



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

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

Meeting: 20th March 2018

Item No: 15

Ballymun Area Office Report

- 1. Community Update**
- 2. Housing/Estate Management**
- 3. Ballymun Economic Development/Town Civic Alliance**
- 4. Safer Ballymun/Drumcondra Glasnevin**

1. Community Update

General Community

The first voluntary summer project network meeting took place on Monday the 29th January 2018. The second public consultation around the re-imagining of the Ballymun Plaza 'Cearnog an tSeachtar Laoch' took place in the Civic Offices on 8th February. The following meetings were attended; Aisling Poppintree Advisory Group, Poppintree Health for All Group, Ballymun Fairtrade Committee, Lorcan Residents Group, Burren Court Residents, Ballymun Tidy Towns Group, Ballymun Fun Run Meeting, DePaul., Larkhill Residents, Sillogue Ladies Group, Ballymun All Sorts, Otherworld Committee, Axis, and Sports Development Officers.

Environmental

The Community Team are working alongside the Public Domain staff in relation to local environmental initiatives and distribution of planters, blue bags, brushes etc. Groups are being encouraged to participate in the supported clean ups during April. A planting project took place in Shangan Green organised by DCC Community Development/Public Domain GAP Ballymun. This was a successful project. The number of environmental groups in the Shangan Area is growing and additional support will be provided to these groups throughout 2018. A walk around was organised with Lorcan Residents with a view to enhancing the area in environmental terms. The Community Section is assisting this group to grow their members through a number of means including an information meeting for residents. This group will be encouraged to get involved in Community Clean Ups during April. A meeting took place with the Flower Pots Environmental Group in relation to a community mural in the local area of Doon Court. The Community Team Members have been co-organising the renaming of the Drumcondra Bridge 'Frank Flood Bridge' along with the Culture Recreation and Economic Services Department. The Frank Flood Bridge event took place on Wednesday the 14th March at 11am.

Social Inclusion

A number of meetings have taken place with staff in Sillogue Neighbourhood Centre in relation to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of systems in the centre. The centre has grown in popularity over the last two years and is used by over ten local user groups, the majority being women's groups. The first user group information meeting took place in the Centre on the 22nd February and was attended by four groups. A number of follow up meetings will take place later in the year. A number of meetings have taken place with the FACT (Autism Support Group) and a series of Sports Taster Sessions have commenced in Poppintree Community Centre, which will cater for the young people who attend the group. This was organised in conjunction with the Sports Development Officer. The team members are continuing to support the BADIG Group. A number of initiatives are being planned for later in the year in conjunction with the Sports Development Officer. The Community Development team members are continuing to link with The Ballymun Men's Sheds and DCU around plans for the new premises in DCU Community Garden. Meetings took place with the following Older Persons Groups; Active Living Group, Whitehall Active Retirement Association, U3A, and BADIG.

Griffith Hall Playgroup

Architects have been appointed for the demolition and rebuild due to significant issues with the building. A series of meetings has been held with the Playgroup and good progress is being made.

North West Area Age Friendly Alliance

A meeting of the Alliance was held on 6th March, which was well attended. The Chair of the City Wide Alliance was in attendance and was briefed on our progress to date.

2. Housing/Estate Management/Public Domain Updates

C.C.T.V

The C.C.T.V system is working well. We are working with the Parks Section to identify trees that are restricting the images some cameras are receiving.

Cleansing/Waste Management

Waste Management and the Area Office are continuing to combat illegal dumping at open spaces. These measures include using the C.C.T.V system to monitor and identify those responsible. The Area Office has targeted illegal dumping around Whiteacre, Forestwood and Doon and Knowth Courts and several tenants have been called for interview and warned about their behaviour.

Ballymun Lettings January - February 2018

Allocation Category	Housing List	Transfer List
Band 1 Priority		
Welfare	2	2
Travellers	2	
Medical	2	
Homeless	1	
Band 2	4	1
Band 3	3	1
Surrendering Larger		2
Estate Management		1
Maintenance		1
Refurbishment		3
Sub Total	14	11
Total Lettings	25	

Estate Management January - February 2018

No of Anti social complaints per 1997 act Drug Related	25
No of Anti social complaints per 1997 act Not Drug Related	
No of other Complaints	39
Total Complaints	64
No of Anti Social Interviews per 1997 act	16
No of Other Interviews	9

