

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

Meeting: 20th April 2021

Item No: 12

POPPINTREE SPORT AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Under COVID level 5 restrictions the facility remains closed to the public and unfortunately we do not have confirmation of a reopening date. The staff remain working in the facility five days per week carrying out essential repairs, maintenance and cleaning. The anchor tenants of the facility are also working in the facility. The Aisling, Cross Care and the Poppintree Youth project are offering their clients outreach services and some house calls to the most vulnerable. The Poppintree early childhood education crèche is fully operational providing child care to the most at risk and to children whose parents are working in essential services. The Ballymun and St. Pappins Boxing Club and the Men's Shed have not resumed their services as of yet and will remain closed until the government restrictions have lifted.

The Men's Shed is the most recent anchor tenants to the Poppintree Sport and Community Facility. The Management of the Poppintree Sport and Community Facility and the Community Section of Dublin City Council have been working in partnership to facilitate this group. One of the studio spaces in the facility will be used by the Men's Shed to facilitate a number of activities such as meetings, workshops, arts and crafts, woodwork etc. The space is currently been fitted out with work benches, furniture and flooring that will cater for all the activities planned for the future. It is hoped that the Men's Shed activities will start in this space once the government restrictions are reduced to level three. All the activities will be carried out in line with the government guidelines.

The Poppintree Sport and Community facility is still subject to antisocial and criminal behaviour, mainly during the times the facility is closed at the weekends.

Throughout the COVID pandemic there has been an increase in dumping at the rear of the facility. The materials been dumped have been set on fire on numerous occasions. The Gardai have been notified and the CCTV footage has been downloaded. The majority of the dumping is being done by youths from the area. The Gardai have informed us that if the youths identified in the CCTV footage are under the age of 12 there is very little that can be done. If the youths are over the age of 12 the Youth Liaison Officers will be informed and prosecutions can be made. The management are reviewing short, medium and long term solutions to minimise the risk to the facility from future fires at this location. Contractors have been engaged to quote for fencing and construction of walls at high risk locations that have been targeted for dumping and fires over the past few months.



THE BALLYMUN SPORT AND FITNESS FACILITY

This facility remains shut under the current Government guidelines. The management remain working in the facility five days per week carrying out essential maintenance, cleaning and facilitating any contractors that are carrying out essential works in the facility. The Leisure Attendant Staff continue to offer fitness classes through the social media platforms of Facebook and Instagram.

Under the 2018 Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Sport Capital Grant application process, the Ballymun Sport and Fitness Facility was successful with an application for new equipment. During the last year the management have worked very hard to complete this project. The following works have been completed in the Ballymun sport and fitness facility:

- ✚ The facility has been painted throughout
- ✚ New shower cubicles have been installed
- ✚ New Sauna installed
- ✚ New tiling in changing areas throughout the facility
- ✚ New equipment has been installed including accessible equipment that can be used by individuals with mobility impairments. The equipment includes machine weights, free weights and a medical treadmill.
- ✚ New push buttons on all the doors making the facility accessible to all users of the facility
- ✚ New flooring installed in the plant room

The Management Team is planning for a phased reopening of the facility that will remain within the guidelines set out by the government.

Emma Byrne, Manager

Poppintree Sport & Community Centre and the Ballymun Sport and Fitness Centre