

Item No. 6

North West Area Halloween Report

As in previous years the Public Domain Team, Housing, Waste Management and Parks Services worked alongside Gardaí from Ballymun and Finglas as part of “Operation Tombola” to remove stockpiled material and reduce the negative impacts of bonfires in the area. This collaborative effort commenced on Saturday 22nd and concluded on the afternoon of 31st October.

Cooperation between Dublin City Council and local Gardaí was key to the success of the operation this year, with minimal damage to public amenities reported.

Waste Management Services have indicated that the total figure of stockpiled material collected was 441 tonnes citywide, which is an improvement on the 2021 figure of 515 tonnes.

Approximately 4000 information leaflets outlining the dangers of bonfires and listing Dublin City Council contact details to report locations of materials were distributed to householders in the vicinity of locations where bonfires have traditionally been set.

Businesses in the industrial estates were visited by the Public Domain team, and advised on the need to secure bonfire materials in the weeks prior to Halloween. Regular inspections of vacant City Council properties and green areas were conducted by Public Domain and Housing staff throughout the NWA to check for the presence of stockpiling.

In total, there were 25 bonfires, 11 in Ballymun and 14 in Finglas, the majority of which were minor, with minimal damage evident. The successful Amnesty Day, held in September, also significantly reduced the number of mattresses illegally disposed in the run up to Halloween.

The clearing and cleaning of all bonfire sites has now been completed by Parks Services.





Finglas Fright Night:

The Finglas Halloween Festival “Finglas Fright Night,” took place on site at the Finglas Civic Centre from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. There was a wide variety of entertainment for the community to enjoy. On the night there were carnival rides, inflatable obstacle courses, magic from our local magician Colm Jolly, food, coffee and treat stalls, along with various old fashioned carnival games with prizes, face painters and balloon modellers. On the main stage the night kicked off with several performances from the children and young adults from the new band “The MC Warriors”. This is a very talented group from the Meeting Place Club with differing abilities and were a big hit on the night. There were brilliant performances from Finglas locals Darian Kavanagh Keating, MC Samra and the up and coming Finglas rapper and TikToker Cian Carey – Dubal C.

As the headline act, Ciaran Houlihan who is currently on his European Tour and considered to be one of the best Elvis Tribute acts in the world delivered a star performance while the crowd danced and sang along.



The Finglas Community & Social Development Section (CSDS) organised and managed the event with assistance on the night from other staff from the Area Office and the Finglas Sports & Fitness Centre and support from the Civil Defence and Order of Malta.

An Garda Síochána attended the event and with the assistance of the security company monitored the crowds throughout the festival site.



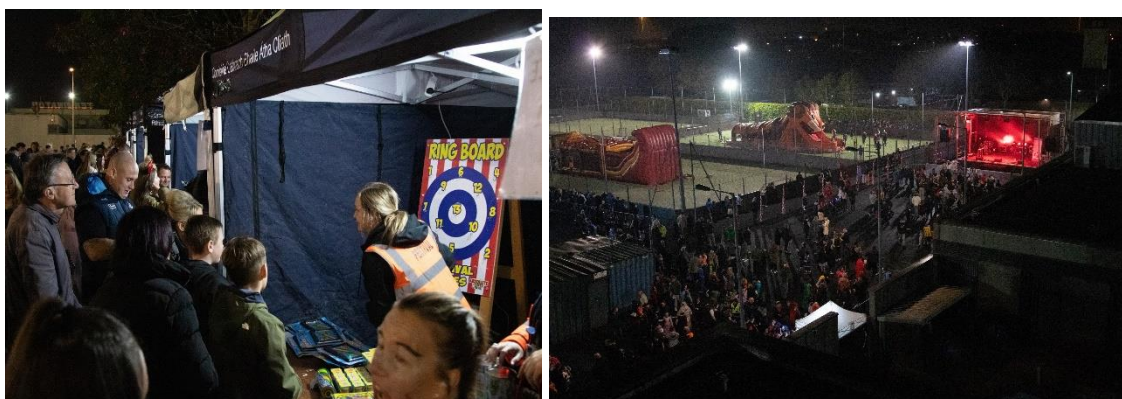
The CSDS invited the local community groups to help with ticket sales for all the attractions. Ticket sales go towards the groups fund raising efforts. Twenty local groups took part this year, which totals over 100 volunteers from the local community. The combined amount raised this year was just over €5,500 for the Finglas Community Groups.



Groups that took part this year:

- Finglas Counselling Support
- Finglas Men's Sheds
- Erin's Isle GAA Club
- Meeting Place Club
- Finglas Historical Society
- Finglas West Summer Project
- Rivermount Summer Project
- WFTRA
- Finglas West Summer Project
- St. Kevin's & St. Josephs Summer Project
- > Finglas Suicide Network
- > Sister Sheds
- > Finglas Tidy Towns
- > Finglas South Combined Residents
- > Ocras Éire
- > Finglas West Scouts
- > Fuse Youth Club
- > FAST
- > Dunsink Residents Group
- > The Den Youth Club

It should be noted that the success of the Halloween Festival depends on the input of so many dedicated volunteers.



A special note of thanks to The Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and the NWA Local Representatives for attending the Finglas Fright Night Event, which concluded with a fantastic Fireworks display from Mellows Park.



Otherworld” Revamped Halloween Festival

The Otherworld Halloween Festival took place across Ballymun with an amazing haunting week of spooky events, which included the Poppintree Park Witches Walk and Party, Puca Pooch, family dog walking event, spooky school, haunted tunnel, many family events and workshops in the Axis and Boiler-house.

The Otherworld main event was a fantastic return to form, with family friendly spooky activities and entertainment. Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy officially opened the main event and presented Nathan Smith from Youthreach with an award for designing the new Otherworld Logo. On Halloween evening, there were a number of top class local artists on

the main stage, including Dame Stuffy, Dextra and Sprig Break along with many others. Jamie Harrington was our local host and compare.



Entire Families entered the Fancy Dress Competition and hundreds of people attended the celebrations in fancy dress to add to the festivities and atmosphere.



The Pulse Tent offered a stage for a wide variety of local artists to perform in a more intimate space and engage a smaller audience. The Little Monsters Tent was a huge hit with the younger generation who sang and danced the night away in a safe environment. The craft tent proved hugely popular with 1000's of masks and crafts being handmade and displayed on the night.



Circus Gerbola delivered an amazing display from suspended heights, which captivated the audience. Their finale was show stopping and was followed by the much anticipated firework display.

Groups that took part this year: Poppintree Youth Project, Easy Street, Youth Reach, Students from Trinity Comprehensive, The Sillogue Ladies Club, Ballymun Book Exchange.

A special word of thanks goes to all the additional community volunteers who helped throughout the day and the night.



The Ballymun Community & Social Development team organised and managed the event in collaboration with the Otherworld Festival Committee and Axis.

An Garda Síochána attended the event and with the assistance of the security company monitored the crowds throughout the festival site. The Civil Defence also attended.

It is estimated that in excess of 14,000 people attended both events over the three-hour period and the estimated total cost of running the events is circa. €180,000

Mick Carroll and Jackie O'Reilly
Area Managers

