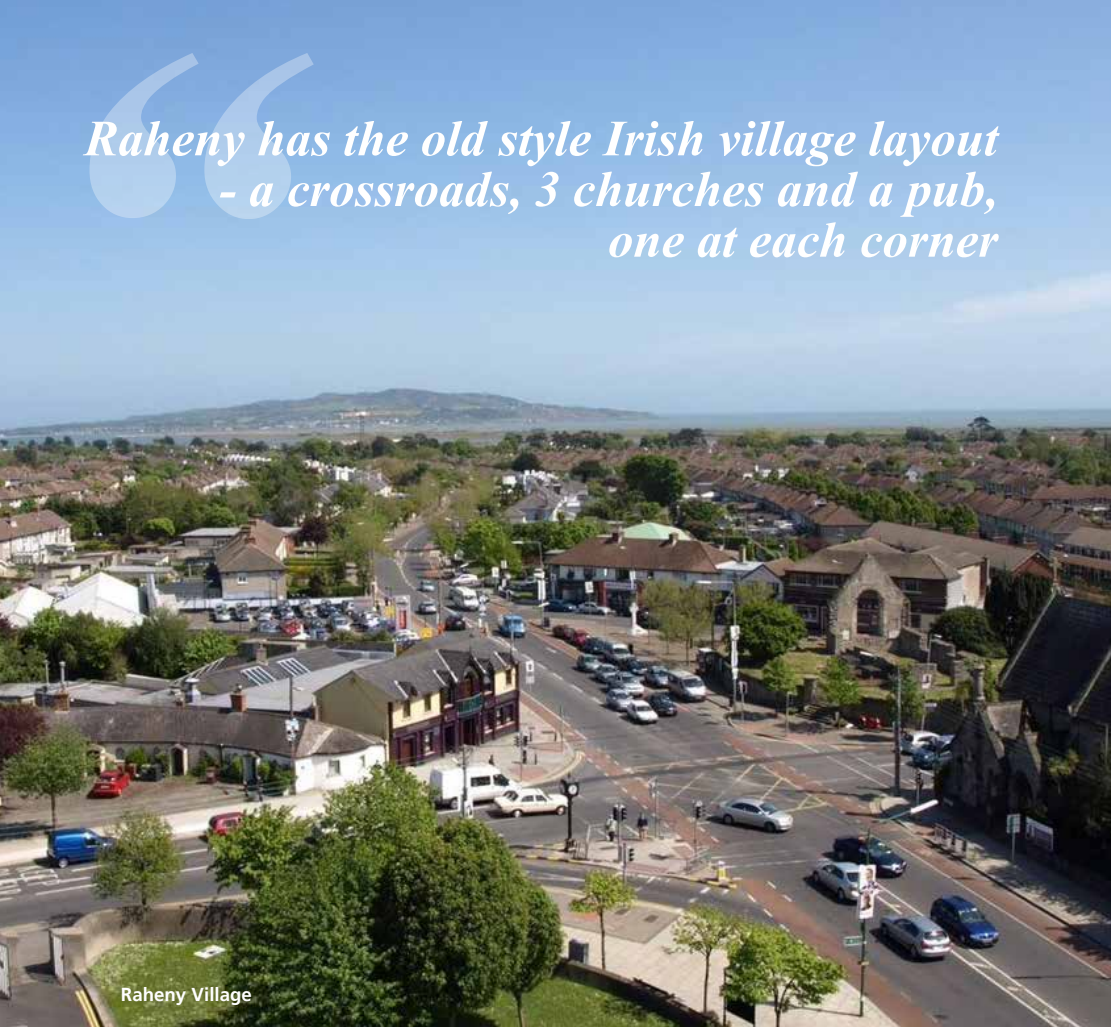
Raheny Business Association

30 Years helping
to make Raheny
a safe, caring and
vibrant community
with a dynamic
business at
its heart



1988 - 2018

*Raheny has the old style Irish village layout
- a crossroads, 3 churches and a pub,
one at each corner*



Raheny Village

What was happening then?

