

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

Meeting: 21st May 2019

Item No: 5

Finglas Area Office Report

Liam Mellows Working Group

At the March NWAC meeting I reported on the deliberations of the selection panel to consider the three shortlisted submissions. Following the failure to reach consensus at the meeting on the 12th March a decision was deferred to allow the Liam Mellows Memorial Committee (LMMC) time to reflect on the options.

On the 19th April the LMMC wrote to the Arts Officer outlining their dissatisfaction with the process. Points made included the key statement “Therefore we have no option but to withdraw from this process and revert to our original option of an External Donation with immediate effect.”

On the 23rd April the LMMC again wrote to the Arts Officer and confirmed that they “...are resolute in the course chosen...”.

The Arts Officer has acknowledged that the LMMC has decided to withdraw from the Selection Process, that they wish to Project Manage the process themselves and cannot agree to the Law Agent’s advice in this matter or to his proposals to them to work together. The Arts Officer further advised the LMMC of the process for applying to make a donation of the statue to DCC should they wish to commission the work themselves.

Phase 2 remains incomplete.

Community & Social Development

Séamus Ennis Centenary celebrations in Finglas

Blue Plaque Unveiling

To mark the centenary of the birth of Séamus Ennis on the Jamestown Road Dublin City Council, with the support of the Séamus Ennis Working Group, organised the erection of a blue plaque in his honour at the entrance of Burgess Galvin, Jamestown Road.

The plaque unveiling was held on Friday 3rd May. Cllr Paul McAuliffe, deputising for the Lord Mayor, and members of the Séamus Ennis family unveiled the plaque.

The event included a performance of two Dermot Bolger poems relating to Séamus Ennis. Na Píobairí Uilleann (Society of Irish Pipers) also performed at the unveiling.



Séamus Ennis talks, Finglas Library

Finglas Library and Finglas Area Office in association with the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre hosted a talk with Dermot Bolger featuring Mary McDermott. This talk was held on 29th April in Finglas Library.

The talk featured poems by Dermot Bolger relating to Séamus, while Mary recalled the Séamus Ennis Festival that took place in Finglas for many years.



Séamus Ennis exhibition, Finglas Library

The Finglas Library hosted an exhibition as part of the centenary celebrations. This exhibition also featured a small exhibition by the Finglas Historical Society & the Séamus Ennis working group.

In addition, Dublin City Council Libraries arranged Information boards with facts about Séamus which were placed at Supervalu Finglas Village and on Jamestown Road.



Uilleann Piper village sessions

As part of the Centenary events, members of Na Píobairí Uilleann performed a piping session in Finglas Village. The idea behind the session was to bring the uilleann pipes onto the street and to introduce the instrument to people.



Uilleann Piper Workshops

Na Píobairí Uilleann also worked with 4th and 5th classes from three schools in the Finglas area. The schools took part in an introduction to the Uilleann pipes workshop. The workshops gave a history of the uilleann pipes to young people. Workshops also allowed students the opportunity to play the instrument.

Bealtaine Festival

As part of this year's Bealtine festival, the Community & Social Development Section organised Carnation Theatre to perform their latest play in Odinswood Day Care Centre. Over 20 people attended this event.

Bench in memory of Seán Hughes (aka Lil Red)

The Community and Social Development Section, with the assistance of the Parks Department and the Hughes family, organised the installation of a bench and plaque in honour of Seán) in Johnstown Park, Finglas East.

The event to mark the unveiling of the bench and plaque took place on Wednesday 15th May.

Environmental Enhancement Project

The Community & Social Development Section have contacted active Finglas Residents/ Environmental groups with a view to providing those groups with plants to enhance their local area public areas.

A number of groups have contacted the section expressing interest in this scheme. Plants will be distributed on Tuesday 28th May to groups that have registered their interest.

Griffith Crescent Community Room reopening

The reopening of the Griffith Crescent Community Room took place on Wednesday 17th April. Over 25 people including residents, Local Councillors and TD's attended the event. In the coming weeks Dublin City Councils Community & Social Section will meet with the Griffith Crescent Committee to discuss what activities / events the residents would welcome in their community room.



Finglas Grassroots Arts Bursary

The Area Office processed the applications for a grassroots arts bursary (Finglas Area). An endorsement panel made up of representatives from the Dublin City Councils Arts Office, CDETB and Community & Social Development examined all grant application submitted.

There was seven applications in total. The total amount awarded was €5,090.

Successful groups have been notified and will receive their awards in due course.

Reclaim the Space Project

The Reclaim the Space Project has had to be relocated due to totally unfounded complaints from a small number of local residents. The project was intended to be part of our arts programme for the year. It was planned as a joint venture between the Area Office, Barnardos and local primary schools. The basic idea of the project was to enhance a local green space through planting a meadow area.

The project also looked at signage designed by 6 to 10 year olds requesting the public to respect the green area by not dumping or lighting fires in the area.

To avoid further distress to all involved It has been decided to move the project to Kildonan Park. The move to a neutral venue was undertaken to ensure that the children involved could complete the project without the risk of any negative comments and be proud of their key role in enhancing a green space as an example to people of all ages.

Aidan Maher
Assistant Area Manager