

**To the Chair and Members of
the Central Area Committee**

**Community Development Section
North Inner City Report November 2020**

Sheltered Housing Garden Furniture

Following consultation between Area Office Staff and residents, new outdoor seating has been provided at the following sheltered housing complexes:

- Thomas Clarke House
- Ballybough Court
- St Mary's Court, Eastwall

Area Staff maintain regular contact with community groups based in all our sheltered housing complexes.



St Michan's House Landscape Project

Works are almost complete on the installation of a new garden at St Michan's Flat Complex on Church Street. The Garden was installed by B & V Nurseries after a design consultation process with residents that was facilitated by Area Office Staff.

The area is designed to suit wheelchair access. The raised beds were installed with older adults in mind.



The garden will be planted with some shrubbery but will also provide space for the planting of vegetables.

Seating will also be installed in the area.

This project was completed using funds allocated from the Discretionary Fund.



Halloween support

Area Staff are maintaining regular contact with community groups throughout the area. Over thirty residents groups received Halloween treats for distribution to over 1,500 young people living in our flat complexes.

Staff also distributed spot prizes in our Halloween Hall Door competition.

Safety posters have been installed in complex's throughout the area.



Community Grants / Tom Clarke Bridge Grants

Allocations from the above funds have recommenced after a city wide review. Grants are normally allocated in spring time but were delayed due to the pandemic. Revised allocations will take account of activities that were cancelled, reduced or not in keeping with Government Health Guidelines.

Macro Centre

The Macro Centre located on the junction of Green Street and Bolton Street is owned by Dublin City Council and Managed by the Macro Building Management Company Limited. This modern centre provides a wide range of community support programmes and is home to several organisations providing both local, regional and national services. The Centre is in receipt of funding from the Development Department to support the employment of a manager and to assist with maintenance and utilities. An allocation of €95,000 has been made for 2021. A review of this funding arrangement is now underway.

Drunalee Landscaping

A landscaping project, funded through the Discretionary Fund will commence in mid-November. Area Staff have facilitated design discussions between the local residents and the contractor.

Northbank Residents Groups

Area Staff are providing support to a newly formed residents committee at Northbank Apartments in the Docklands Area.

The 'Online' Cauldron of Smithfield 2020



The Cauldron of Smithfield 2020 was a departure from the regular large-scale festival event which usually takes place in several locations over several days each Halloween since 2015 but it was a big success nonetheless. The Children and Youth Action Group were on hand once again to provide a series of workshops in conjunction with several youth and community groups and schools. Residents across the entire D7 and Dorset St. areas were given the opportunity to submit their entries for competitions and dance challenges. The Cauldron of Smithfield website was a brand new addition this year and will be of great service to the festival in future years.

Although the capacity and the possibility of physical interaction was greatly reduced, the festival managed to meet with residents in almost all of those target areas and gain support in spreading the overarching message to Stay Home and Stay Safe, whilst encouraging participation in many of the online activities provided. These areas included: Drumalee Estate, Dorset Street / Broadstone, St. Michan's House / Greek St. Flats, Kevin Barry, Constitution Hill, Blackhall Street Flats and Smithfield Square.

There was a very good balance between online and physical events, such as workshops and video submissions and an online show. The Children and Youth Action Group was excellent in engaging young people on the ground and providing them with creative workshops and a means of expression during a very disruptive period. Festivities included online activity parks, monster mash dance, best dressed balcony/window, livestream Cauldron of Smithfield event, and a series of creative and performance workshops including music and drumming, dancing/movement, arts and crafts and posters competitions.

The festival adopted 2 streaming services for the live-streaming. This technology allowed for the live stream to be broadcast to YouTube and the website concurrently. Between the two services the festival clocked up approximately 1,200 individuals viewing to date.

Brian Mongey
A/Area Community Officer