

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting: 16th May 2017

Item No: 8

Finglas Area Office Report

Barry Shops

The complex is being acquired by new owners. At a recent meeting in my office the new owners outlined their plans for upgrading the units to provide a broader range of retail activities before the year end. I subsequently visited the site with our Public Domain Officer and agreed a number of actions to be undertaken by the Area Office to support this welcome development.

Liverpool Twinning

At last September's NWAC a Motion was adopted "That the office of international relations assist the village of Finglas to establish a cultural connection/sister village relationship with an urban village in one of the following Cities currently twinned with Dublin City: San Jose, Liverpool and Barcelona."

I subsequently briefed staff from the Office of International Relations and Social Inclusion on the possible focus of a twinning and the demographics of Finglas. They then conveyed this information and the details of the Motion to the Office of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool. Unfortunately, our request became entangled in internal confusion about the intent of our request. The Office of International Relations and Social Inclusion recently renewed contact with Liverpool with the aim of reinvigorating the initiative. We await a response.

Our proposal is opportune as 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of The Twinning Agreement between Dublin and Liverpool.

Update on Kildonan Lands Project

BSM presented their draft report providing an overview of three potential options for the Kildonan site to the group chaired by Rita Burtenshaw, the Independent Facilitator, on the 4th May in the Finglas Office. The Group unanimously favoured option (c) for the following reasons:

- It maximises the use of the land for the provision of much needed homes.
- There are no large public buildings with unspecified uses.

The group also made a number of recommendations to the planners.

I wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the members of the group which has enabled the process to reach this stage.

BSM will present their updated report at today's NWAC meeting. Subject to NWAC approval, it is intended to undertake a public consultation of the options during June.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Historians in residence/Grants

Dublin City Council has contracted six historians-in-residence (funded by Decade of Commemorations funding) to work with communities across the city on various history events, topics and projects.

The project will be managed by Dublin City Public Libraries in conjunction with community development teams and community groups in the DCC areas. There will be one historian allocated to each DCC area.

Dublin City Council Public Libraries have announced a Decade of Commemorations fund for history events (similar to the 1916 Rising grants scheme) and the application form and guidelines are online (there is no closing date) at:

<http://www.dublincity.ie/decadeofcommemorations>

Environmental Enhancement Project:

As part of international neighbours day, Dublin City Council's Community & Social Development Section have contacted Resident/Environmental groups with a view to providing those groups with bedding plants to enhance their local area. A number of resident groups have contacted the Community Section expressing interest in the scheme. Bedding plants will be distributed on the 18th May to groups that have registered their interest.

Finglas Older Persons Expo

Dublin City Council's Community & Social Development Team are organising an Older Persons Expo. The Aim of the Expo to give local community groups / organisations an opportunity to promote their group, share information with the local community and encourage new membership. The event will take place on:

Date: Wednesday 24th May.

Time: 12pm-3pm

Venue: WFTRA Hall, Mellowes Road, Finglas, Dublin 11.

Home school Community Liaison Wellness Fair

Dublin City Council's Community & Social Development Section financially supported the Home school Community Liaison Wellness Fair that was held in Erins Isle GAA club in April. The aim of the day was to initiate "talk" about healthy living.

Finglas Arts & Crafts Exhibition

Community and Social Development section in association with CDETB Finglas have organised a community arts and crafts exhibition as part of the 2017 Bealtaine festival. The exhibition will be held on the times and dates below. We are currently linking in with local arts groups in relation to them displaying art and crafts work or performing at the St. Canices event. This exhibition is being held in St. Canices Parochial hall.

Exhibition launch: Wednesday 31st May at 12:30pm. The launch will be followed by a performance of the Forever Young Choir in St. Canice's Church. This is a free event, all welcome.

Art exhibition opening times: Wednesday 31st May 1pm- 3pm and 6pm-8pm.

Thursday 1st June: 12pm-3pm and 5:30pm-7:15pm.

St. Canice's Church performance: Thursday 1st June at 7:30pm (invitation only). There will be performance from local writers groups, local traditional music groups, and a performance of Dermot Bolger's monologue of St. Canice.

For more information please contact the Community and Social Development Section on (01) 2225400.

Aidan Maher
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