

Ballymun Community Facilities Forum Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October 2009

Present:

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

In attendance: Margaret Doyle – DCC

1. Feedback on consultation with Forum members and discussion

At the last meeting, it was agreed that Mary Higgins would meet with members of the Forum individually to give everyone a chance to review their experience of the Forum and its future. Mary presented the findings of the consultation (full presentation attached):

The consultation revealed broad agreement that the Forum had been successful to the extent that it had:

- Improved relationships and communication between the members about community facilities
- Had improved the information community facilities and community groups in Ballymun
- Completed protocols for community groups in flats and improved policy, practice and understanding

A number of concerns were also raised:

- The work of the Forum was not well understood in the wider community
- The Forum has remained focused on operational rather than strategic issues
- While the Forum was striving to have one system of communication, individual negotiations continued between DCC/BRL and community groups
- Decisions are being driven by expediency rather than strategy. An example of this is the situation with the use of commercial units in Coultry for community groups
- Existing community buildings were underused
- The costs and sustainability of the new community buildings

A number of outstanding issues for Forum were identified:

- There is still no overarching plan for community groups and facilities and it is difficult for the Forum to develop such a plan because key players such as funding bodies are not around the table

- The BRL Social Sustainability plan was not about community groups or facilities as a whole but was focused on a small number of them
- The link between the Forum and the BRL social sustainability team is weak
- The current focus is still on existing groups, rather than on the future needs of the area
- Some of the community groups may not be addressing needs or may not comply with general standards
- Some community groups will have difficulty in meeting rental and other expenditure when they move from flats
- There needs to be a renewal of communication and contact between the Forum and the community

In going forward it was suggested the Forum should:

Re engage with community

- Review existing facilities and don't build any more
- Assess needs and match to facilities
- Clarify roles and relationships

A number of issues arose in the course of discussion:

- The BRL Social Sustainability sub committee now has a general brief on sustainability
- A consultation process is just beginning on the development of Ballymun East and this could be a useful pilot for the future use of space and buildings
- The Youngballymun Board includes budget holders and other players and could be useful to look at in terms of a more strategic plan
- How the issue of standards of service delivery could be approached

It was agreed:

- Mary Taylor would talk to Cllr Andrew Montague about organising a meeting between the Forum or reps from it with the BRL Social Sustainability sub committee
 - Fiona Cooper will organise a meeting between Alan Mee who is leading the consultation on Ballymun East
 - The Forum will link with Youngballymun
 - The Forum should continue work on the planned transition programme
 - The Forum could explore the issue of standards further
 - The Forum should develop a set of protocols for the movement of all groups to permanent premises, not just those leaving flats
- The Forum could re-visit the question regarding the standard of service delivery by community groups in Ballymun.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the **Community Facilities Forum** is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 5th November 2009 at 10.00am** in the **Architect's Room** on the **3rd Floor** in the **Ballymun Civic Centre**.

