

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

Meeting: 19th September 2017

Item No: 3

Cabra Area Office Report

Ashington Mews

The Area Office has been liaising with residents regarding complaints of anti-social behaviour coming from the area of the Ratoath Flyover. Irish Rail is engaging a contractor to remove graffiti from the bridge and the grassed area is now being maintained by DCC Parks Division. There has been a long standing issue with a horse being kept in one section and Parks are endeavouring to have it removed by the Control of Horses Section.

Broome Lodge

The opening of Broome Lodge is now scheduled for 4th October. This allows some extra time for completion of works as delays have been caused by staff leaving.

Cabra Road and Park

The Administrative Officer (AO), Cabra Area Office and the Public Domain Officer met with residents' representatives to discuss their ongoing concerns regarding the maintenance of the area from a waste management perspective. An agreement was reached regarding a modus operandi for reporting and responding to issues. Cabra Road has experienced considerable disruption due to LUAS works but these have now largely been completed. It also suffers from a high level of rental properties and subsequent issue with bins. A concerted campaign involving letter drops, monitoring and litter warden visits is being undertaken to address the situation.

Shared Services Proposal for Cabra Office

A draft design brief has been prepared by the City Architect's Division and issued to three architectural firms. Subject to agreement on design and overall costs, it is hoped that construction can begin by early New Year.

Mount Bernard Playground Extension

The children's playground has now opened. The facility is working well and is extremely busy with parents and children enjoying the space. The post installation inspection shows the site is safe and fit for purpose apart from some minor remedial works which have now been completed. The Parks Department continues to monitor the site and have arranged to have a further and final safety inspection in the next week.

As a natural play area, this type of facility focuses on play opportunities provided by nature where children can play 'in and with' natural elements.

Proposed Park Extension into TII lands

DCC Parks Superintendent and the Area Office AO met with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and both parties agreed to do some due diligence in relation to any potential land transfer. The issues are:

- Clarification that TII do not have any strategic need to retain the lands into the future;
- that there are no potential hazards to the public in DCC taking in charge of the lands and developing it for public use/access;
- that there are no significant costs to be incurred by DCC in taking in charge these lands.

A further meeting will be arranged with TII to progress the matter.

Planters

Over the summer our Community and Public Domain teams have been working with residents to enhance their areas with additional planting and with placing planters in strategic locations.

Road Improvements

A substantial resurfacing of Connaught Street and Dowth Avenue were undertaken over the summer bringing much needed improvements. Ashtown Grove also benefited from upgrading of the road surface.

The Blackhorse Avenue project is scheduled for completion before the end of the year. Work on the Cabra Gate to Springfield Road will be substantially completed by the end of November. Any necessary snagging will be addressed in December.

Shandon Gardens

A contractor has been engaged to undertake repairs to the boundary wall that separates Shandon Gardens from the canal bank.

Community & Social Development

Summer Projects

Riverston Abbey, Annamoe and 'Sharing the Journey', which is for children with hearing difficulties and their siblings, were a great success. Other camps and activities in John Paul Park, Ventry Park and St Finbarr's G.A.A. Club were also enjoyed and well attended.

Festivals

St Finbarr's Festival ran for a week in August with lots of activities for all sections of the Community. It was organised and supported by a large group of enthusiastic volunteers. All activities attracted large numbers of attendees.

Community Fun Days

Residents Groups: C.A.S.S., Glenbeigh, Drumcliffe, Royal Canal Park and Regal Park held family fun days and availed of gazebos, tables, bunting and play equipment made available by the Community Development Team and the Area Office.

Leinster Street hosted an evening to celebrate the life and times of "Bang Bang" the legendary character well known in the City. His real name was Thomas Dudley. He hopped on and off buses with a large key which he used as a gun, under the illusion, that he was a cowboy on a stage coach protecting passengers from Indians. He died in 1981 and was buried in a mass grave in Drumcondra. The Community Group raised the money to erect a plaque in his memory and held the event outside the Bang Bang Café on Leinster Street,

which is named after him. An actor performed a monologue from an original No10 Bus which he frequently used. There was Dublin coddle and traditional music for the people who turned out on the night.

The NWA City Neighbourhood Awards presentation took place on the 7th September in Ballymun, attended by groups from Cabra, Phibsborough, Finglas and Ballymun. The winners go forward to the Citywide Competition. The overall results will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in Croke Park on 21st September.

The garden in Christ the King Day Centre was officially opened on the 24th August. The project was funded by Dublin City Council. There was a large crowd in attendance and music and refreshments were provided for the celebration. There is a large elderly population in Cabra and this new entrance and recreational space is very welcome by the community, clubs and groups who attend there.



Christ the King Day Centre Garden official opening

Aidan Maher
Assistant Area Manager