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## Halloween 2019 – Area Offices

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Dublin City Council has put a significant amount of resources into dealing with anti-social behaviour associated with Halloween over recent years. Through a combination of the pro-active seizure of bonfire materials and provision of pro-social community based Halloween activities Dublin City Council has been leading a cultural change in Halloween across Dublin City. This has been a collaborative effort within Dublin City Council across the Waste Management and Housing Departments led by the Area Office's Community Development, Administration and Public Domain staff. There has also been a significant amount of support from statutory agencies, especially An Garda Síochána, with hundreds of community groups across the City acting as invaluable partners in the delivery of a vast and ever expanding Halloween programme. Please see outlined a brief synopsis of activities funded, supported, facilitated and directly delivered by Dublin City Council's Area Offices in 2019. Detailed reports have already been submitted to Area Committees.

### Central Area - Events

The "Big Scream" is a ten day festival in the North East Inner City that includes two major Halloween night productions at Sherriff St. and Sean McDermott St. as well as nearly 20 lead in events throughout the NEIC. This event is funded through the NEIC Office and attracted over 5,000 visitors on Halloween night as well as hundreds of participants taking part in the lead in events. The Festival is organised through ICON (Inner City Community Organisation Network).

Dublin City Council's Community & Sports Development staff also organised two of the bigger lead in events for the Big Scream, the "Dracula Dash" on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October for 800 people and the Little Scream Party in the Park attracting 400 children to Mountjoy Sq.



The Cauldron @ Smithfield is an annual event and attracts over 5,000 visitors from many parts of the City. The event has a series of lead in activities in four of our housing complexes (Kevin Barry House, Queen Street, Constitution Hill and St. Michans House). The event features a wide range of activities including Halloween Town for younger people.

The Central Area Community Section also provided support for 18 small Halloween events at the following locations:

Ormond Square	Nottingham Street	Hardwicke Street
Gardiner Street	Spencer Street	Georges Pocket
East wall (Bargy Road)	Brigid's Avenue	Henrietta Street
Ballybough	Larkin House	The Distillery Community Centre

Clonmore Terrace	Kinlan and Forge	Mud Island Community Garden
Richmond Cottages	Friary Court	Champion's Avenue

In the Cabra/Glasnevin LEA 15 communities were supported to organise local celebrations. All celebrations were run by local volunteers, with the encouragement of Dublin City Council. One of the biggest events in the area was a major “Haunted House in the Hall” organised by St. Finbarrs GAA Club with an attendance in excess of 500 people. The event was managed by the Club, the local Men’s Shed and Cabra Community Development Project



#### Shandon Outdoor Spooky Film



#### Central Area – Public Domain

Halloween bonfire activity was reduced significantly on previous years for the Central Area. There was a Bonfire at Railway Street and another small fire at Ballybough House. A fire planned for St Michans Park was averted after the materials were removed by Parks Department staff. For the first time in many years, there was no fire in the Sherriff St. and East Wall areas. The Central Area Public Domain Unit removed 2.3 Tonnes of bonfire materials including tyres and pallets from various hidden locations and industrial sites.



#### Central Area – An Garda Síochána

Cabra - “There were no notable incidents of Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour reports were down significantly.”

Fitzgibbon St District – “There were no incidents of Criminal Damage and no Public Order Incidents in the Fitzgibbon Street District over Halloween Night.”

### **North Central Area– Events**

Professional fireworks displays were organised on 31<sup>st</sup> October as follows:

Donaghmede in conjunction with the Donaghmede Estate Residents Association with approximately 2,000 people in attendance.

Kilbarrack in conjunction with the Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme with approximately 2,000 people in attendance.

Edenmore in conjunction with St. Monica's Youth Resource Centre with approximately 1,200 people in attendance.



The annual Spooktacular event took place in Bram Stoker Park, Marino. This innovative project brings the park to life after dark on Halloween night and is delivered by Dublin City Council in partnership with the Fairview Marino Business Association. The park is fully activated with music, dance and fixed installations. The event was attended by well over 2,500 people and was enjoyed thoroughly by all.



The Darndale "Haunted House Walk Through" took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> October in Darndale Community Centre in partnership with Sphere 17. Young people from Sphere 17 undertook the task to become the walking dead and did an amazing job. The Community Centre also facilitated the younger age groups with bouncy castles and ball pits. Approximately 800 people enjoyed this event.

