

**Ballymun Regeneration Ltd**

**Sport and Leisure Strategy Report**

December 1999

Holohan Leisure  
ASL Management  
Fizzical

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## 1 Executive Summary

In February 1999 Ballymun Regeneration Limited commissioned a project team led by Holohan Leisure, to examine the recreation, sport and leisure needs in Ballymun and to recommend a strategy for developing facilities and programmes in the future.

Extensive consultation was undertaken at a local level. Over 135 groups in Ballymun were contacted, and over 40 meetings were held with various organisations. Meetings were also held with Dublin Corporation, Officials of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, and various other agencies.

In addition to the consultation process, an extensive literature review was undertaken covering recreation, sport and leisure strategies, urban regeneration, social development and specific reports prepared on the Ballymun area.

### **1.1 Profile of Ballymun**

Ballymun lies on the north of Dublin city and is comprised of a local authority housing estate consisting of 2,820 flats in 4-, 8-, 15-storey blocks along with 2,200 houses in an area of approx. 1.5 square miles. Ballymun is one of the most socially-economically disadvantaged areas in Ireland.

The current profile is:

- Total Population: 16,556
- Unemployment Level: 54%
- Lone Parent Households: 37%
- 47% of Children being raised by Lone Parents
- Social Welfare is the only income for 71% of Dublin Corporation Tenants
- Only 7% of children achieve Leaving Certificate (21% National Average)
- Virtually no provision for childcare/ youth facilities

### **1.2 Community Sport and Recreation Key Needs**

The meetings with the community groups highlighted the current lack of a well-organised programme of local sports development, targeting each of the different age and sectoral groups.

- ◆ There are many well-organised community groups in the Ballymun area. They need back up support, access to resources, services and facilities to ensure they continue the excellent work they are currently undertaking, and allow them to attract an increasing number of members.
- ◆ The main barriers to increasing participation include: the lack of facilities, transport, the poor quality of existing facilities and a lack of trained development officers to work fulltime basis with local communities

### **1.3 Current Provision**

The Ballymun Masterplan sets out proposals for the development of play areas, pitches, changing rooms and open space; consequently these are not covered in this report.

The existing facilities in Ballymun, where they exist, are in a very poor condition and fall far short of meeting local needs. Concern has been expressed regarding the suitability of facilities for the purposes that they are being used, e.g. sports clubs using lift shafts as changing facilities.

The facilities currently available to the population of Ballymun are grossly inadequate.

### **1.4 Minimum Facilities Required in the Short Term**

The strategy for developing sports, leisure and recreation facilities to meet future needs in Ballymun falls into two strands (a) making better use of existing resources through improved facilities and management, and (b) developing new facilities which have broad appeal and meet a wide range of needs.

The proposed new facilities include:

- A new Town Centre Sports Complex
- New/ upgraded Neighbourhood Recreation Centres
- A five-a-side training centre for field sports.

It is also proposed that the private sector be encouraged to invest in sport, leisure and recreation projects in Ballymun through the provision of tax-designated sites.

### **1.5 Funding Facilities**

Funding for refurbishment of 2 community halls has already been secured under the Youth Services and Facilities fund. The majority of funding for the new projects however will have to be sought separately, as a special case from the Government.

Funding for the proposed neighbourhood centres has already been sourced. A special allocation of grant monies will be required from the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation Programmes in order to fund the Town Centre Sports & Leisure Centre and the 5-a-Side Training Centre. Significant investment will also be required from Dublin Corporation/ B.R.L. in order to qualify for grant assistance.

1.	Town Centre Sports Complex	Comprising a refurbished Pool complex, sports Hall and fitness gym	Cost c £5M
2.	New & Refurbished Neighbourhood Centres	Comprising a small hall, multi purpose room, kitchen and multi-purpose	Cost c £850K
3.	5- a –Side Training Pitches	Comprising 8-10 tennis court size floodlit pitches and changing Pavilion.	Cost c £.8M

## **1.6 Funding**

### **Town Centre Sports Complex**

The projected is estimated to cost in the region of £5M

The proposed funding is envisaged as :

Department of Tourism, Sport & Recreation*	£3M
B.R.L.	£1M
Dublin Corporation	£1m

\* A special allocation would be required under the Sports Capital Programme.

### **Neighbourhood Centres**

The provision of the Multi Purpose Neighbourhood Centres is directly linked to the provision of the new residential units. The funding of same therefore, should primarily be the responsibility of the Department of the Environment.

