



BALLYMUN

REGENERATION NEWS

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The Ballymun Community Law Centre Campaign Committee is currently seeking applications for the position of Development Manager. For an information pack including job description contact Amanda on 8421144.



Full planning permission has been granted for the competition site. There will be approximately 40 units of social housing in the scheme, plus some non-residential uses and student accommodation. See building update inside.

BUILDING OF PHASE 1 NEW HOMES FORGES AHEAD

Residents due to move into the Phase I new homes will be pleased to know that building is going ahead on all thirteen sites as planned. Some of the schemes were slightly delayed last autumn, due to shortages of skilled tradesmen and general problems relating to the very wet weather in November and December. The cold dry weather in recent weeks has helped the contractors to catch up and starting this Summer, people will be moving into their new homes.

"I want to reassure people that there will be no delay to the Phase 1 new homes as a result of a complaint made to the EU regarding the method used by BRL to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment on the thirteen schemes in Phase 1", says Ciarán Murray, Managing Director, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.

"Events have overtaken the initial complaint which is focused on

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procedural issues. The strategic appraisal that BRL carried out on all the Masterplan proposals, was ironically, more than what was required by EU legislation at the time. We supplemented the appraisal with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Phase 1 schemes and that satisfied An Bord Pleanála. The EU is now moving towards strategic assessment, which is the approach we



Computer generated view of the proposed Ballymun Sports & Leisure Centre.

adopted in planning the implementation strategy," says Ciarán.

The new EU Draft Directive, approved by the Council of Ministers, seeks to bring in Strategic Environmental Assessment for programmes like the regeneration of Ballymun which are on-going over a number of years. It recognises it is inappropriate to evaluate one element of a Masterplan without putting it in the overall environmental context in which it will fit. The EU letter to the Irish

Government states specifically that "the Commission intends no criticism of the Ballymun regeneration"... and goes on to say "...on the contrary, the objectives pursued by the scheme"... "are fully in line with Community policy" and "the information available to the Commission indicates that a high degree of care and expertise has been applied to the preparation of the scheme".

Building Update

Full planning permission has been granted for the competition site. There will be approximately 40 units of social housing in the scheme, plus some non-residential uses and student accommodation.

As a result of the success of the temporary playground in Shangan, two further temporary play spaces were provided in Coutry and Sillogue for children aged 7 years and over. The Sillogue Playground for younger children is open although some decorative painting work is still needed and cannot take place until the weather improves.



Getting active at Stormanstown House every Wednesday. See Alive & Kicking.

Recreation, Sport and Leisure

The Leisure and Recreation Study prepared last year proposed that any new or existing facilities should be shared by the many and varied groups and clubs working within the area. It also proposed that along with new facilities what was needed was new programmes and support for existing programmes.

The first new outdoor facilities to be built were the new grass football pitch in Coutry and the four new playgrounds. The first of the many proposed indoor facilities is the town centre sports complex which

will be built along the new Main Street. This development which includes residential, commercial and sporting facilities including a new swimming pool, gym, sports hall, sauna and steam room has been lodged for planning. A creche where parents can leave their smaller children is also being included in the development. This was something which many parents asked to be provided during the consultations as part of the development of the Sports, Leisure and Recreation Strategy.

Prizes galore for Ballymun's safety kids



Pupils from St. Joseph's Junior School proudly showing their award certificates and prizes.

Hundreds of pupils, parents and teachers packed Ballymun Regeneration's exhibition hall on 4th December for a prize-giving ceremony as part of BRL's Youth Safety Awareness Campaign poster competition, intended to increase young people's understanding that building sites are not safe play areas for children.

Over 400 entries were received from primary and post-primary pupils in eight local schools which were exhibited in Stormanstown House and will be exhibited in Ballymun Shopping Centre over the coming months. Certificates and prizes such as books, scooters, toys, art materials, videos and board games were awarded to the 130 winners.



Prizewinning pupils from Gael Scoil Báile Munna.

"We were delighted with the number of entries and with the high standard of artwork entered in the competition and are grateful to teachers, parents and sponsors for their help and co-operation," said John Rizzolo, Health & Safety Monitor, Ballymun Regeneration. "Most of all we are extremely encouraged by the strong level of awareness portrayed by the

children's posters that building sites are not playgrounds and can be dangerous."

