

Item: no. 4

Update on Kildonan Lands Project – Aidan Maher

A meeting chaired by Rita Burtenshaw, the Independent Facilitator, was held on the 2nd February in the Finglas Office. Attendees included representatives from WFTRA, Councillors Connaghan and Costello who are members of the Development Group, and Aidan Maher. Items discussed included amended brief for the Planners, Brady Shipman Martin (BSM); feedback on draft BSM report before publication; BSM presentation to the North West Area Committee (NWAC); and type of consultation after publication of the BSM report.

The next Meeting of this group was scheduled for the 15th March.

Brady Shipman Martin (BSM) is progressing masterplan options with specific reference to:

- Zoning
- Adjacent land uses
- Site opportunities and constraints
- Consultation output
- Range of possible uses
- Scale of potential development on site
- Access options

The masterplan is non-statutory but will be consistent with the City Development Plan. The draft BSM report will be presented to the site Development Group. The report will then be amended before BSM make a presentation to the NWAC: this is now scheduled for the 16th May.

Subsequent consultation will include some or all of the following steps:

- Put the plan on public display in the area office / local library;
- Put the plan on consultation for a minimum period of one month;
- Give notice of the consultation in a local paper / on the DCC website;
- Ensure the draft masterplan is available to view online;
- All comments will be collated / responded to in an Area Manager's report;
- Make any changes to the draft masterplan as deemed appropriate;
- Send Area Managers report to the NWAC Members seeking their approval for the Masterplan.

Abigail Centre – Eddie Matthews

The following is a brief report in respect of services for homeless women on the Abigail Campus since the update provided to the last meeting of the NWA, JPC in December 2016.

The Steering Group meeting overseeing and reviewing the services on the campus has not yet recommenced since the meeting held in March 2016. The Steering group includes representatives from De Paul, Novas, DCC, WFTRA, Gardai and Probation Services.

Issues

Both site managers continue to address any individual issues, complaints or queries arising from members of the community in as timely a timeframe as possible.

Within the services themselves the number of clients remains on any given day between 29 and 34. This fluctuates depending on move on, unsuccessful transfers

and the well documented and unprecedented demand for homeless services particularly for women.

Since the last meeting the campus has been very quiet and recording of incidents extremely low. The atmosphere in both services is very positive and the number of successful move on to long term accommodation for clients has exceeded targets set out in the service level agreements.

The few issues that arose were managed in-house within the confines of both services.

When the Gardai had to be called they were very speedy in their response to ensure that there was no overspill into the local community.

There was one issue where a male was seen on camera urinating near the gate. He was approached by staff, advised his behaviour was unacceptable and advised to leave the area, which he did. Another issue involved a verbal altercation between a client and a local resident in the park regarding a dog off the leash and the clients belief that the dog was aggressive to which she was frightened.

The progress which was outlined in the last update has been maintained and in addition:

- Preparatory work is being carried out in the garden project as the weather improves.
- Fundraising has allowed for the provision of a small gym and wellness room within the project.
- The CDETB arts tutor is working with the clients and a DCC arts worker around the creation of an arts exhibition of clients work in Parkgate Hall, Dublin 8. As a reciprocal gesture an arts exhibition will be held in the Abigail Centre in due course.
- Both services will be actively supporting and arranging events to celebrate International Women's Day on the 8th of March.
- The local CDETB will be working with the local community and the clients to mount an arts exhibition in the centre in May this year building on the positive take up of the yoga, mindfulness and CBT sessions. The large room in the centre (former church) will be fitted with rails to facilitate future/ongoing art exhibitions.
- The West Finglas Scouts group visited the centre on the 11th February as part of their community involvement initiative and baked cakes and bread, used the games and fitness equipment, and met clients and staff.
- The Pavee Point Travellers initiative has now expanded to five mornings per week to incorporate outdoor work in the garden plots, horticultural classes and literacy classes. This is done in conjunction with the CDETB. The Mens Shed project is now operating two afternoons per week.
- I'd like to acknowledge the significant input and assistance from management and staff from the local DCC office with the Men's Shed and Travellers projects and general maintenance and support issues.
- Three clients have engaged with the Voyagers Programme (6 months /Fetac 4) at the Finglas Centre while two other are enrolled with the BRIO programme in the SAOL Project.

While the Abigail Centre admits clients on a needs basis we are also committed to supporting employment opportunities locally. To this end there are 15 full/part-time front line workers from the local area and a further 4 from the Ballymun area. In addition there are 5 contract cleaners and 2 taxi/mini-bus drivers employed locally. Where possible, consumable and other products are purchased from local suppliers.