Back in 1988, a group of business people in Raheny, spurred on by the positivity of the Millennium Celebrations for Dublin, came together to produce a development plan for their village. Thus, the Raheny Business Association (RBA) was born, laying the groundwork for Raheny as it exists today - a great place to live and to do business.



Raheny Village c1950

1988

The year that Miley had a tumble in the hay with Fidelma in **Glenroe**. A 70ft **Gulliver** washed up on Dollymount Strand, a **Floozie in the Jacuzzi** appeared in O'Connell Street and **Molly Malone** wheeled her wheelbarrow into Grafton Street – all as part of **Dublin's 1,000th** birthday celebrations.

Nelson Mandela was granted the Freedom of Dublin City.

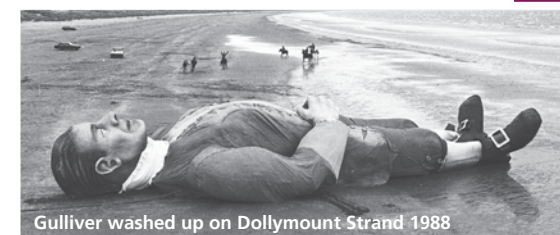
Meath won the **All Ireland Football Final** and Galway took the **Hurling Title**. The Irish Soccer Team, under **Jack Charlton**, qualified for the first time ever for the UEFA Championship and scored a memorable 1 – 0 victory over England in Stuttgart. The Eurovision, hosted in Dublin, was won by an unknown singer called **Celine Dion**.

We were listening to **Sinead O'Connor's** 'Mandinka', Enya's 'Orinoco Flow' and U2's 'Rattle and Hum'. Bobby McFerrin was singing **'Don't Worry, Be Happy'**

and the Taoiseach of the time was **Charlie Haughey**.

We all used **landlines** for phone calls - mobile phones were Star Trek props! No one had a personal computer in their home, and the **internet didn't exist**. A byte was something you took out of a sandwich – usually just ham and cheese... and we paid for them using Punts, not Euros.

But even then, the founders of the Raheny Business Association had a vision for the future of Raheny which, 30 years later, can be seen in every aspect of village life.



Gulliver washed up on Dollymount Strand 1988

What has happened since?

Nothing happens by chance, and many of the changes that Raheny Village has seen over the past 30 years are as a direct result of consistent lobbying of Dublin City Council by the RBA and Raheny Tidy Village Group including:



Raheny Tidy Village Group

CELEBRATIONS

Raheny Day

Floral Decorations of businesses and public areas in the village

The Christmas tree and Christmas Lights



Raheny Day



Christmas Tree and Lights



Millennium Clock



Hayes Memorial Cross

HERITAGE

Refurbishment of Raheny Bridge.

Relocation of Hayes Memorial Celtic Cross

The Millennium Clock - With Dublin City Council and Federation of Raheny Residents.

Blue Heritage signage on significant buildings with history of local life.

'You are Here' and defibrillator location signs.

Old Parish Church Floodlights.

Parish Pump.



Raheny Library New Outdoor Garden

INFRASTRUCTURE

Santry River Flood alleviation

New footpath, cobblelock and street furniture – Main Street

Raheny Library garden and furniture

Footpath and road maintenance, road markings, parking and traffic flow - Howth Road

Public Lighting - Installation of LED lighting

Power washing of footpaths

Directional signs to Raheny

Raheny Business Association- Helping to make Raheny...

A SAFE COMMUNITY...

RBA has worked hard to make Raheny a safe community. Public lighting, improved road signage and markings have all helped towards this aim, and we have always had a good relationship with Raheny Gardai. A united response to vandalism and graffiti means that petty crime and damage is kept to a minimum.

A CARING COMMUNITY...

