



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

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

Meeting: 16th March 2021

Item No: 6

Ballymun Area Office Report

- 1. Ballymun Covid-19 Community Response Forum**
- 2. Ballymun LAP Update**
- 3. Community Development Update**
- 4. Economic Development Update**
- 5. Housing Report**
- 6. Other News/Updates**

1. Ballymun Covid-19 Community Response Forum

The Covid-19 Community Response Forum is continuing and the Ballymun response team includes Liam Barry, Martina Kelly, and Ciaran Mahony with all three on a rota responding to Covid-19 requests as required. Although there are less requests than in previous lockdowns, a group of volunteers from the local Setanta Hurling Club have provided invaluable assistance with all requests.

2. Ballymun LAP Update

Shopping Centre – Site 1

The ESB are due to complete commissioning the new substation and disconnecting any remaining supplies on the site in March. Due to Covid-19 level 5 restrictions completion of the demolition project and return to green site is still up to eight weeks away once restrictions for construction are lifted.

Lidl (North Quarter) - Site 3

The vacant units continue to be advertised by Smith Butler Estates on Daft:

<https://www.daft.ie/53113341>. There are three interested parties in the units, two of which are at an advanced stage – a food service and a discount store. We will be kept informed if and when either of these deals are finalised. The market has been slower due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Vacant DCC units

The disposal of the Shangan Units to the HSE for a day-hospital is still at the pre-planning stage. No further update is available at this time.

Ballymun Plaza

Following on from the presentation on the Ballymun (Plaza) Town Centre Park to the November 2020 Area Committee, Parks are working through the pre part 8 procedure with updated plans recently received from the Design Consultant. Parks plan to be in a position to come back to the April/May Area Committee to notify members of the intention to commence the Part 8 process.

Balbutcher Lane/Hampton Wood Junction

The junction went live on the morning of Monday 8th March, including the new link to St Margaret's Road via Hampton Wood Drive.

The coloured surfacing on the cycle tracks was completed which makes it easier to differentiate the segregated cycle tracks from the roadway and footpaths. New road studs have been installed along the edge of the cycle tracks across the junction and these will flash amber to alert left turning cars that they need to yield to cyclists and will work in conjunction with the flashing amber arrow signal. The new cycle track was installed.

There are some remaining items to be completed, in particular in the grassed verges in front of the houses to the east of the junction. A new raised flowerbed is also due to be installed at the southeast corner of the junction. These will be completed once the government level 5 restrictions on construction activities are lifted.

Silloque Infrastructure Scheme

The ground for the site compound area has been prepared and fenced off but the project has been put on hold due to the government level 5 restrictions on construction works. There has been a significant amount of anti-social activity in the area in relation to damage/interference with the fencing around the compound. The contractor has organised regular security checks but the Gardaí had to be called to site on Sunday 28th February when approximately 30 young people persisted in knocking down the fencing neither the

security company nor the Gardaí were able to disperse the group and significant damage was carried out to the fencing. The contractor is continuing to monitor the situation.

1-37 Oileáin na Crannóige, Balbutcher Lane

As the site is not deemed essential and due to Covid-19 restrictions, work has been ceased on site and only necessary or emergency work is ongoing.

North City Operations Depot

The commencement of construction on the NCOD is delayed due to Covid 19 level 5 restrictions. We will liaise with local stakeholders when we have certainty on when works can commence.

3. Community and Social Development Update

Keeping In Touch

The Community and Social Development Team Members are continuing to keep in contact with all community group members through phone calls, e-mails and Facebook posts. In particular, we have been sharing information on health and wellbeing workshops and webinars. We have also sent out a survey to all groups in relation to how we can best support community members going forward, given the ongoing Covid 19 situation. We want to ascertain how many of the community group contacts have access to online forums and how many may need additional support in this area.

All the community groups have received their 2020 Community and Social Development Grants payment. Our team has advised local community groups and organisations in relation to the second round of Covid 19 related funding. Community Group and Charitable Status Organisations were eligible to apply for this funding. The closing date was 26th February 2021.

Social Inclusion

Ballymun Network for Children and Young People at risk

The Area Community Officer attended recent meetings with the main network group and the mental health subgroup. The organisations involved in the network are focusing on collaborative programmes related to mental health and bereavement supports following recent events in the community. The Community and Social Development Team are continuing to involve themselves in all of these programmes and are continuing to provide information, support and advice to their local community group leaders in this regard. The Area Community Officer has provided input into the Ballymun Alcohol Strategy Review document and the Network Covid 19 Plan.

Ballymun Men's Sheds

The Community Team are continuing to provide support and advice to the Ballymun Men's Shed Committee Members and are having regular zoom meetings with regards to progress on the new premises and moving onto the next stage. The Team have recently assisted the Men's Shed Members to set up a local whatsapp group and have linked them into a North Dublin Men's Shed Forum. All of this is assisting the men to develop their contact supports, build their shed related ideas and to engage in various online health and wellbeing initiatives.

