

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

Meeting: 20th July 2021

Item No: 9

RE: Poppintree Sport & Community Centre

Poppintree Sport and Community Centre located on Balbutcher Lane Ballymun offers a number of facilities to the community of Ballymun and the surrounding areas. The facilities include a sports hall, studios, youth facilities, Crèche, boxing club, catering kitchen and astro pitch.

Unfortunately the facility is continuously subjected to anti-social and criminal activity. There are fires lit at the facility on a regular basis, illegal dumping and individuals engaging in substance misuse is a regular occurrence at the facility. Youth gaining access to the roof of the facility is a real issue for the facility. Once on the roof damage is caused to the roof, glazed areas and windows in the facility. On the 8th of June at 8.45pm a fire was started on the roof of the Poppintree Sport and Community Facility. The fire services were notified very quickly and at 9.05pm attended the site to extinguish the fire. The extent of the damage is considerable and includes damage to the roof, shutters were cut down along with 9 doors smashed by the fire service to gain access to the source of the fire at the facility.

On the night of the 8th and the 9th of June 24 hour security was requested to attend, as the facility was completely exposed after the damage to the shutters and the front door. Temporary steel shutters were installed to secure the facility on the 9th of June. A full cost for the repair to the damage is outlined below:

REPAIR DESCRIPTION	COST
Repair and installation to the shutter.	€935.00
External Main Entrance glass Doors.	€3,150.00
Internal Glass Doors x2 and one glazed panel beside reception.	€3,825.00
Aisling fire steel door repair.	€3,870.00
Internal wooden Fire Doors.	c€1,166.00
Electrical works.	c€890.00
Roof repairs Insulation.	€7,811.00
Roof repair.	€4,660.00
Security – 24 hour security was required for 2 days following the fire as building was exposed.	€1427.00
Painting of the boxing club as there was some fire and smoke damage to their area.	€3,754.00
Assessment of the fire alarm after the incident.	€1,500.00
TOTAL COST OF THE REPAIRS (VAT not included)	€32,988.00

Dublin City Council Insurance Company IPB have carried out a survey of the damage to the facility and we are awaiting their report. All repair works cannot proceed until the insurance company revert back to the Manager of the facility.

We have engaged with the Ballymun Gardaí to address the issues that are occurring at the facility. The Gardaí have stated that they will increase the patrols in the area but with reduced resources in the area there is limits to the commitment they can allocated to the facility.

The design of the building is not appropriate for the location where this facility is situated. The various roof levels enables youth to gain access from one level to the next causing damage and safety concerns. The boundary walls at the rear of the facility surrounding the astro pitch provides individuals engaging in anti-social and criminal activity the perfect concealment as there is no passive supervision from residential houses or from the road. Certain sections of the facility needs to be fenced off to restrict or limit the access to the roof area and reduce the risk for the future and this needs to be addressed as a priority.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RISK FOR THE FUTURE	
Wall – constructing wall at the pavilion as this is an area that is continuously effected by individuals lighting fires	€16,298
Installation of fencing:- crèche entrance to prevent individuals gaining access to the roof of the facility	€8,972
Application of Anti Climbing paint to different sections of the roof that are accessible	€2,900
TOTAL COST OF PREVENTITIVE MEASURES	€28,170

The Poppintree Sport and Community Centre is working in partnership with a youth leader and the PE teacher from Trinity Comprehensive. They have started an art project to paint murals on the walls at the rear of the facility; engaging with the youth; building relationships and giving them a sense ownership of the space. There is also a number of sporting activities planned by the Dublin City Council Sports Development Officer for the coming weeks to show the residents how the space can be used as a positive area for all members of the community.

Internally the facility works really well with a number of well-established anchor tenants such as the Aisling Project, the Poppintree Early Educational Facility, the Ballymun and St Pappin's Boxing Club and the Poppintree Youth Centre. There has also been the introduction of more recent anchor tenants such as Cross Care, the Garda Youth Diversion Project, and the Men's Shed. The Crèche, the Aisling and the Poppintree Youth Services are operating at the moment with some of their activities planned for outdoors to stay in line with the current Government guidelines.

Currently there is no group activities allowed to take place indoors, once the current restrictions are lifted we plan on reintroducing all the group activities that were in the facility prior to COVID. They include boot camps, fitness classes, line dancing, badminton, basketball, hip hop and bowls etc. We will also be working with the Men's Shed to assist in establishing them in the facility. Half Time Talks is an educational course which was due to start last year but was delayed due to Covid, the course is now scheduled to commence in the facility in September

The staff in the Poppintree Sport and Community Centre are looking forward to getting the facility back up and running, we do have to adhere to the guidelines and with the damage caused by the fire it will delay the reopening slightly but we are working hard to get the

damage repaired as soon as possible, ensuring that we have a safe facility for the staff and the public.

If you have any questions regarding the information included in this report please contact me at - emma.byrne@dublincity.ie.

Emma Byrne
Centre Manager