Total Interviews	25
No Requests for mediation	
No of Complaints referred to central unit for Action	
No of Section 20 Evictions	
No of excluding Orders applied for by Tenant	
No of Excluding orders applied for by DCC	
No of surrender of Tenancies due to Anti Social Behaviour	
No of Tenancy Warnings sent to Central Unit	
No of Court Orders Granted	
No of Appeals / Judicial Reviews Challenges	
No of Warrants executed (Evictions)	

Ballymun Rent Assessment Update

	February 2018
Assessments	657
Permissions To Reside	0
Refunds	2
Opening of Accounts	10 (including 2 successions)
Closing of Accounts	5
Front Counter Calls	649
Window Replacements	3

Ballymun Voids

Address	Type	Date of Vacancy	Status
Poppintree Cres	2 Bed	17/09/17	Under Repair
Carton Terrace	2 Bed	Used for Pyrite	On Offer
Forestwood Ave	2 Bed	15/10/17	Under Repair
Owensilla	2 Bed	24/09/17	Under Repair
Carton Way	1 Bed	08/11/17	On Offer
Woodhazel Close	1 Bed	08/10/17	Under Repair
Owensilla	1 Bed	22/10/17	Under Repair
Shangan Road	3 Bed	28/09/17	Under Repair
Shangan Road	2 Bed	03/10/17	Under Repair
Coultry Way	1 Bed	06/11/17	Under Repair
Longdale Terrace	2 Bed	17/12/17	Under Repair
Oak Park Close	4 Bed	12/01/18	On Offer
Marewood Cres	2 Bed	06/02/2018	Under Repair
Coultry Close	3 Bed	13/02/2018	Under Repair

Pairc Na Cuileann	2 Bed	15/02/2018	Under Repair
Coultry Drive	3 Bed	21/02/2018	Under Repair
Gateway View	2 Bed	26/02/2018	Under Repair
Older Persons			
Address	Type	Date of Vacancy	Status
Hampstead Court	OPU	On hold	2 into 1 units
Burren Court	OPU	09/07/17	Under Repair
Burren Court	OPU	08/10/17	Under Repair
Burren Court	OPU	03/09/17	Under Repair
Botanic Avenue	OPU	04/08/17	Under Repair
Sandyhill Gdns	OPU	17/09/17	Under Repair
Sandyhill Gdns	OPU		Under Repair
Ard Na Meala	OPU	25/01/18	Under Repair
Ard Na Meala	OPU	08/10/17	Under Repair

Druid Court

Dublin City Council Area Committee has approved the commencement of the process to extinguish a right of way in Druid Court. The next step is to check with various Council Departments.

Carraig Road

There has been an increase in stolen cars being burnt out in the area and the railings at Carraig Road and Marewood Grove were damaged by stolen cars. These railing will be repaired in the near future. Dublin City Council is working with the Gardaí around this issue. Bollards have been reinstated in Sandyhill Gardens at the request of the residents. Snagging in Baile na Laochra is being completed at the moment. Some of these properties required extensive work on the ground floor insulation, which has been completed.

Illegal Dumping

DCC continue to investigate all reports of illegal dumping that are made to the office. We are working closely with the Public Domain Team and the Litter Warden.

Anti Social Behaviour

DCC is currently working with the Gardaí on a number of anti social cases in the area. There has been an increase in the volume of complaints relating to drug dealing. This information is shared with the Gardaí.

Burren Court

DCC has met with the residents of Burren Court with regard to serious anti social issues the residents are experiencing. It was suggested that the residents get a committee together to work with DCC and the Gardaí. This is being facilitated by the DCC Liaison Officer assigned to this complex.

A meeting was organised by Public Domain with the residents of Burren Court to discuss strategies to combat illegal dumping. We hope to achieve this by increasing recycling and composting with a view to decreasing black bins in the facility. It was also attended by the Liaison Officer, Community Section and local Gardaí. Craig Benton from the EPA 'Stop Food Waste Programme' will be providing training on composting in the near future. Cameras have been installed outside the gates here with a view to collecting evidence of illegal dumping. Red bin bags have been given to residents to help identify dumping so that the litter warden can investigate bags that are not red in colour. We are waiting on the outcome of the tender process for the waste management company to organise brown and green bin delivery.

Beehives

Work on the bee project continues. At present we have five participants for the bee course that will take place in May/June. We hope to have two beehives in place in the two Community Gardens in June.

Social Media

We are awaiting approval on social media access for a page called Clean Green Ballymun.