### **5 – a – Side Training Pitches**

The proposed funding of the development has yet to be determined, but it is most likely to be a combination of the Department of Tourism, Sports & Recreation, B.R.L. and Dublin Corporation.

N.B. – All of the above cost estimates are based on 1999 prices and are subject to inflation.

## **1.7 Programmes**

The range of support programmes required to encourage participation and development of the community leisure skills to their full potential include: -

- The development of an up-to-date database of clubs/participants.
- Development of and implementation of programmes aimed at training leaders, coaches and increasing participation in casual and organised facilities and clubs.
- Co-ordinated training and marketing of community leisure services
- Support for the introduction of a network of trained leaders, coaches, sports development officers supported by well-trained volunteers, parents and people with an interest in sport and recreation.

## **1.8 Organisation & Management**

A number of different Local Authority, Government, Private and Voluntary Sector agencies will be involved in promoting and providing recreational, sport and leisure opportunities in Ballymun. Experience has shown that without a co-ordinated approach, duplication of effort can rise, and scarce resources can consequently be wasted. The B.R.L. strategy should be integrated in any future strategy which is developed for the city as a whole.

It is recommended that BRL and Dublin Corporations' Cultural and Environmental Department meet initially to agree who should take the lead role in co-ordinating a recreation, sport and leisure strategy for Ballymun. It would be premature to suggest a management structure or operational plan prior to this meeting.

It is likely that a full-time project manager will be required to co-ordinate the various agencies involved in meeting the objectives of the study and to arrange the implementation process. (This person could also ensure that all of the clubs etc. were informed about the processes as they occur, and help to keep the public informed about the groups activities.)

## 2 Introduction & Terms of Reference

In February 1999, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. commissioned a team led by Holohan Leisure to prepare a report and recommendations on a recreation, sport and leisure strategy for Ballymun.

The scope of the study included an analysis of needs and issues relating to 'target groups', facilities and management.

The Terms of Reference for the report were: -

- ◆ To source/survey and analyse relevant base data.
- ◆ To facilitate a consultation process.
- ◆ To identify local needs.
- ◆ To identify the appropriate mix, scale, quality and location of facilities needed, and their capital costs.
- ◆ To recommend structures which would ensure that a co-ordinated approach can be adopted to delivering sport and recreational opportunities.

Extensive consultation was undertaken, which was led by Frank Fahey of Fizzical Ltd. and supported by Eleanor Brennan, who was employed by BRL for this purpose. Morgan Buckley of ASL Ltd. undertook an extensive literature review, in addition to liaising with a range of statutory agencies. A number of workshops for local clubs were facilitated by Diane Vesey (Director, Holohan Leisure) and Gar Holohan.

### **Acknowledgements**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who contributed so generously of their time and expertise in the preparation of this report. In particular, Ciaran Murray, Evelyn Hanlon and the staff of Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.

## 3 Regenerating Ballymun Through Recreation, Sport and Leisure

### 3.1 Introduction

Ballymun is on the brink of an exciting transformation. Over £350m is being invested in the redevelopment of housing and social infrastructure commencing early in 2000. The provision of recreation, sport and leisure opportunities both in terms of facilities and programmes will be an essential component of the new Ballymun. This report outlines the range of facilities required to meet the needs of the community for recreation, sport and leisure and how these facilities should be programmed to ensure everyone in Ballymun has the opportunity to take part in the activity of their choice and develop their skills to their full potential.

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd was established by Dublin Corporation in 1997, as a single focus company for the purpose of bringing about the physical, social and economic regeneration of Ballymun. The main functions of BRL include: promoting inward investment, liaising with and co-ordinating with the relevant statutory agencies and developing links with public, voluntary and community organisations to assist in the planning and implementing the regeneration project.

Extensive community consultation was initiated and working groups, which included representation from the local community. They dealt with housing, training and education and promoting economic development. The Masterplan for the New Ballymun was launched in March 1998. Ballymun Regeneration Limited recognised that the involvement and support of local residents alongside adjoining residents as partners in the planning and implementation stages was crucial to the long-term success of the project. Within Ballymun itself consultation is organised into BHTF and Local Area forums. A community consultative panel has also been set up, which includes representatives of B.R.L. and the Ballymun community as well as representatives from adjoining areas.

The Board presented the Masterplan to the community in March 1998. In 1999 they commissioned this study to ensure that recreation, sport and leisure needs of the community will be recognised and built into the re-development programme.

### 3.2 Approach to the study

BRL commissioned a project team in March 1999, led by Holohan Leisure to review the demand for sport, leisure, and recreation facilities and services in the new Ballymun. The project involved the development of an overall leisure strategy for Ballymun which focuses on the following:

Process for the development of a Recreation, sport and leisure Strategy for Ballymun.