### **North Central Area – Public Domain**

There were 10 largescale fires and a number of satellite fires recorded across the North Central Area. It was notable that there was a significant drop in the size of the fires. The reduction in the amount of bonfire materials was notable and is most likely as a result of the early morning removals by Waste Management and contractors. We also organised to have a number of sites securely reinforced with additional fencing, which proved successful. We spoke with management companies of industrial estates and advised them of their responsibilities with regard to storage and supply of Bonfire material. There was 15 Tonnes of Bonfire material collected in the North Central Area.



### **North Central Area – An Garda Síochána**

Coolock District - "There were no Public Order incidents on Halloween night and approximately 20 Attention & Complaint incidents."

Raheny District - "There were 3 Public Order incidents on Halloween night and approximately 12 Attention & Complaint incidents."



### Northwest Area – Events

Halloween in the Northwest Area features 2 very large scale events in Finglas and Ballymun.

The Finglas Halloween Festival “Finglas Fright Night,” took place in the Finglas Civic Centre on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. There was a wide variety of entertainment for families to enjoy on the night, from carnival rides, inflatable obstacle courses, old fashioned game stalls, street entertainment, two magic shows, face painting, food stalls, Euro 2020 promotions team, balloon modeller, monster mascots, skills zones, fireworks display and the main music stage, with local bands performing alongside a Beatles tribute band. Each year Dublin City Council's Finglas Office invites local community groups to help with ticket sales for all the attractions. Ticket sales go towards the groups fund raising efforts. 21 local groups which totals over 100 volunteers from the local community manage the stalls each year. Overall, the event this year was well attended with approximately 7,500 people attending the event over the 3 hours.



The Otherworld Festival programme of activities is spread out over a number of weeks and events were organised in the run up to the main event on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. DCC and Axis organised the Otherworld Festival Main Event, with the support of the Otherworld Festival Working Committee. The main event which took place on the Ballymun Plaza from 6:00pm to 8:30pm and included a programme of music, games, circus skill performances and creative and artistic talents. One of the key factors of the ongoing success of this Festival, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is the ongoing collaboration and engagement between the local community, axis and DCC in all aspects of the festival, from idea generation to final production and delivery. It is rewarding to see young people in Ballymun working their way up to being engaged in a professional capacity in the Festival. An estimated 3,500 people attended the main event this year.



### Northwest Area – Public Domain

There were 20 fires recorded across the North West Area for Halloween. 8 in Ballymun and 12 in Finglas. It was notable that there was a significant drop in the size of the fires. The Public Domain Team were working alongside Waste Management, Parks and Housing to remove as much stockpiled material as possible prior to Halloween and had some very large hauls over this period. The reduction in the amount of sofas, beds and other household items was notable and is most likely as a result of the success of the Amnesty Days held earlier in the year. 64 Tonnes of material was collected by the Area Public Domain Team prior to Halloween.



### **Northwest Area – An Garda Síochána**

Ballymun – “Other World Halloween Festival in Ballymun which includes the fireworks display provided a safe and family friendly environment, providing young people with alternatives and therefore reducing the opportunities for public disorder and mischief by persons. I wish to report that there were approximately 40 incidents reported in the Ballymun Sub District. The majority of these calls were in relation to everyday issues which were not related to Halloween. In comparison to previous years Halloween night was quiet in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour.”

Finglas – “There is no doubt that the pre-emptive type approach to bonfire material led to a significant reduction in the amount of bonfires in the Finglas residential areas and ensured the safety to life and property in the locality. Halloween 2019 passed without serious incident and thankfully no damage to property or safety to human life was compromised. I have no doubt that the success of this festive occasion is very much attributed to the strong working relationship between both Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána in their joint approach to helping the Finglas community.”

### **South Central Area – Events**

The Ballyfermot / Drimnagh Community Development Team worked with Local Youth Services and Residents Groups to organise family friendly events that took place on Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Activities were organised to animate Dublin City Council Parks and local Community Facilities.