The following schools were involved in the Poster Competition:

- Ballymun Senior Comprehensive School
- Holy Spirit Girls National School
- Ballymun Junior Boys School
- Gael Scoil Báile Munna
- Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch
- Our Lady of Victories Infants School
- St. Joseph's Junior School
- St. Joseph's Senior School



Happy faces as pupils from Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch display their prizes.

Gem Construction Ltd and McCabe Builders, who are two of the contractors involved in building the new homes in Ballymun, sponsored the competition along with the Health & Safety Authority of Ireland and BRL.

Alive & kicking

More and more older Ballymun residents are getting actively involved in the Ballymun Active Living Campaign. Now there is a choice of bowling, dancing, swimming, exercise classes and pitch and putt each week. And, thanks to the support of voluntary leaders and local agencies, most activities are free of charge. Our monthly newsletter with details of events is posted free to all older adults in the area.

For further information contact Alison Fleming at 8421144.

Action Plan for Law Centre launched

After almost two years of campaigning to introduce a Community Law Centre in Ballymun, the Campaign Committee launched a detailed Action Plan in the offices of the Bar Council of Ireland just before Christmas 2000. A Community Law Centre in Ballymun is long overdue. There are no solicitors in practice in Ballymun and the residents of Ballymun have very little access to the law.

Over 20 voluntary, community and statutory groups contributed to the Action Plan, which was researched by Dave Ellis, Community Legal Resource Consultant.

The Action Plan was launched by Fergal Foley from the Bar Council of Ireland, other speakers at the launch included Cllr Roisin Shorthall TD, Paul Smyth SIPTU who chairs the campaign committee, Dave Ellis and Anne Keating local resident and community activist.

The Ballymun Community Law Centre will:

- empower and assist local community groups and resource centres through training and information on legal issues
- provide legal advice and services to members of the community on areas of civil law concerning individuals, e.g. family, social welfare, debt, employment, tenants rights etc. It will also reach out to the community and ensure that all residents are aware of the service and what it proposes to provide.

"Even though there is no financial commitment from

Government for the Centre, it will not deter us in our plans to establish a Community Law Centre in Ballymun during the coming year," said Paul Smyth, spokesperson for the campaign.



Cllr Roisin Shorthall TD speaking at the launch of the Action Plan for Ballymun Community Law Centre at the Bar Council offices.

The good news is that the Committee has now raised enough money to employ a Project Development Officer to implement the Action Plan. To date contributors to the campaign funds include: BRL, Dublin Corporation, the Katharine Howard Foundation, Combat Poverty Agency, Sisters of Mercy, SIPTU, Ballymun Partnership. Other contributions have also been promised. Since the launch word has been received from the Government that they are not able to fund a community law centre in Ballymun but that the Legal Aid Board will work closely with it once it is established.

Transport

Ballymun Regeneration is in regular contact with the LUAS project team and the Dublin Transportation Office to ensure that Ballymun is provided with the best possible public transport.

A LUAS line in Ballymun would help attract new businesses to the area and of course, be a great benefit to local people, linking them with the airport and the city centre. The route for a Quality Bus Corridor (QBC) is being extended to beyond the roundabout at Superquinn to the junction with Balbutcher Lane near Santry Avenue.

Radio Stars

RTE radio's Marian Finnucane broadcast an hour-long special radio show live from Ballymun on the morning of 8th November. Members of the whole community were welcomed into Mary O'Connor's home in Balcurris Road to participate in the show.

Long standing residents told stories about 'the old days' while some younger members of the community talked about their expectations for the future of Ballymun and the regeneration programme. Congratulations and well done to all those who took part.

Neighbourhood Facilities

Individual Draft Area Action Plans have been prepared for each of Ballymun's five communities - Poppintree, Coultry, Sillogue/Sandyhill, Shangan and Balcurris/Balbutcher. The Draft Action Plans were prepared in consultation with local organisations and the forums and take into consideration the unique aspects of each community as well as facilities that will be required in the future, including:

- Sports
- Childcare
- Meeting rooms
- Play areas
- Retail space
- Facilities for small enterprises

The preparation of the strategy included the carrying out of an audit of existing groups and facilities in Ballymun.

The Action Plans set out proposals for accommodating groups locally and have been sent to local Dublin City Councillors and Dublin Corporation Officials. Members of the Board and Area Forum representatives are also considering the draft plans which will be finalised once the consultation process with all interested parties has been completed.

