

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

Meeting: 20th February 2018

Item No: 8

FINGLAS AREA OFFICE REPORT

Update on Kildonan Lands

CONSULTANTS BRIEF:

An in-house Project Team to prepare a Brief for the engagement of design consultants for the Kildonan Lands held its first meeting on the 13th February.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:

One of the actions arising from the December, 2017 letter from Brendan Kenny, Deputy Chief Executive, in relation to the Kildonan Lands is the formation of a consultative and liaison group for the development of the Kildonan Lands and the Abigail Centre in advance of the reconfiguration of these services.

Previous groups that were in place at earlier stages of this process (Kildonan Master Plan Development Group; Oversight Group; Abigail Liaison Group) no longer operate.

It is intended that the group will provide a forum to

- Exchange information between the stakeholders involved in the Kildonan Lands Consultative Group: DCC Finglas Civic Office, Councillors, Local Community (WFTRA) and the Abigail Service Providers.
- Consult with and co-operate with the interested parties in the development of the lands.
- Address concerns that may arise in the planning and development of the lands.
- Address concerns that may arise in relation to serious incidents arising from the operation of the Abigail Centre.
- Updates on the work of the Group will be provided to the North West Area Committee.

Proposed Representation on the Group

- Two Councillors representing the North West Area Committee (representatives to be agreed by Councillors at the February NWAC meeting).
- Two representatives from the local community (WFTRA).
- Two representatives from the Council's Finglas Civic Office.
- Two representatives from Novas.
- Two representatives from DePaul (Tus Nua).

I will Chair the meetings. Subject to agreement by all representatives it is intended that the first meeting will take place in March.

New Finglas Library

In June 2015 a feasibility assessment of site options for the delivery of a modern public branch library in Finglas was prepared by Dublin City Public Libraries (DCPL). Four potential sites were examined by staff from DCPL, Development Department and the Finglas Area Office. In December 2015 the preferred site was identified as the former An Post Sorting Office and former DCC Waste Depot, Seamus Ennis Road. Negotiations have been ongoing since but are complicated. I will update Councillors on the final outcome of these negotiations.

An initial allocation has been included in the capital programme for the project.

Finglas-Cabra Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force

John Bennett has advised that the schedule of meetings for this year was recently issued. He acknowledges the difficulty Councillors have in attending mid-morning meetings. He intends proceeding with the 23rd February meeting as already arranged, but the timing of future meetings will be discussed then. I will update Councillors on the outcome at the March meeting of the NWAC.

Community & Social Development

Better Finglas

Better Finglas has operated in the Finglas area for the past number of years. The group provides a number of services to the local community including parenting, early years services and a literacy programme. The programmes are now well embedded and supported within the community. The Better Finglas Programme will be funded until December 2018.

International Women's Day 2018

To mark International Women's Day, the Finglas Community and Social Development Section has organised a performance of a piece entitled "Midwife of the Nation", by the Carnation Theatre.

Midwives celebrates the often forgotten contribution of women to the events of 1916 – the big and the not so big characters of which there are so many: Elizabeth O'Farrell, Margaret Skinnider, Countess Markievicz, Winnie Carney to name but a few.

This event will take place on Thursday 8th March 2018 at 11am-1pm in WFTRA Hall, Mellows Road, Finglas. Light refreshments will be served.

Facilities for Community Groups

A small number of community groups based in the Church of the Annunciation have contacted Dublin City Council in relation to accessing new premises. The groups are due to leave their current facilities by the end of February 2018.

The groups include Finglas Racing Pigeon Club and Narcotics Anonymous. Dublin City Council's Community Development Section is working closely with the groups to ensure that they can access alternative premises in the near future and continue providing a service to the local community.

Dublin Tenement Museum

Historian Donal Fallon, and Charles Duggan DCC Heritage Officer, have been working on connecting people from Dublin's north side suburbs with the new Dublin Tenement Museum. Finglas is an integral part of the story of tenement Dublin, as many families were moved out to the suburbs from the tenements and have roots in the city. Charles gave a talk about the museum last October in the Finglas Civic Centre. Following this, the Finglas Community Section organised for the group of thirty local people to go on a tour of the Dublin Tenement Museum at the end of January. The group thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we received great feedback.



North West Area Older Person's Council

The NWA Older Person's Council met on Wednesday 31st January in Finglas Civic Centre. Information on upcoming events was circulated. The OPC will visit the Finglas Men's Shed in the coming months. The development of the Men's Shed was a direct result of a need identified by the OPC.

The NWA OPC agreed to alternate meetings between each of the area offices in Finglas, Ballymun and Cabra to encourage new members and to embed the Age Friendly ethos across the areas. The issue of transport and access to transport dominated the January meeting.

Dublin City Council Community Grants Scheme

Payments to Community Groups under Dublin City Council's Community Grants Scheme 2018 will commence once approval is received at the City Council's March meeting.

The development of an online Community Grants Scheme is underway. This new system will require the Community & Social Development Staff assisting a number of groups with applications. However, in the long run the online system should improve the speed of processing and payment of grants

Aidan Maher
Assistant Area Manager