

Item No. 5

The Finglas Halloween Festival “Finglas Fright Night,” took place in the Finglas Civic Centre on Wednesday 31st October from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Despite the bad weather approx. 6,500 people attended during the course of the evening.

There was a wide variety of entertainment for families to enjoy on the night, from carnival rides, bouncy castles, old fashioned game stalls, haunted avenue, magic shows, face painting, food stalls, a fireworks display and the main music stage.

The event was managed by the Community and Social Development team, Dublin City Council with the assistance of staff in the area office, leisure centre and from the Parks Department. Health and Safety is paramount during and after the Festival: in this respect, Dublin City Council engaged Safe Events to produce the Event Management Plan for the event. The Event Management Plan was done in consultation with An Garda Síochána, Dublin Fire Brigade, Civil Defence and the HSE. It should be noted that as the event has grown over the years it has become necessary to engage licenced security staff and review all elements of the festival. This is to ensure the safe running of the event.

The Finglas Youth Resource Centre hosted a refreshment area for volunteers. They also created and managed the haunted avenue area, with the help of some of their young volunteers. The Centre had a 6 week arts programme leading up to the festival which culminated in their haunted avenue on the night itself. The youth centre also managed the first half of stage entertainment.

The event was advertised through the Finglas Fright Night Facebook and Dublin City Councils main social media pages. Advertising posters were displayed throughout the Finglas area. Both social media accounts were very active with over 23,500 hits on the events Facebook page alone. The main Dublin City Council social networking pages, including our Fire Brigade pages, also promoted the festival.

Each year Dublin City Council invites local community groups to help with ticket sales for all attractions. Ticket sales contribute to each group who were involved in the Festival. Over 90 people from the local community volunteered to manage the stalls this year. The fundraising total on the night was approximately €5,000 for the 17 groups that volunteered. It should be noted that the success of the Halloween Festival would not happen without the input of so many dedicated volunteers.

We wish to give a special thank you to Sergeant John O’ Reilly and the members of the Community Policing Unit who assisted during the lead up and on the night of the festival. Their invaluable support ensured a safe and enjoyable event for all attending.