Community Initiatives

Sports and Wellbeing

We are continuing to play a role in the development of Ballymun Health and Fitness Initiatives and the next Ballymun Health and Fitness Festival which is due to take place at the end of April. A soccer skills training event is also due to take place in May. These events can be adapted for online forums in line with public safety guidelines if required.

Fairtrade fortnight

We recently organised a Fairtrade zoom information session to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight, in collaboration with Rediscovery Centre. This initiative was set up to revive Ballymun's Fairtrade Town status, which the town achieved over ten years ago. The event involved a talk on the importance of buying local and how choosing some Fairtrade products makes a major difference to the lives of farmers and communities in developing communities. There was an international input from a member of a coffee co-operative in Honduras. This successful online event was well supported by the Ballymun Tidy Towns Group and attracted local residents who have an interest in the whole area of environment and sustainability.

International Women's Day

Our Community Team recently launched an initiative/competition asking local residents to nominate a woman in their lives or community that they feel deserves to be honoured for the support they provide. The winning entries received pampering packs or recognition for their significant contribution to others. The results were announced on Facebook on International Women's Day, on the 8th March.

Dublin Learning City Festival

We have launched a creative learning initiative and competition entitled 'Share Something You've Learned' during Covid 19' as part of the Dublin learning City Festival which will run from 22nd to 24th March.

We are asking community members of all ages to share a poster, poem, short story or photograph that best captures something they have learned during Covid 19. The aim of this initiative is to encourage people to engage with just how resilient they are capable of being even during this time of worldwide pandemic with its obvious struggles. The entries could focus on something tangible that people have learned, such as: a new sport or a new instrument, or focus on some intangible yet meaningful nugget of learning, such as: the importance of keeping in contact with others and the importance of health etc. The winning entries will be announced on Facebook during the festival.

Environmental

Our team are continuing with their scoping exercise of all environmental related community groups in the area to get a better picture of the status of each group with a view to developing the groups, combining some group structures and establishing an area wide supportive and sustainable network. We will continue to collaborate with the Public Domain Team and Ballymun Tidy Towns in this regard with the joint aim of enhancing and transforming local black spots alongside local community members.

Heritage Council's Community Grant Scheme

The Heritage Council's Community Grant Scheme was recently announced. The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects (including buildings). The scheme also supports the purchase of essential equipment. This scheme is intended to enable communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work in this area or to start new initiatives.

Deadline for submissions to the Heritage Council is 29th March 2021

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2021>

4. Economic Development Update



B4b held a virtual network meeting on 8th February. Our guest speakers were Ballymun entrepreneurs Niamh and Clara Talbot from Lunasa Yoga <https://lunasayoga.ie/> Niamh delivered a class on how we can stay active from the comfort of our homes during the pandemic. The AGM will take place later this month followed by a meeting to plan our events for 2021.

StartUp Ballymun & Local Enterprise Week



To promote Local Enterprise Week and the next SUB event we had a chat with Ballymun entrepreneur Deborah Crowley owner of Funky Monkey Foods to share her journey from starting in a Community Kitchen in Ballymun to the Grow with Aldi programme distributing her products nationwide. The video is available on the StartUp Ballymun Facebook page and we are planning to do more over the coming weeks: [StartUp Heroes chat with Funky Monkey Foods](#) have been nominated by the Small Firms Association Award for Best Emerging Business.

Shop Front Enhancement Scheme



We have received one application from a printing business in Finglas which has been approved. There have been a number of enquiries and a number of further applications are expected. Due to Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions, many of the businesses are closed and we have not been able call in. More information can be found on the DCC website: [North West Area Shop-front Improvement scheme](#)

Ballymun and Finglas Business Advice Service

The mentor panel has been formed and the scheme has been designed. A pdf with information about the service will be circulated prior to the meeting. The main points to note about the support service are:

- Businesses must be from the north west area
- Up to 6 hours business advice with a mentor
- It's free
- Meetings will take place on a virtual platform
- All commercial sectors eligible
- Businesses must have a minimum trading history of 2 years
- Startups are not eligible
- Applications will be made through the DCC website.

Other Economic News

Attempts are still ongoing between the Economic Development Officer and Sean Kelly in the Ballymun Job Centre to engage with Dealz on their recruitment plans.

5. Housing Report

Estate Management Statistics

February 2021	
No of Anti- Social complaints per 1997 act Drug related	26
No of Anti-Social complaints per 1997 act (Not Drug Related)	24
No of other Complaints	16
Total Complaints	66
No of Anti-Social Interviews per 1997 act	15
No of Other Interviews	13
Total Interviews	28
No Requests for mediation	0
No of Complaints referred to central unit for Action	0
No of Section 20 Evictions	0
No of excluding Orders applied for by Tenant	0
No of Excluding orders applied for by DCC	0
No of surrender of Tenancies due to Anti-Social Behaviour	0
No of Tenancy Warnings sent to Central Unit	3
No of Court Orders Granted	0
No of Appeals / Judicial Reviews Challenges	0
No of Warrants executed (Evictions)	0

