

To: **The chairperson and members of
North Central Area Committee**

8th January 2025

**DONAGHMEDE & CLONTARF LEAS - CSDS UPDATE FOR THE
DECEMBER MEETING OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE**

The Community and Social Development team for Donaghmede and Clontarf continues to engage with and provide capacity building supports for community and voluntary groups throughout the area. The below reports gives a flavour of the work carried out across the area in the last month.

Contribution Support for Christmas Events 2024

The Community and Social Development team received a number of requests for funding for events over the Christmas period. Further information on these events can be found in this report below:

Donnycarney West Community Association

Donnycarney West Community Association's annual Christmas event took place on December 8th at Le Cheile. This event featured a beautifully decorated 'Corridor of Light' that captivated attendees. The highlight of the evening was a vibrant, inflatable Grotto, which added a festive touch to the celebrations. The event drew local residents of all ages, fostering a warm sense of community as people gathered for pre-Christmas conversations. Seasonal refreshments were enjoyed by all, creating a cosy atmosphere perfect for the occasion. Local singer Natalie Scullion provided entertainment, further enhancing the festive spirit. The Donnycarney West Community Association expressed their gratitude to Dublin City Council for their financial support, which allowed for the addition of extra lights and the hiring of the Grotto, making this year's event even more special. Overall, it was a memorable evening that brought the community together to celebrate the holiday season.



**Donnycarney
West
Christmas
Grotto**



Christmas Tree Lighting Kilbarrack

The annual lighting of the Christmas tree in Kilbarrack, took place on December 7th, marking its fifth year. The event drew a significant crowd of local residents and community groups, creating a festive atmosphere and fostering a sense of togetherness among the attendees. Activities, music and the warmth of the community made this year's event a festive occasion for everyone involved.



Kilbarrack Christmas Tree Lighting

St Gabriel's Senior's Lunch

The St. Gabriel's Senior's lunch on December 10th was warm and inviting and was a celebration of friendship. The Community & Social Development team's support towards transportation costs ensured that seniors with limited mobility could join their friends, reinforcing the idea that everyone deserves to be included in community events.



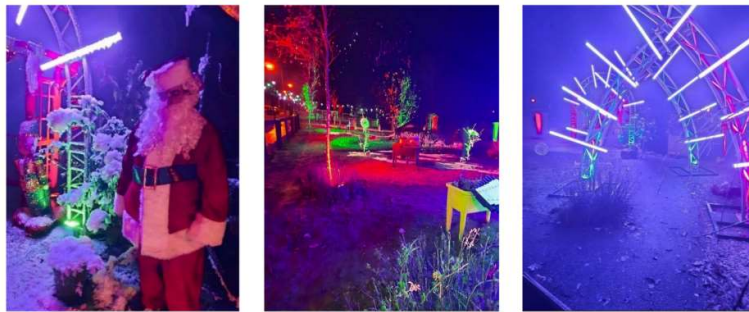
St. Gabriel's Senior's Lunch

Edenmore Sensory Garden Christmas Event

This year's Sensory Garden Christmas event took place on December 14th, featuring the Dublin Fire Brigade and the Gardai from the Compol Unit Coolock.

The event was pre-booked, with families allocated specific time slots to enhance the experience. A variety of engaging activities included face painting, balloon artistry, music and refreshments formed the basis of the event. Popular children's characters were also present

to entertain the little ones. To create a welcoming atmosphere, special lighting was installed in the garden, designed to accommodate sensory needs. The lighting featured calm colours without any flashing effects, ensuring a soothing experience for all attendees. Throughout the year, children from organisations like The Blue Heroes, Oscar's Kids, and St. Michael's House regularly visit the garden and joined the celebration to especially to meet Santa. Each child received a free gift from Santa along with a selection box. Care attendants brought individuals with Alzheimer's from local nursing homes to enjoy the festivities. The Sensory Garden Santa event was established to support children with sensory and additional needs who may struggle to visit traditional Santa set-ups due to their sensitivities and needs. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the event which has grown in popularity each year. A dedicated group of volunteers from various organisations, including a nurse, scout master, paramedic, carers and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) make this magical occasion possible.



Edenmore Sensory Garden Lighting

Trinity Senior Citizens Club Christmas Lunch

The Holy Trinity Senior Citizens Christmas event, held on December 12th, was a cherished occasion for all attendees. This annual gathering allowed members to reconnect, share stories and reminisce and fostered a strong sense of community and belonging. The Community & Social Development team supported transportation costs for the event ensuring that everyone could participate regardless of their mobility needs.



Trinity Senior Citizens Club Christmas Lunch

Le Cheile Donnycarney

The Community & Social Development team made a contribution to Le Cheile Donnycarney for additional Christmas decorations for the community for their Christmas events.

The decorations helped make the centre more inviting and festive for all participants, specifically those that attended the following events:

- Community Tree Lighting Ceremony which was held on Saturday 10th December and attended by over 120 people.
- Residents Association Christmas event held on Sunday 8th December and was attended by over 200 people of all ages.



Le Cheile Donnycarney



Memory Strategy Education Group

The pilot Memory Strategy Education Group, led by Mary Power, Senior Occupational Therapist at St. Joseph's Day Hospital, has reached its conclusion.

The structure of the pilot program included a 75-minute weekly session over six consecutive weeks, focusing on occupational therapy interventions tailored for clients experiencing memory impairments. Each session built upon the previous week, progressively educating participants about external memory aids and various aspects of memory.

The pilot initiative received positive feedback from participants. Supported by the Community & Social Development Team (CSDT), the program created a safe environment for individuals to learn effective methods for enhancing memory function in everyday activities. The programme is current being reviewed subject to staff resources.

Wonderlights

Dublin City Council, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, the National Transport Authority, Fingal County Council, Northside Partnership, Dublin Fire Brigade, the HSE and other community stakeholders, organised a magical and inclusive Christmas event for community groups at Malahide Demesne on Wednesday, December 11th.

The event was a tremendous success, welcoming over 1,700 children from various areas across the Garda District. The children enjoyed the Wonderlights experience, followed by a meet-and-greet with Santa, treats, and a visit to the Stakeholder Village. The village featured engaging activities with community stakeholders, a fire engine, a Garda motorbike, Garda horses, and even a special Elf DJ!



Walkability Audit Training

Two members of the team completed Walkability Audit training delivered by Age Friendly Ireland to support the ongoing work of the team to involve the community in shaping the public realm for the benefit for the entire community but particularly for older members of the community and those who have additional mobility needs. This training ensures that all audit processes will enable the identification of a priority list of recommendations for any routes undertaken. The recommendations from these audit processes will be taken into account when planning improvements to roads and streets and the public realm in the future.



**Natasha Bagnall Area Community and Social Development Officer
Clontarf & Donaghmede LEAs**