

Ballymun Community Facilities Forum Meeting Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th January 2010

Present:

Mary Higgins	Chair
Mary Taylor	DCC
Bernie Roe	DCC
Audrey Meehan	BCON
Dermot King	BCON
Eamon Farrelly	BRL
Fiona Cooper	BRL
Paul Billings	BNC
Manus Bree	Ballymun Partnership
Colma Nic Lughadha	Ballymun Partnership

Apologies: Paul Billings BNC, Manus Bree Ballymun Partnership

This meeting was held instead of the meeting scheduled to be held on 17th December which was cancelled by the Chair.

1. Report on community consultation meeting on Ballymun East

Audrey reported that the meeting was well attended with 20 groups represented and had been successful in that the groups were pleased to have been given the opportunity to express their views and their views were considered to be helpful by Alan Mee. Alan has followed up on the five questions raised by people attending.

Fiona explained that the consultation process will continue but that this is a long term project and no building would be expect to start in the next four or five years and has been affected by loss of revenue from commercial properties and other issues.

A follow up community consultation will be held and this will be organised through the Forum.

2. Reco Portacabins

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Eamon Farrelly. He explained that the portacabins had been used by the Recko while remedial works was carried out on the land. Some community groups had approached BRL once BRYR vacated the portacabins as to their future and their possible use to accommodate community groups. On the basis that there was some urgency in relocating some groups due to health safety issues, that the portacabins were in place and represented relatively good value (€150,000 plus VAT), BRL took a decision to purchase them.

There was general support for this decision but a number of points were raised and agreed in the subsequent discussion:

- Once again, only some community groups are involved in this move and this has the potential to create or add to friction between groups
- There was no general communication about what was happening so the Ballymun “rumour machine” went into operation, again causing confusion and potentially fuelling conflict
- It was unclear how this decision fitted with the other decisions and plans on community facilities and this highlighted again the need for a blue print
- The Forum was not involved in the discussion – although it was understood that there was some urgency to the decision and the Forum had not met since October, due to the December meeting being cancelled
- The portacabins provide good space for groups
- The sanitary facilities in the portacabins are inadequate given its usage and this will be addressed by BRL

3. BRL and DCC review of rents and other community facility issues

Bernie reported that in recent days she and Pamela from BRL had undertaken a review of community facilities, in terms of what there is and what rents are being charged and of community groups in terms of where they are and what they do. The impetus for this review had come partly from an urgent need to develop a coherent policy on rents. This review was considered to be very valuable and it was agreed that a special meeting of the Forum would be held quickly so that Bernie could present the findings to it.

In the course of discussion arising from this report, some key issues were raised:

- The complexity of the situation with regard to facilities and groups
- The urgency of the situation for some groups
- The historical lack of systems which has led to a lack of uniformity and consistency in letting arrangements, rents and other conditions for community groups
- The continued one to one negotiations with groups
- The continued focus on existing community groups, regardless of their relevance to needs
- The weakness in communications between members of the Forum. DCC and BRL have information which is not shared or communicated effectively with other members and there is no informal communication between meetings
- The length of time between meetings may inhibit good communication and prevent the Forum from being involved in some decisions
- The absence of clear communication with community groups as a whole and of any message about how they should be preparing for their own move

- The existence of a demolition plan for blocks in Coultry and Sillogue that will impact on community groups which has yet to be communicated

There was agreement that there could be three areas for attention by the Forum in the future:

- The immediate situation
- The provision of support to community groups
- The longer term situation

4. Minutes of previous two meetings

Minutes of the previous two meetings had not been approved partly because of the nature of the meetings and partly because some people were concerned that they did not represent the extent of the discussion. Mary Higgins undertook to review these minutes and make revisions for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the Forum.

5. Next Meeting

Thursday February 4th at 10.00 a.m.: Presentation from Bernie

Thursday February 18th at 10.00 a.m.: Agenda to be agreed on 4th