

To the Chairperson and Members of The Central Area Committee.

Stoneybatter Heritage Village Pride of Place. Winners 2016.

Resulting from the successful entry by the Blessington Basin Pride of Place Community in 2015, the Central Area Committee agreed to support the Stoneybatter Pride of Place Project in 2016.

Dublin City Council nominated the Stoneybatter Heritage Village Pride of Place in the 1,000 to 2,000 Population Category.

An inaugural meeting was held in June 16 where a steering committee was formed which included representatives from the following:

Residents Associations:

Manor Street...

Kirwan Street Cottages.

Palatine Square.

Haliday Square.

Aughrim Street...

Other local organisations:

Manor Street Business Association.

Prussia Street Family Centre.

Aughrim Street Credit Union.

Aughrim Street Parish Church...

United Nations Veterans Association.

The group met once per week in preparation for the Judges visit in August. A considerable amount of groundwork was undertaken to promote the project early in the year, mostly meetings with key players in the community.

In preparation for the Judges Visit, the Committee promoted numerous clean-ups, engaged with local Business people to freshen up their buildings and encouraged extensive flower planting and the painting of local houses.

City Council staff worked behind the scenes to encourage maximum local participation. Flowers and paint were provided on a number of occasions. Graffiti blitz, waste removal and the cleanup of one very unsightly business garden on Manor Street

Organisations such as Bus Eireann and Bank of Ireland were contacted to ensure they cleaned and painted any utilities or facilities they were responsible for.

Local people become very involved in the project, two members produced a new local history / heritage document on Stoneybatter, complimented by the recent Pat Liddy Historical Walk.

All financed on a low cost high impact basis.

The week before the Judges were due to arrive a mock presentation was done to ensure that no problems would arise on the day and that Stoneybatter would be showcased at its best.

On the 29th August the Judges visited Stoneybatter. All groups were waiting nervously but excited in the Prussia St. Parish Centre. The Judges were greeted by Joan Whelan, Manager of the centre who gave them a tour of the centre and advised them of the work done in the centre.

The Judges were then given a presentation on the following:

- History and Heritage of Stoneybatter
- Arts, Heritage and the Built Environment.
- Environment
- Services for Older People
- Grangegorman – Plan for the future.

Judges were then taken on a walkabout of the Stoneybatter area and visited the IUNVA centre where they finished up with a cuppa and a chat.

In Belfast on the 26th November 2016, Stoneybatter Heritage Village, received the Pride of Place overall winner in the 1,000 to 2,000 Population Category.

The Judges said:

they had a wonderful visit to this winning entry saying that this urban village, despite many challenges, has retained a wonderful sense of community and village life. The presentations demonstrated so many positive aspects of life in this community from a historical, heritage, cultural, business and social viewpoint. They said the support of so many agencies and Dublin City Council was very evident and that their visit was a joy from start to finish meeting every sector of the community.

It was also a great night for Dublin City Council who received the Special Council Award. Speaking about the council,

the judges said the council recognised the importance of communities having Pride in their Place and has been involved with the competition from the very start and never fails to present well prepared and diverse communities. The consistency of support and positivity between Dublin City Council and its communities never fails to impress

Conclusion...

Stoneybatter is very much improved as a result of Pride of Place, but would not have prospered without the strong support of the local residents.

To follow on, the City Council is promoting “ Stoneybatter Heritage Festival” in 2017.

Pride of Place 2017.

The City Council is considering promoting an application from Ballybough / North Strand .

A successful project is dependent on strong local participation....and a number of local residents have already been “ sounded out” .

Niall Byrnes.

Community and Social Development Officer.

Bernie Lillis

Dublin City Council, Liaison Officer, Pride of Place.