Pocket Parks

Public Domain has applied for funding under the 'Anti-Dumping Initiative' with a view to developing more greening neighbourhood projects. We have had huge success with previous projects in creating a sense of community through supporting residents in getting involved in enhancing their green spaces, which has resulted in a considerable decrease in dumping in the areas involved. It unites communities through working together and creates a huge sense of pride of place. We have made contact with local residents to become involved with our 'Pocket Park' project. We are investigating choosing small green areas that are blighted with illegal dumping and making them into pollinator friendly pocket parks. These parks will have an emphasis on biodiversity and sustainability with a view to reducing illegal dumping by encouraging resident engagement in planting and maintaining them. A number of schools have also expressed an interest in taking ownership of some of these parks and making art pieces and insect boxes for same. DCC has a budget for part of this work but receiving funding would be hugely beneficial.

National Spring Clean

We are currently enlisting our groups for National Spring Clean Day which is April 21st this year. We will also be getting in touch with other residents who expressed an interest in cleaning up their area and encouraging them to come on board offering all the clean up equipment needed by them to achieve their goals. After a huge success last year we hope to build more successful relationships with new groups this year and get more young people involved.

Illegal Dumping

Using our new cross sectional database (used by Public Domain, Housing and Anti-Social Behaviour Staff) to identify patterns of complaints, we are carrying out bin surveys to establish who does not have a bin collection, and assist them in setting up an account.

3. Ballymun Economic Development/Town Civic Alliance

Ballymun LAP

Food Enterprise

The draft feasibility report has been circulated to the LAP Implementation Team and the Local Enterprise Office. The next step for the Economic Development Officer is to gauge the level of interest with the food sector and relevant stakeholders to take the project further.

Stimulating Economic Activity

StartUp Ballymun

Planning has commenced for the next 'StartUp Ballymun' event which will focus on exporting. A provisional date of Wednesday 18th April has been set. Further news and updates will be available on StartUp Ballymun on Twitter and Facebook.

Ballymun4Business (B4b)

B4b held its AGM this month where a new steering committee was formed. Eoin Murray, Chartered Accountant has taken up the position of Treasurer. B4b has secured funding of

€4.5k from AIB and DNWAP. Membership fees will be introduced by the end of March. We are also in the process of commissioning a website and a social media professional to handle all online content for the network. A calendar of events will soon be available on www.b4b.ie



B4b members at a recent meeting

CoderDojo

The Ballymun CoderDojo continues to go from strength to strength. There are over twenty kids now attending the Dojo every Saturday morning in the Child & Family Resource Centre with a waiting list of several more.

Reactivating Enterprise Space

Vacant Neighbourhood commercial units

There continues to be a consistent level of interest in the vacant units in Ballymun with a noted increase on 2017. DCC are in advanced negotiations with a tenant for the Turnpike unit.

Location	Ownership	Status	Comments
Coultry Unit B	DCC	T&C's offered for a new café	MUD issues very close to being resolved. DCC waiting on solicitors from both sides.
Coultry Unit C & D	DCC	Vacant	Enquiries being received on a consistent basis with some viewings
Silloque, Unit 3	DCC	Vacant	Available
Shangan Unit 2	DCC	Vacant	Enquiries being received on a consistent basis with some viewings
Shangan Unit 3	DCC	Vacant	Enquiries being received on a consistent basis with some viewings

Shangan, Unit 4	DCC	Vacant	Enquiries being received on a consistent basis with some viewings
Turnpike, Unit 1 & 2	DCC	Vacant	Advanced negotiations are in place with a prospective tenant.

Civic Alliance

A review day will be held shortly to discuss the future structure of the Civic Alliance.

Northern Site

Notification of a decision to grant permission was made on the 26th January. The application period for appeals has passed. Under the disposal terms Lidl have 12 months from final grant of planning to commence construction on site.

Shopping Centre

Dublin City Council hopes to take possession of the shopping centre in the coming weeks with the intention to demolish later this year.

Site No 22 Balbutcher Lane Site, Crannogue Road

Disposal to O’Cualann was approved by the Council. They now have to apply for planning permission and commence construction on the site within four months of receipt of planning. A public meeting was held with residents in the nearby Courts and prospective residents. A further meeting is planned.

4. Safety Fora Updates

Safer Ballymun

The most recent meeting of this forum took place on Tuesday February 13th 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Ballymun Civic Centre. There was a good attendance on the night from local residents, local representatives, DCC staff and the Gardaí. After the Area Office update and an update from the Gardaí, various issues were discussed including illegal dumping, traffic issues, and anti-social behaviour particularly related to drugs and drug dealing in Ballymun. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday April 10th.

Drumcondra Glasnevin Community Forum

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 21st 2018 at 7pm in the Maples Hotel, Drumcondra.

Mary Taylor
Assistant Area Manager