Pumpkin Party and Halloween Games. Ghost train, treasure Hunt, Vintage Fire Engine	Markievicz Park	Oct.31 <sup>st</sup> 1100AM	Over 900 enjoyed this event. Parents very grateful to see the Park full of activities. Supported by the Ballyfermot Youth Service and 20 local volunteers.
Magic Show	Ballyfermot Library	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 11:00AM	An indoor event to cater for 100 younger Children
Zombie Fun Run	California Hills Park	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 1:00PM	700 people in the park over 300 registered participants in the run this family fun run is very popular. Supported by Donore Harriers Running Club.
Halloween Spooktacular	Candle Community Trust, Lynch's Lane	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 2:00PM	500 young people attended throughout the afternoon events targeted teenagers with live music, an illusionist and pumpkin carving. Supported by Candle Youth Service and Familibase
Haunted House	Cherry Orchard Equine Centre	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 3:00PM	The Equine Centre was transformed into a Haunted House. Hugely popular event attended by over 1,100 people. Organised by the Cherry Orchard Integrated Youth Service, the Equine Centre and up to 30 local youth volunteers
Halloween Disco	Cherry Orchard Centre	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 4:00PM	A not so scary disco for the younger children. 200 attended. Organised by Orchard Community Centre staff and local volunteers.

Fireworks	Cherry Orchard Park	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 7:00PM	Well organised event 2,500 in attendance
Halloween Carnival Show	Our Lady's Hall, Drimnagh	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 5:00PM	A Halloween performance by the Sing Act Dance Variety group. Attendance 300. Organised by the Drimnagh Residents Community Group.
Halloween Teen Events	St. John Bosco Youth Centre, Drimnagh	Oct.31 <sup>st</sup> 7:00PM till 10:30	The Bosco youth workers targeted older teenagers for events in the centre on Halloween night. Over 50 young people attended.

The local youth organisations in the Ballyfermot / Drimnagh Area were involved in organising the events supported by over 40 local young people that volunteered on the day.

#### 2019 Liberties Haunt – Halloween Parade

In partnership with local residents from Oliver Bond, Vicar Street, Pimlico and surrounding areas, The Solas Project, SWICN, SICODA, The Digital Hub, Liberties Training Centre Joined Up and Happenings Events the Dublin City Council SWIC Area Office was delighted to fund and support The Liberties Haunt Parade 2019 and its massive group of followers whom they gathered along the way (estimated figure over 1,000 children and adults) were greeted at the final destination in The Digital Hub, Rainsford Street, where the waiting guests enjoyed Halloween treats onsite, face painting, monster bouncy castle, haunted house, stilt walkers, Playstation competitions and local dance group performances.



Some of the other community supported Halloween activities which took place in the SWIC area are as follows;

Howl at Halloween – Old Style St Andrew's Community Centre. Full house.  
Games & Fun

Rialto - F2 CENTRE

Fancy dress family disco 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Dolphin Park/Dolphin House

Halloween bingo for the older residents of Dolphin Park and Dolphin House

The Dolphin Crèche

Held a Halloween dress up party for the children and parents attending the crèche, on the 31<sup>st</sup> October in the Dolphin Community Centre.

BTOP

Pumpkin Carving and traditional games held in The Dome, Flanagan's Field 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 5.30pm – 7pm.

### South Central Area – Public Domain

The South Central Area launched our Halloween 2019 campaign in early October. Meetings with all relevant stakeholders were conducted from September 2019, both at area and at corporate level. Intelligence - based operations and drone technology proved invaluable in monitoring vacant sites, lane ways, open public spaces, green margins etc. The main tranche of the 2019 Halloween campaign began 26<sup>th</sup> October and ended on 31<sup>st</sup> October 5pm. A team of 19 people worked over the Bank Holiday Weekend to identify & track bonfire material movement. There were a number of **key stockpiles** as listed below:-

SWIC	Quantity	Crumlin	Quantity	Ballyfermot	Quantity
Oliver Bond Flats - 4 visits	150 Tyres and 200 Pallets removed-	Brickfield environs	Truck load junk	Kylemore Pk. Ind. Est. (Bluebell stock pile)	2.5 Truckloads Pallets & Tyres
Pier 19 vacant site	2 Truck - loads Pallets	Longmile Road Ind. Est.	Truck Load	Kylemore & JFK Ind. Est.	2-3 Truck Loads pallets
Inchicore Builders Providers	Truck load Pallets			Park West	2 Truck Loads Pallets
Basin St Flats Vacant flat	60 tyres and pallets			Bluebell Ind. Est.	Truck load Pallets
St Teresa's Gardens Back lands	Half Truck Load of pallets, Spindles			Cherry Orchard Ind. Est.- 4 visits	4 truck loads Pallets Tyres and Household Junk
Dolphin House Vacant flat	Truckload Pallets and Tyres				

The Bonfires were fewer and decidedly smaller than previous years

### South East Area – Events

The aim of the Kimmage-Rathmines LEA Halloween Programme was to provide events for all age demographics in the area, with the emphasis on enjoying the Halloween Festival in a safe and inclusive manner, including diversionary activities for young people.

