



Date: 31.08.2022

To: **The chairperson and members of
North Central Area Committee**

Meeting: 19th September 2022.

Item No. 4I

**DONAGHMEDE/CLONTARF LEA - UPDATE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE**

Realt na Mara report for Area Committee

On foot of a motion at February's North Central Area committee in the name of Councillor Cooney, Dublin City Council started the process of organising an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Realt na Mara statue and to commence refurbishment works at the statue.

Since February, the North Central Area Office has linked in with our own internal departments, Arts Office and Parks Department, with a view to working collaboratively. We have also engaged with Dublin Port Company and a representative of the Dockers society, who first commissioned the statue.

Refurbishment works

Refurbishment works have been organised for the foundation stone, with initial cleaning of the stone and improvement works to the lettering. The lights surrounding the statue have also been inspected and repaired.

The mosaic on the concrete base below Realt na Mara, was commissioned in 2003 by the group who first commissioned the statue, is badly damaged. Dublin City Council has consulted with the representative of the original commissioners, Bill Nelson and also with the artist, Elaine Prunty. Both have agreed to its removal, as the mosaic has suffered from both tidal and weather damage and is beyond repair. The mosaic in its present condition does not reflect well on the artist, original commissioners, Dublin Port Co. or Dublin City Council. Dublin City Council in consultation with Dublin Port, have undertaken removal works in advance of the events being planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the statue. As the location for this artwork is particularly challenging due to its exposure to the elements, Dublin City Council has carefully considered the replacement of this artistic feature. We have decided to replace the mosaic with a mirrored polished disk with engraved compass & circular handrail.

Event

An event has been organised for Saturday 24th September to mark the statues 50th anniversary. This commemoration event will be attended by Lord Mayor of Dublin, Caroline Conroy. The event will begin at 11am with a ceremonial wreath laying ceremony and conclude in the Clontarf Yacht and Boat Club, with a historical talk and refreshments.

Niamh Reilly
Senior Staff Officer

Clontarf & Donaghmede LEA, North Central Area.