

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

Meeting: 19th October 2017

Item No: 3

Cabra Area Office Report

Ashington Mews

A number of meetings have been held with a small number of residents of Ashington Mews over the past year to discuss their concerns regarding anti-social behaviour occurring in the vicinity of the Ratoath Flyover. Residents have been asking that the landscaped area be walled off to prevent access. Gordon Rowland of the Roads Department and Mark Jones of the Parks Section were on site last year to discuss these issues. It was felt that closing off access to the area would create an enclosure that would exacerbate any problems instead of solving them. Experience suggested that, as the landscaped area matured, activity would settle down.

Dublin City Council and Cabra Gardai have met the residents on site. The Gardai say that they have been patrolling as resources allow but say they have not experienced many incidents. However, residents dispute this and continue to complain of anti-social behaviour. They have provided photos of graffiti on the bridge and the presence of riders on a horse in support of their claims.

Fergus O'Carroll, the new Parks Superintendent, recently re-examined the area. He suggested planting more trees to obscure the Irish Rail fence adjoining the rail line and the bridge that residents are looking out on. The existing trees planted as part of the project will also help achieve this as they mature over a relatively short period of time. He also suggested additional planting at the back of residents' walls and possibly adding anti-climbing paint while the new bushes develop. These measures have been offered to the residents and we await their response. An offer to place a rail on top of their walls was rejected as unsuitable. Fergus also confirmed that blocking off access with a gated wall would most likely provide a secure enclosure for people who wish to keep horses there. There are no funds available to carry out such work.

Irish Rail has now confirmed that they have secured funding from the NTA to remove graffiti from the bridge and to strengthen fencing in order to prevent access to it. They will also add anti-graffiti paint as part of the works. The graffiti works alone will cost €25K.

Since the landscaped area has been handed over to Dublin City Council Parks Section in the summer it has been well maintained and inspections of the area reveal little or no littering on site. It is acknowledged that there is a horse being kept on the opposite side of the bridge from Ashington and the Control of Horses Section has been informed of this.

As the area matures and the additional measures proposed are put in place the landscaped area and security should be enhanced. However, no one can guarantee against people determined to carry out anti-social behaviour but these efforts and monitoring by the Gardai should act as a significant deterrent.

Ashtown Grove

Quotations are being sought with a view to having the landings either side of the shops marked out in response to residents' requests to create more disciplined parking. It is important to note that this will not become a formal paid car park and Dublin City Council may require the area for other uses in the future. However, having surveyed relevant Departments there appears to be no immediate demand.

Broome Lodge

The official opening of Broome Lodge by Ministers Murphy and Donohoe will take place on Monday 27th November at 10 a.m.

Royal Canal

Following lengthy discussion between Irish Rail and the Volunteer Clean Up Group, Irish Rail propose to provide the group with a lease to locate a container near the 6th lock to store the groups equipment, including canoes and safety gear supplied by the Area Office, to assist in these works.

Community & Social Development

Positive Ageing Week 25th September

Dublin City Council and Dublin North West Area Partnership organised a talk on Ageing with Confidence in Cabra Library on 28th September to highlight Positive Ageing Week. The aim of the talk was to promote self confidence by exploring one's own ageing process, physically, physiologically and socially and ways to address these changes in a positive way. The speaker was Geraldine Smyth and she has been invited to give a three day workshop on the topic during the Bealtaine Festival 2018 in the Library.

Environmental Projects

With the new season coming in many of our residents are replacing their summer bedding with winter plants and are also sowing bulbs for the spring. The Bee Hives have been installed in St Peters Church and a Community Event - organised with Phibsborough Tidy Towns - took place on the 30th September to bless the bees. Kaethe Burt-O Dea gave information on bee keeping, pollination and honey. It is hoped that there will be Phibsborough Honey next year. They also organised a walk along the Canal on 7th October to gather seeds to plant beside the bees in the St Peters Garden.

Community Grants Scheme 2018

Applications forms for the Community Grant Scheme have been sent to all the groups in the area who applied last year and also to some new groups. The closing date for receipt of applications is 27th October. If anyone has any queries, needs an application form or assistance with filling it in they can contact Marian Finglas or Paul Fitzpatrick in the Cabra Area Office.

Comhairle na nÓg A.G.M.

The AGM is taking place on 27th October in Croke Park. All the schools in the area have been invited to send participants to the event. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the work being undertaken so far. They will also have the opportunity to put themselves forward for election to the Comhairle. The A.G.M. facilitates filling vacancies

which arise from young people reaching 18 years of age or vacancies occurring during the course of the year. It is a very positive, educational and fun experience for young people who get the chance to have their opinions and ideas listened too, worked on and presented to those who make decisions affecting them.

Halloween

The Halloween Graveyard is being planned for Tuesday Night 31st October and the Men's Shed is working on the props. There will be an Athletics Halloween Camp in Cabra Parkside from 31st October to 3rd November. Ventry Park Recreation Staff and Volunteers are taking 24 young people to the Cavan Centre from Friday to Sunday on the Bank Holiday weekend and will also have activities on Tuesday 31st. There will be a Kids Disco in St Finbarr's G.A.A. Club on Friday 27th. Events for Seniors are also being planned. The Sports Development Officers will be linking in with volunteers to put together a programme of events. Flyers will be posted around the area before the Halloween weekend.

Aidan Maher
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