**26<sup>th</sup> October**, Halloween Market 11 – 4PM, Bushy Park, Terenure. This weekly event was enhanced for the Halloween Festival with fun activities, face painting, cartoon characters and a 'scary zone'. Estimated attendance was 750.

**Partners:** Bushy Park Market, I love Terenure 2030





**29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October**, Scary Trips to The Hellfire Club 5 – 10PM. The BRU Crumlin and CLAY Youth Projects took young people The Hellfire Club as a diversionary project in the run up to the Halloween Festival. Estimated attendance was 60 young people and staff.  
**Partners:** BRU Crumlin and CLAY Youth Clubs

**29<sup>th</sup> October**, Stannaway Court Halloween Party for Older Persons 2-5PM. A fancy Dress party for residents of the complex and friends including live music and refreshments. 50 people attended.

**31<sup>st</sup> October**, Parent and Toddler Group, Evergreen Club 10 – 12PM. This weekly activity was enhanced with a fancy dress party and face painting. Attendance was 30 children.  
**Partners:** The Evergreen Club, Terenure

**31<sup>st</sup> October**, Walkinstown and Dolphins Barn Library, 11 – 2.30PM. Our two local Libraries hosted events for children and parents with Witch Story Telling and face painting, with the emphasis on introduction to reading.  
**Partners:** DCC Library Service

**31<sup>st</sup> October**, Brickfields Park Mini Festival and Zombie Fun Run 1 – 4PM. An afternoon of fun activities for all ages including train rides, fire-eaters, drummers, face painting and music, culminating in a Zombie Fun Run for all ages with prizes and medals for all entrants. Estimated attendance was 500 people.  
**Partners:** Sports Development Section, Drimnagh Festival Committee, John Bosco Centre, Brickfields Park Fun Run and An Garda Síochána





**31<sup>st</sup> October**, Clogher Road Sports Centre Mini Festival and Zombie Fun Run 12 – 4PM. An afternoon of fun for all ages including games, bouncing castles, haunted house, children's entertainer music and dancing, culminating in a Zombie Fun Run in the adjacent Eamon Ceannt Park with prizes and medals for all entrants. Estimated attendance was 600 people.

**Partners:** Clogher Road Sports Centre, Sports Development Section, BRU Crumlin and CLAY Youth Projects, An Garda Síochána and Rutland Grove Residents Association



Dockers and Demons is a Halloween festival for Ringsend/Irishtown/Docklands which was launched in 2017. The aim and mission of the Festival is to forge greater links between the Irishtown/Ringsend and Docklands communities in order to alleviate the pressure during the Halloween period on the community and policing bodies by offering alternative activities in the lead up to October 31<sup>st</sup> and on the night itself. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Festival and all events were oversubscribed. It was planned to do just one event in the circus tent in Ringsend Park however due to demand a matinee performance was added but in reality they could have had performances in the circus tent for the 7 nights of the festival and the venue would have been full. Estimated attendance for the events of the week was approximately 5,000. Partners in the event include: Ringsend & Irishtown Community Centre, The Spellman Centre, Ringsend & Irishtown Tidy Towns, St. Matthews Church, St Patrick's Church, The Sea Scouts, Covanta and The Aviva Community Fund.



The Cabbage Patch Cauldron 2019 was a family friendly event, the highlight of which was a Halloween themed movie together with a range of activities for kids. Our objective was to ensure that there was no bonfire within the Cabbage Patch on Halloween night and with co-operation from many stakeholders this was achieved. The Halloween event in the Cabbage Patch was very well supported with a lot of families in attendance.



We estimate that more than 200 people attended however what was more important was that this was a big step forward in encouraging local people to attend a family friendly event in the Cabbage Patch. Partners involved in the project include: St. Patrick's Cathedral, An Garda Síochána, local Scouts, RADE Community Project, the YMCA and The Iveagh Trust.