RBA with **Raheny Age Friendly Group** has been instrumental in organising services for seniors and those with reduced mobility –

Monthly community café

Lift at the Garda Station

Lift to the 2nd floor at the Raheny Shopping Centre as well as a handrail on the footpath



Installation of Defibrillators by Raheny Community First Responders



Raheny Age Friendly Club at CARA Hall



Safety Rail and Wheelchair Ramp

Safety rail and wheelchair ramp on Main Street

Levelling of footpaths at all shop entrances

The **Raheny Community First Responders** was set up under the inspired leadership of Joe Mooney. It has 24 volunteers trained by the HSE to Pre-Hospital Emergency Critical Care (PHECC) standards. These volunteers can respond in 4 – 6 minutes to someone experiencing cardiac arrest or stroke within 5km of Raheny Village, administering critical care while waiting on ambulance services.

Currently there are 18 defibrillators installed around Raheny Village, and while we'd hope that no one ever has to use them, it's reassuring to know that these services are there.

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY...

RBA has worked with local community organisations, charities, schools and clubs over its 30 years of existence. However, we have to admit that **The Raheny Tidy Village Group** are even older than us – by 10 years! They have done a spectacular job of making Raheny look so colourful and vibrant over the years winning numerous awards in the famous Tidy Towns competition. They keep the village tidy, fund the on-street flower planters, put flowers on the business premises as well as – and more importantly – keep them alive! Well done to Con Clarke, Seamus Griffith, and their enthusiastic volunteers – the place would look so dull without you all!

RBA has supported the many sporting clubs and organisations in the area over the years, including **Raheny Shamrocks, Raheny GAA, Raheny United FC, Scouts and Guides** – all of whom are also celebrating significant birthdays 50 - 60 years in 2018.

Another big birthday in 2018 are the three primary schools – **Scoil Íde, Áine and Assam** – who all celebrate 60 years of educating our young people so that they can go on to become the community and



Raheny Business Tidy Village Group displaying their SuperValu Tidy Towns and Dublin North Central Neighbourhood Awards 2015.

L-R Teresa Clarke, Con Clarke, Rose Daly, Joe Byrne (Blooming Baskets), Linda Spellman, Tim O'Sullivan, Clare O'Sullivan, Denis Cronin, Bernadette Isabelle, Barry Murphy Co-Ordinator RBA, Aidan Fitzsimons Chairman RBA, and Leo "George" Devitt

business leaders of the future. **Manor House** Secondary School has also been a remarkable stalwart of education for the girls in Raheny with **St Pauls College** and **De la Salle** for the boys, all helping to shape their future careers.

We've always supported them, and will continue to do so going forward – we believe in investing in the future!

The annual lighting of the **Christmas Tree** in Raheny is now a major event in the Christmas calendar, with music and carol singing and of course the main event – the arrival of Santa Claus. A Santa grotto with presents for all of the children attending is proving to be one of the most popular events of our calendar with the numbers attending growing year on year. Even if we do say it ourselves, Raheny looks especially magical during the festive season with all of the businesses lit up with twinkling lights creating a warm and friendly welcome to everyone. We're proud to be a part of this with the help and support of North Central Area Office of Dublin City Council.

...AND A DYNAMIC PLACE TO DO BUSINESS.

RBA has provided a comprehensive Member Event Programme throughout its 30 years, including business talks, training in new technology, social gatherings, Business Awards and Golf Classics.

Encouraging local people to shop locally, the RBA has over the years produced business directories, fridge magnets, calendars and phone directory covers to promote local support. To commemorate its 21st Birthday, we produced **'From A Little Acorn...21 years of Growing'**. In 2106 we produced the **'Raheny Little Big Book of Information'** and distributed it to 8,000 households in the area.

