

## **Ballymun Community Facilities Forum Meeting**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009**

#### **Present:**

Mary Higgins	Chair
Dermot King	BCON
Eamon Farrelly	BRL
Fiona Cooper	BRL
Mary Taylor	DCC

**In attendance:** Margaret Doyle – DCC  
Finbar McDonnell – Hibernian Consulting

#### **Apologies:**

Emma Freeman	BCON
Paul Billings	BNC
Colma Nic Lughadha	Ballymun Partnership
Manus Bree	Ballymun Partnership
Bernie Roe	DCC

#### **Combating the Digital Divide in Ballymun**

Finbar McDonnell from Hibernian Consulting addressed the meeting on combating the digital divide in Ballymun through funding under the BENEFIT programme. The funding available is targeted at disadvantaged areas. He distributed notes on the funding and a draft plan for Ballymun. See attached.

#### **Comments**

- The funding must be spent in 2009.
- In order to draw down this funding an overarching organisation would need to be in place similar to the IT Forum in Ballyfermot.
- It will be necessary to establish the level of IT training and the level of interest in IT training in Ballymun.
- There is a need for a co-ordinated and strategic approach to IT in the area.
- The focus should be on the end users.
- Set up a local website, [www.ballymun.ie](http://www.ballymun.ie).
- Before a local website is set up check the following:
  - What is the appetite in the area for a local website?
  - Structures need to be put in place to facilitate the ongoing maintenance of the website.
  - The website should be linked to a site that is already established e.g. [www.dublin.ie](http://www.dublin.ie)
- A meeting needs to be arranged with IT providers in the area with the view to establishing the interest in forming a group to facilitate the drawing down and spending of this funding.
- The draft plan should be re-written as an application.
- Mary Taylor is to explore the possibility of using the CCTV poles to facilitate the provision of WIFI for Ballymun.
- Dermot King will check what 'The Wheel' can provide in the area.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the **Community Facilities Forum** is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009** at **10.00am** in the **Architect's Room** on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Floor** in the **Ballymun Civic Centre**.

It was agreed that the following documents should be available for discussion at the next meeting:

- West Ballymun Action Area Plan
- Social Sustainability Report

Patricia Scanlon, Social Regeneration Development Manager, BRL will be invited to attend the meeting.

## Combating the Digital Divide in Ballymun

- Mix of funding from the Department of Communications, Energy & NR through the BENEFIT programme (Dublin and Mid-East Community ICT Initiative overseen by the Dublin Employment Pact) and Dublin City Council
- Being supported at a high level in DCC – initiative to combat the digital divide in the city, following from PA Consulting report
- Training happening all over Dublin (and some in mid-east), capital funding will be focused on Ballyfermot and Ballymun (with some in Dublin 8 and Dublin 17)
- Perhaps €90k to €100k available for Ballymun in 2009 – subject to confirmation
- Broad outline of plan needed by approx. early-June – will have to be followed by detailed application from groups seeking funding
- Desire to spread the funding across different groups in the area to combat the digital divide in a general way
- Aim is to link the funding in 2009 to the creation of a **Ballymun IT Forum**, where local actors with an interest in IT will come together on a regular basis to discuss local needs, sharing of resources, synergies etc. – a similar Ballyfermot IT Forum has existed for some five years or so, having started under the EU URBAN Programme
- Conversations already with:
  - Ballymun Partnership (different sections)
  - Dublin City Council (centrally and locally)
  - FIT
  - Axis Centre
  - Telephone interviews with a further 15+ people/organizations to build information on local capabilities and needs
- Based on these conversations, and the guidelines from the Dublin Employment Pact, FIT and Dublin City Council, the table below has been prepared. It proposes ideas across a number of headings and target groups, in keeping with the aim of the spending.
- Hibernian Consulting supporting the Dublin Employment Pact, FIT and Dublin City Council on the evaluation of their BENEFIT programme in 2009 – with some limited consulting support for local areas in preparing plans and organizing local IT Forums

Emerging Ideas on Community ICT Plan for Ballymun		
Area of Need	What is Requested	Amount
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High demand for training</li> <li>• Needs of older people noted (50 places? – older/disability?)</li> <li>• Youth clubs also would like places (50 places?)</li> <li>• Unemployed people, especially men (100 places?)</li> <li>• <b>Need to decide breakdown</b></li> </ul>	€35k put aside for this – 200 places
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Youth Zone</li> </ul>	€8.5k – separate application already submitted
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of whiteboards!</li> <li>• IT support – local resource?</li> <li>• Technical training</li> </ul>	Could spend all the resources on this need - €10k for 2 whiteboards and training?
Enterprise Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCs and electronic whiteboard to develop hot-desking facilities for local small companies</li> </ul>	8k?
Axis Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop-in facility for people – high footfall already. PCs plus broadband connections plus printer</li> </ul>	€7.5k?
IT Centre for Older People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location where older people live which would also be used for training</li> <li>• Perhaps 6-8 PCs, broadband connections plus printer</li> <li>• Not possible at Cluid?</li> </ul>	€7.5k?
Development of website for Ballymun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would follow from Ballyfermot site</li> <li>• Good support for this idea but it would need someone to take responsibility for it (not huge effort but some)</li> </ul>	€20k as once-off cost, plus €3k for initial content?

- Above totals to €99.5k ...
- Comments on the above
- Comments on the idea of an IT Forum
- Taking responsibility after 2009 – website, IT support ...
- Useful (or not?) to have a session in May or June to which people are invited to:
  - Receive comments on draft proposals for 2009 (or on how it might be implemented in practice)
  - Discuss the establishment of the IT Forum
- If yes, date/venue – how to organise?