### **South East Area – Public Domain**

For the months of September & October the South East Area Public Domain team had been monitoring known locations for the storage of bonfire material. One of the primary objectives for 2019 was to prevent any bonfire occurring in "The Cabbage Patch" which was successful. The largest amount of material was removed from a site in Ringsend on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Rapid response trucks and Waste Management vans were used to remove 300+ tyres and 40 Pallets.

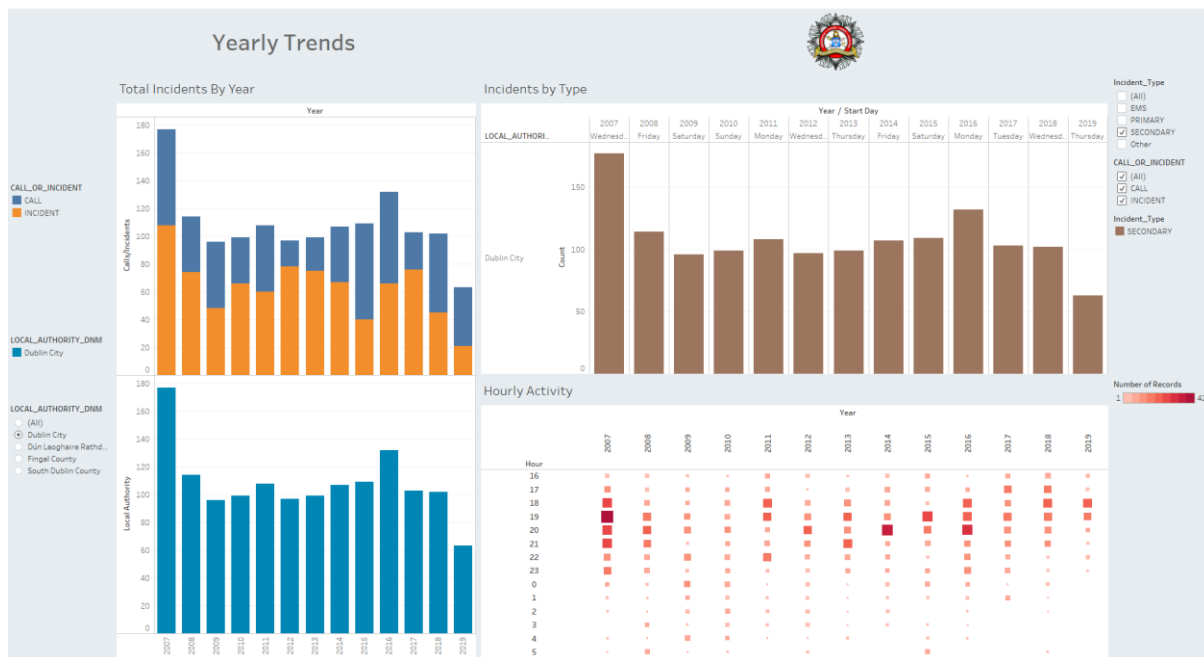
### **South East Area – An Garda Síochána**

Donnybrook – "anti-social behaviour which was an ongoing Halloween issue in Ringsend up to 3 years ago has diminished completely since the Dockers & Demons Festival started in Ringsend. It is clear that the Dockers & Demons Festival is making a real difference on the ground."

Kevin St. – "there were no issues in the Cabbage Patch on Halloween night and the family friendly event in the Park was a huge success. This is a huge improvement on previous years."

### **Dublin Fire Brigade**

Our colleagues in Dublin Fire Brigade have been very grateful to see the cultural change in Halloween night around Dublin City. They have been very complimentary of the efforts by Dublin City Council and other statutory, community and voluntary groups and the effect that it is having. Please see graphs below provided by DFB which outline some interesting data. These graphs represent the number of secondary (bonfire) calls received by Dublin Fire Brigade on Halloween night over a 13 year period and the level of intensity of calls on an hourly basis from 4pm. From the graph it can be seen that the number of bonfire calls has reduced by approximately 2/3 with the intensity of calls reducing and finishing much earlier in the evening.



## Conclusion

Dublin City Council has put a significant amount of resources into changing the culture of Halloween in Dublin City. It is clear that it is having a very positive effect and through continued pro-active intervention and engagement with all stakeholders it is hoped that this can continue into the future.

**Coilín O'Reilly**  
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**21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

**Mary Taylor**  
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