We moved with the times and launched a website, which has been completely



Launch of 'Raheny Little Big Book of Information' Barry Murphy, Raheny Business Association Co-Ordinator, Elaine Mulvenny, Dublin City Council, and Aidan Fitzsimons, Chairman of Raheny Business Association in 2015



The Annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree in Raheny Village

updated and a new state of the art website will be launched in March 2018 with many new features.

www.rahenybusiness.com

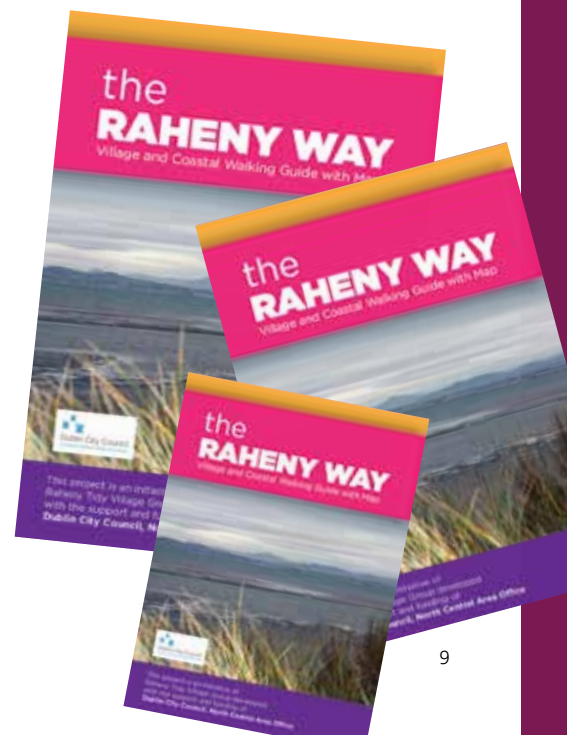
A new edition of the **'Raheny Little Big Book of Information'** is due to be delivered to 8000 homes in Raheny in March 2018.

We also have Raheny Business Facebook page.

We have an online newsletter which keeps everyone up to date both from a business and social point of view and in partnership with the Northside People have been able to showcase the many aesthetic and commercial achievements that have happened in the last 30 years.

Special Congratulations to Clare O'Sullivan who, in conjunction with the

North Area Office of Dublin City Council, launched **'The Raheny Way'** Village & Coastal Walking Guide with Map.



Significant Business Birthdays in 2018 in Raheny

Adam's Pharmacy

celebrates 70 years in Raheny. Opened by Lucy Adams (RIP) in 1948, the pharmacy has served the people of Raheny over the years with care and dedication. Lucy's son Pearse has continued the tradition with an upgraded premises and a willingness to take time to listen to people. Pearse was also one of the first Chairmen of the RBA and continues his long service to this day.



Smyth's Butchers

celebrate 60 years in the Village. Started in 1958 by James with the help of his wife Mary and their son (also James and his wife Mary) took over in the early 1960s, with grandson Brendan now at the helm. Many changes have taken place here over the years in response to changing consumer trends, but the essence of the original business is still there with an excellent personal service to the locals.



Duffys Barbers

closed this year with the retirement of Michael Duffy. Michaels' father started the business on Main St 58 years ago. They've seen some changes to hair styles over the years!

A final word...

Dick Hooper, former Chairman of Raheny Business Association and one of its founding members wondered 'When we look back – did we make a difference? Is the place better for our presence?'



We think every member of the RBA over the last 30 years can stand proud and take a bow, as we all made a difference, and Raheny is better for our combined efforts.

The village and its environs are greatly enhanced

Members have benefitted in terms of greater recognition and support
Issues such as parking, vandalism and graffiti are dealt with from a united stance
A Christmas Tree stands proud and tall every year

Throughout the recession 2009- 2015 there were no vacant shop units in Raheny
Raheny keeps coming up the rankings in the Tidy Towns Competition.

At the beginning, we wanted to promote Raheny as a major commercial area and make it a better place in which to work and live – what we have managed to do, with the support of every person living in Raheny over the past 30 year, is to make Raheny a safe, caring and vibrant community with a dynamic business at its heart.

Thank you for your continued support!

**A very special thanks to our contributors
who put this short history of the RBA
together:**

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The Irish Times

THE INSPIRATION

**The remarkable business people of
Raheny who have been part of the
Raheny Business Association
during it's 30 years
- past and present.**

**Thank you all for
your time and dedication
to Raheny in
helping to build
a strong and dynamic
business community.**