<b>Needs Analysis</b> <i>Target Groups</i>	<b>Facilities Analysis</b> <i>Facilities</i>	<b>Development</b> <i>Management</i>
Children	Community Centres	Programmes
Youth/Teenagers	Playing Facilities	Promotion
Women	Multi-Purpose Areas	Coaching
Men	Fitness Centres	Training
Disabled People	Water Leisure	Development Officers
Travellers	Misc. Outdoor Amenities	
Sports Groups & Clubs	Dual Use of School Facilities	

This Recreation, Sport and Leisure Strategy brings together the different strands of community sport and the recreation services and amenities which are required to meet the needs of the community in the Ballymun area into a comprehensive framework. Some of the elements of the Leisure Strategy have been covered already in the Ballymun Masterplan and therefore are not included in this Report. They include:

- ◆ Parks and Open Spaces
- ◆ Playgrounds
- ◆ Playing Fields and Clubrooms

The elements covered in this strategy focus on the new range of sport and recreation community facilities which are considered necessary, as well as the overall programming and management strategy to optimise usage of facilities and the provision of the necessary services for the community.

### **3.3 Vision**

The vision for recreation, sport and leisure in Ballymun is: -

“Ballymun – where everyone can participate in well-run recreation, sport and leisure programmes in high quality facilities”.

### **3.4 Aims**

The aims in developing quality facilities and operating recreation, sport and leisure programmes are to: -

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of people in Ballymun through Sport Leisure & Recreation.
- ◆ Provide equal opportunities for all Ballymun’s citizens to take part in Sport, Leisure & Recreation.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for people of all ages to lead an active and healthy lifestyle through sport and recreation.
- ◆ Ensure that Sport, Leisure & Recreation services are managed in a cost-effective manner.
- ◆ Strengthen and support links and partnerships with other agencies.
- ◆ Promote and enhance Ballymun’s national and international identity as a potential ‘visitor centre’ through major Sport Leisure & Recreational events.
- ◆ Promote and encourage the role of Sport Leisure & Recreation as a contributor to the local economy.

### **3.5 Consultation and Literature Review**

In preparing this report the project team:

- Made contact with over 135 groups in Ballymun
- Held over 40 meetings with local groups
- Visited existing facilities in Ballymun and assessed their condition, usage and the needs of their users
- Consulted and met with officials from the Department of Tourism Sport and Recreation, Dublin Corporation and other Government Departments
- Reviewed a wide range of reports and studies including:
  - ◆ Supporting Documents to the Masterplan. (Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. 1998)
  - ◆ Integrated Area Plan (Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. 1998)
  - ◆ Environmental Appraisal of the Ballymun Masterplan (Ballymun Regeneration 1999)
  - ◆ Including Young People in Urban Regeneration (Fitzpatrick et. al.)
  - ◆ Youth Development Plan (Ballymun Development Group 1998)
  - ◆ Documents from the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Hong Kong on the development of community facilities
  - ◆ A National Survey of Involvement in Sport and Physical Recreation (Dept. of Health and Cospoir 1996)
  - ◆ A 10 year Action Plan for Services for Older Persons (Eastern Health Board 1998-2008)
  - ◆ The National Health and Lifestyle Surveys, Slán Report (Dept. of Health, Health Promotion Unit 1999)
  - ◆ Small Area Statistics Phase 1 & 2 (Central Statistics Office 1996)
  - ◆ Documents from ILAM dealing with Youth Projects and Programmes.
  - ◆ Facilities Factfiles (Scottish Sports Council)
  - ◆ Sport -v- Youth Crime Conference (Centre for Sport and Leisure Management 1998)

## 4 Rationale for the Development of Recreation, sport and leisure in Ballymun

### **4.1 The Role of Recreation, Sport and Leisure in Community Regeneration**

The extensive research which is available shows that investment in recreation, sport and leisure opportunities has a positive impact on the regeneration of urban centres, which includes:

- ◆ Building a strong community spirit
- ◆ Providing opportunities for young people to develop life long skills
- ◆ Increasing the motivation and self esteem of young people
- ◆ Reducing crime levels
- ◆ Providing strong tools in the fight against drugs
- ◆ Attracting people from outside the area to work and participate in newly developed communities
- ◆ Improving the health and lifestyle of people in the local community
- ◆ Increasing the economic profile of the area

### **4.2 Benefits Of Investing In Ballymun Sport And Recreation Facilities**

This research shows that the main benefits of investing in sport and recreation facilities and services in Ballymun are:

#### **4.2.1 A Better Place To Live**

International research identifies that investing in recreation, sport and leisure has significant economic and social benefits.