Rent Assessments

	February 2021
Assessments	3130 1990 emails/ 503 updates/637 calls
Permissions To Reside	1
Refunds	6
Opening of Accounts	4 (including sole/ 0 successions)
Closing of Accounts	7 (including 0 sole / 0 successions)
Front Counter Calls	See Above
Window Replacements	0

Ballymun Voids

Address	Type	Date of Vacancy	Status
Balcurris Gardens	3 Bed House	03/11/2020	Under Offer
Balcurris Gardens	3 Bed House	11/01/2021	Under Offer
Barnwall Drive	2 Bed Apt	09/11/2020	Under Offer
Barnwall Gardens	2 Bed Apt	09/11/2020	Under Offer
Belclare Crescent	3 Bed House	10/11/2020	Under Offer
Belclare Grove	3 Bed House	19/01/2021	Under Offer
Belclare Park	3 Bed House	14/01/2021	Under Offer
Belclare Way	3 Bed House	10/11/2020	Under Offer
Carrig Close	2 Bed Bungalow	03/11/2020	Under Repair
Coultry Terrace	1 Bed Apt	06/12/2020	Under Repair
Coultry Way	3 Bed House	07/02/2021	Under Repair
Cranogue Road	3 Bed House	29/01/2021	Under Repair
Druid Court	3 Bed House	03/11/2020	Under Repair
Gateway View	2 Bed Apt	23/09/2020	Under Repair
Longdale Terrace	1 Bed Apt	07/02/2021	Under Repair
Marewood Drive	2 Bed Apt	24/05/2020	Under Offer
Poppintree Parade	2 Bed Apt	16/12/2020	Under Repair
Sandyhill Terrace	1 Bed Apt	22/11/2020	Under Repair
Sandyhill Way	3 Bed House	22/11/2020	Under Repair
Shangan Crescent	2 Bed Apt	23/11/2019	Under Offer
Shangan Crescent	4 Bed Apt	25/11/2020	Under Repair
Shangan Gardens	3 Bed House	06/12/2020	Under Repair
Shanliss Way	3 Bed House	29/01/2021	Under Repair
Shanliss Way	3 Bed House	29/01/2021	Under Repair
Shanliss Way	3 Bed House	29/01/2021	Under Repair
Shanliss Way	3 Bed House	29/01/2021	Under Repair
Silloge Green	1 Bed Apt	11/12/2020	Under Repair
Silloge Green	3 Bed Apt	12/11/2020	Under Repair
St Margaret's Road	1 Bed Apt	04/10/2020	Under Offer
The Plaza Apartment	2 Bed Apt	04/10/2020	Under Offer
Woodhazel Terrace	2 Bed Apt	31/01/2021	Under Repair

Older Persons Units

Address	Type	Date of Vacancy	Status
Burren Court	1 Bed	17/11/2020	Under Offer
Burren Court	1 Bed	21/07/2020	Under Repair
Sandyhill Gardens	1 Bed	21/07/2021	Under Offer
Sandyhill Gardens	1 Bed	21/07/2021	Under Offer
Sandyhill Gardens	1 Bed	27/12/2020	Under Repair

Ballymun Lettings January - February 2021

Allocation Category	Housing List 2021	Transfer List 2021	Older Persons 2021
Bands 2 & 3		2	
Medical		1	1
Welfare			
Homeless			1
Travellers	2		
Transfer HAP		1	
De-tenanting			
Estate Management			
Maintenance			
Surrendering Larger		2	
Unable to afford			
Succession/Sole			
Total	2	6	2

AOB

Ballymun Library

Ballymun Library remains closed to the public under Level 5 restrictions. Services are being provided online.

Ballymun Library staff continue to post blogs, arts and crafts events, videos, and historic photos of the Ballymun area on our Facebook page. If anyone wants to promote any Dublin City Council-related initiative then please email details to ballymunlibrary@dublincity.ie and we will share these on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BallymunLibrary

Two online book clubs for adults and children have been set up by library staff and will become operational in March.

Ballymun Library will host a special online book club meeting on the 13th April in support of Dublin City Council's 'One Dublin One Book' programme. This year's chosen title is 'Leonard and Hungry Paul' by Ronan Hession and Ronan will be joining us to speak with attendees about the themes of the novel.

Ballymun Library is now offering an online literacy course - Touch Type Read and Spell (TTRS) for both adults and children. TTRS is designed to benefit students of all ages who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties. Students with dyslexia or literacy issues have found it helpful. Patrons can contact the library by email and Ballymun Library staff will introduce them to the course and offer support.

A lunchtime lecture on 'Rebel Irishwomen' by James Curry (Dublin North-West Historian in Residence) will be hosted online by Ballymun Library on Wednesday 24th March at 12pm. Places can be booked by contacting ballymunlibrary@dublincity.ie This is part of Dublin City Council's Decade of Commemorations Programme. A twelve-week course on the Irish Revolution also facilitated by James Curry will follow in April.

Finally Ballymun Library is looking to expand its mailing list so that our patrons can keep up to date with educational and cultural events/opportunities in the area. If anyone wishes to join our mailing list then please email ballymunlibrary@dublincity.ie

Jackie O'Reilly,
Acting Area Manager