

North Inner City Community Development Update

Ballybough Pride of Place

Area Office staff are meeting this group regularly and responding to as many of their requests as possible. Cleaning equipment is supplied and rubbish removed after their clean-up operations.

Smithfield Sculpture

Area Office staff are working with Sculpture Dublin to bring forward the new sculpture for Lower Smithfield. They assisted in identifying Gráinne Foy as a panellist that in turn went on to select Alan Butler as the artist. His completed work will be unveiled in July with Covid compliant ceremony. Follow up workshops will be delivered for local residents and schools including George's Hill Primary School and St Paul's Secondary to encourage local ownership and pride in this work.

Covid response.

Area Office staff continue to respond to requests for assistance from members of the community unable to get out for shopping or in need of transport for medical appointments.

Sherrard Street.

Area Office staff are in regular contact with this group. New window boxes were delivered recently and arrangements are in place to move four large, newly planted planter units into the area.

WW2 North Strand bombing 80th anniversary

A working group is in place and drawing up plans to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the bombing of the North Strand. Twenty eight people died and ninety people were injured by four high explosive bombs dropped on the area. Three hundred homes were damaged or destroyed by the blasts.

Funding has been secured for the event from the NEIC and it is expected that the Commemorations Committee will also provide funding. The Area Office will coordinate the event with considerable input from the Library Service, Historian in Residence and members of the local community. The event will take place on the 31st May.

Depending on restrictions, the event will feature a walking route with various exhibits including vintage vehicles, video screens, soundscapes and poster displays. It is hoped to include a musical tribute that will be relayed in the most assessable way possible. The library service has a substantial archive <https://northstrandbombing.wordpress.com/> -This online archive will be promoted with elements put on display to suit restrictions in place at the time.

East Wall Men's shed.

East Wall Men's Shed are constructing raised beds for other gardening groups in the area. Three units have been completed and delivered to the Henrietta Gardening Group.

“Mudlets” / Dublin Learning Festival 22nd to 24th March

The Area Office has secured funding through the Social Inclusion Unit to facilitate the production of a series of six short videos on the theme of balcony / patio Gardens. The videos, titled “Mudlets” will be produced by the Mud Island Garden Group and will form part of the Dublin Learning Festival in the first instance. Subsequently the videos will be maintained on the Mud Island Social media channels where can be accessed by a wide number of viewers.

Music for Cocooning

The Area Office is reviving this popular project later this month. A musician will visit six sheltered complexes on a weekly basis starting on the 24th March. Each session lasts an hour and will include music and bingo. The initiative is weather dependant.

The following venues will be included in the first instance

- Tom Clarke House
- Brendan Behan Court
- St Laurence O’Toole Court
- Sean O’Casey Centre, Eastwall
- Stanhope Green
- Aughtim Court

Brian Mongey
A/ Area Community Officer