The neighbourhood strategy can accommodate all the local groups. A number of 'Ballymun wide' services are being catered for separately including:

- Women's Resource Centre
- Urrus Training Centre
- Ballymun Community Law Centre
- Ballymun Animal Carers Association
- Youth Strategy Group
- Arts and Culture Group

In some cases work has already commenced and in others proposals are being developed. In addition BRL are working closely with the Childcare Task Force to ensure that the future needs of children and their families in the area will be met.

Architectural teams for each neighbourhood centre have been agreed by BRL's board of directors. They will be appointed soon.

Environmental Awareness

Global Action Project (GAP) have been working with local individuals and groups to improve awareness of environmental and energy issues. They have been setting up environmental teams to work on a neighbourhood basis. To date nearly 50 people have signed up to be part of the environmental action teams and four teams are up and running already.

"It will be very interesting to see how the issue of recycling can be developed at a practical level in Ballymun" says Ciarán Murray BRL "I am very keen to see Ballymun leading the way in environmental sustainability, and showing other areas what can be done when local people come together to tackle waste disposal and energy conservation at household and local area level."

Cleansing continues to be an issue that undermines attempts to improve the image of Ballymun. While it is recognised that some improvements have been made, more work is required to ensure that cleansing services are provided on the type of continuous basis that appears to be required, particularly in prime areas where private sector investment is being sought.

SAVE MONEY ENERGY THE ENVIRONMENT

Global Action Plan International (GAP) was founded in 1990 to help people reduce their impact on the environment. BRL have asked GAP to work with the Ballymun community to make a neighbourhood environmental programme and a local environmental plan for the whole of Ballymun.
Do you want to be part of creating it?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

STEP ONE
Join an Action Team.
These small groups meet for two hours every month. Together we look at topics such as how to reduce your energy use and therefore household bills, how and what to recycle and which environmentally friendly products are available to buy in Ballymun. It's easy to make a difference, these action teams show you how.

EARN £350 BY LEADING YOUR OWN ACTION TEAM

After taking part in an Action Team you can earn £350 by leading your own team. No formal education is needed, just life experience.

STEP TWO
After completing an Action Team you can use your environmental ideas, which could be anything from what type of tree to plant to the creation of a recycling centre. Your ideas used on a large scale can make your neighbourhood a cleaner, better place to live.

WHO DO I TALK TO?
Joanne Faulkner will be working directly with the Action Teams.
Her number is 01-473 8017 or 086 607 0432.
Eric Forsmark is the coordinator for the project and he can be contacted on 01-677 5439 or 087 697 6054.

New housing update

PHASE 1

LOCATION	NO. OF HOMES	CONTRACTOR	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REMARKS
Shangan Road	95	GEM Contractors	March 2002	On Programme
Shangan Ave	67	GEM Contractors	July 2001	On Programme
Coultry Way	60	McInerney	August 2001	On Programme
Coultry Park	101	Pierse Contracting	August 2001	On Programme
Santry Avenue	57	McInerney	January 2002	On Programme
Sillogue Avenue	40	Harvey Contractors	August 2001	On Programme
Sillogue Avenue	64	Harvey Contractors	August 2001	On Programme
Belclare Drive	10	McCabe Builders	February 2001	On Programme
Balcurris Park	57	Not yet appointed		*
Burren Court	71	Contractor appointed		**

*Delay caused by judicial review - will have to be retendered.

**Awaiting completion of Balbutcher Road realignment

PHASE 2

LOCATION	NO. OF HOMES	ARCHITECT	REMARKS
Santry Avenue	100	BRL Architects	Delayed due to planning appeal
Dolmen Court	37	Fionnuala Rogerson Architects	Planning application being prepared
Balbutcher Lane	25	Cullen Payne Architects	Delayed due to planning appeal
Sillogue Avenue	30	Howley Harrington Architects	Tender documents being prepared
Sillogue Avenue	58	Gardiner Architects	Tender documents being prepared
Sillogue Avenue	4	BRL	Tender documents being prepared
Balbutcher Lane	73	Burke-Kennedy Doyle Architects	Tender documents being prepared
Balcurris Park	33	O'Mahony Pike Architects	Tender documents being prepared
St. Margaret's Road	54	Colette Downey Architects	Tender documents being prepared
St. Margaret's Road	161	Gilroy McMahon Architects	Tender documents being prepared
St. Margaret's Road	94	N.B.A.	Tender documents being prepared
Coultry Avenue	5	BRL	Tender documents being prepared

P.J.Carey (Contractors) Ltd has started construction of the new Main Street which will involve removing of the roundabout and the dual carriageway on Ballymun Road. The expected completion date for this work is March 2002.

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