

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

Meeting: 21st March 2017

Item No: 3

Cabra Area Office Report

Ballyboggan Road flooding – Ratoath Flyover

A reply recently received from Irish Rail stated that Roughan & O'Donovan is finalising a proposal for agreement by our Roads Department to address the problem.

“Subject to agreement on the proposed solution we expect to commence a procurement process in the week beginning the 13th March. We will get the work done as soon as practicable after that, subject to Contractor availability and a road opening licence etc.”

Cabra4Youth

Cabra Area Office has provided financial assistance to the youth club, in their efforts to clean up the site of their proposed club house in the stone cottage. This was recently acquired from Waterways Ireland near the 6th lock of the Royal Canal.

Matt's Pub

The pub does not meet the criteria for inclusion on the Derelict Sites Register. However, it is being monitored and the Public Domain crews recently cleared the dumping from the site.

Christ the King Day Centre

Approximately €8,000 has been assigned from the Discretionary Fund towards landscaping and environmental improvements at the centre. Similar works on a smaller scale will also take place at the Sancta Maria centre

Faussagh Avenue Upgrade

A plan for the landscaping of the frontage to the church car park was presented to the Parish Priest for consideration by the Parish Council and the Diocesan Committee. The aim is to integrate this with landscaping to the front of Broome Lodge. The plan includes moving the railings from in front to behind the current tree line to give a more open vista to the frontage. Unfortunately Fr O'Grady has indicated that it may be months before he gets responses from these two groups which conflicts with the intended completion of Broome Lodge in July. Fr O'Grady also expressed concerns regarding potential anti-social behaviour if the railings are moved behind the trees as planned. A number of residents have already raised objections.

We have informed Clúid of our plans and, although they are supportive of a unified approach to the landscaping project to take in Broome Lodge, they may have to proceed independently as the Contractor is due to complete site works in July. In the meantime, plans to carry out tree planting along the avenue will proceed.

Protim site

This site was being considered for inclusion on the Derelicts Sites Register which would result in a levy being charged on the property. The owners of the site are in receivership and the courts have appointed a Receiver to advance the sale of the property. The beneficiary of the sale is an Employees Pension Fund. The Receiver had been advised to carry out works to render the site non derelict and had the works costed at approximately €180,000 to include demolition and site clearance. The courts does not approve of the Receiver expending this money and advised that the site should be placed on the market as soon as possible. There is no real benefit in putting the site on the register and incurring further costs against the property as this would not result in it being rendered non derelict.

However, using the Vacant Sites Register route will allow the Receiver time to sell the property without incurring additional costs on the property, at least until 2019. Neither solution will render the site non-derelict as this will not occur until it is sold for redevelopment. The Receiver will be requested to secure the site against entry.

Mount Bernard Park.

Work is due to commence on the children's natural playground in the coming weeks. This follows consultations with the Community. Please contact: Deborah Clarke, Play Officer DCC.

Munster Street trees

The Parks Department have been preparing to plant trees on this street as part of a programme of planting for the district and at the request of residents. One resident objected saying that there wasn't a mandate for this. She was invited to a meeting at the Cabra Office to discuss her concerns but did not attend the meeting. As the resident requesting the trees attended with a petition from fellow residents for trees, it is recommended that the Parks Department proceed. No planting will take place outside the objector's house and one other resident's house as requested.

Shandon landscaping

The narrow roads in Shandon have resulted in kerbs and verges being damaged continuously by vehicles and in particular by heavy trucks. The Area Office are installing heavy duty honeycombed matting at the most severely affected areas as a more practical solution to preventing the verges being repeatedly damaged. This has been agreed with residents.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

International Women's Day 8th March

DCC collaborated with Dublin North West Area Partnership and organised a celebration event in the Deaf Village in Cabra. Guest Speaker Professor Kathleen Lynch from DCU spoke on gender equality in particular in relation to their role in caring for and nurturing family members. This was followed by questions and answers and light refreshments. The event was well attended by women from the Cabra and Finglas area. Advice was also given on opportunities to avail of the DNWAP's employment and training services. This also tied in with Local Enterprise Week.

An event was held in Cabra Parkside on the theme of health and wellbeing with information stands on healthy living and mindfulness.

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place from 1st to the 17th March.

A bi-lingual Mass was held in Christ the King Church at 10.30 on St Patricks Day. The Bí ag Cáint Group organised an initiative on twitter called Spota Glás to encourage people to create a Gaeltacht in their own homes by speaking Irish and putting up posts. Gaelgeoirí Fionnuisce, based at Gael Scoil Barra, organised a table quiz on Wednesday the 8th followed by traditional music and song. Workshops on flute and fiddle playing were also held.

Cabra Library promoted the Irish Language and Culture with Storytelling from Seamus Ó Maolalaí for children on Tuesday 14th and Irish Books Displays promoting bi-linguail Irish Literature. For more information on Library Events contact Cabra Library on 8304341

Aidan Maher
Assistant Area Manager