A report in April 1999 commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the UK recommended that sport and leisure should underpin area-based regeneration plans. The report found that arts, sport and cultural activity can contribute to neighbourhood renewal by helping to improve health, employment and education and by cutting crime in deprived communities. The report states that participation in such activities can address social exclusion because it creates new industries, engages and strengthens local communities and puts a new emphasis on people rather than buildings and places. The report concludes that arts and sport are not just an “add on” to regeneration but that they are fundamental to community involvement and ownership in any regeneration initiative because they offer a means of positive engagement in tune with local interests.

#### **4.2.2 Building A Healthier Community**

There are growing concerns in Ireland and internationally about the level of physical activity of people, and young people in particular. Research indicates that young people are now heavier and less active than previous generations, which leads to increased illness and disease.

- ◆ Health-related sport and leisure activity in Ireland is now close to £1bn annually.

Children involved in sport and recreational activities are considered much less likely to be seduced by the world of drugs, alcohol and vandalism. Positive activities teach young people essential life skills including responsibility, self-esteem, co-operation, discipline and patience. It costs much less to enrol young people in a recreation programme than it does to incarcerate them. (Decima Research, 1992).

The 1996 health promotion strategy identified that the major risk factors in the Irish lifestyle were: -

- ◆ Smoking (6,000 deaths / year).
- ◆ Teenage alcohol misuse.
- ◆ 53% men and 33% women are overweight.
- ◆ 10% males and 15% females classed as obese.
- ◆ 24% males and females aged 35-64 years have high blood pressure.

Internationally, increasing attention is being paid to tracking the positive economic benefits of keeping people well. Regular participation in physical activity can increase a person's life expectancy by as much as two years. (Paffenbarger, 1986).

Research from Victoria, Australia states that potential national savings of c. \$700 million annually can be achieved by reducing the costs of injury and heart disease alone.

Research by the New Zealand Hillary Commission published in 1994 indicated that: -

- ◆ Exercise is believed to reduce mental illness, promote 'wellness', and ultimately reduce absenteeism (Scott et. al., 1992).
- ◆ The level of physical activity needed to achieve the full desired health benefit and the resultant health savings will differ for each particular disease. However, even a slight increase in activity, particularly for the inactive and elderly, is likely to produce some health benefit and thus some cost savings (Miller and Guria, 1991).

Research by the Saskatchewan Sports Institute in Canada (1998) showed that: -

- ◆ Fitness Canada has conservatively estimated the direct and indirect health costs of disease associated with physical inactivity at \$2.5 billion annually (Canadian Sport Council General Assembly).

Increasing physical activity would 'save' an average of \$2,579 per person in medical care and sick leave costs (calculated by Keeler, 1989, in Craig et al, 1994).

### **4.2.3 Creating Jobs**

Health-related recreation, sport and leisure activity is growing exponentially in Ireland, UK and world wide and there is an increasing awareness of the economic impact of this sector; expenditure on health-related recreation, sport and leisure activity in Ireland is now close to £1bn annually, with over 18,000 people employed in recreation, sport and leisure in Ireland.

There are over 2,000 students studying a variety of sport and leisure courses at vocational and 3<sup>rd</sup> level.

There are opportunities to bring these benefits to Ballymun through the implementation of a cohesive recreation, sport and leisure strategy, which could provide opportunities for participation, learning and development of people in the local community.

#### **4.2.4 Reducing UK Crime**

Research from the UK has highlighted the role recreation, sport and leisure can play in reducing crime. Currently: -

- ◆ 60 - 70% of youngsters who are sharing prison cells come from disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- ◆ 40% of crimes occur during school hours
- ◆ 3% of young offenders commit 30% of crimes - small hard core of offenders
- ◆ 16% of young offenders commit the next 30% of crime

In the UK Programmes are now underway to tackle crime through leisure projects. The results indicate a 30% reduction in crime in some areas during the period of the programmes. These findings are still anecdotal and much more research is required to analyse this.

#### **4.3 Youth Research Issues**

Research which pre-dated this study, and which looked at the needs and issues facing the 8,500 young people in Ballymun highlighted the following: -

- ◆ A lack of co-ordination and integration of services
- ◆ Very few safe and accessible facilities
- ◆ Limited and unsuitable existing facilities
- ◆ Sports in Ballymun are underdeveloped and under-resourced
- ◆ A lack of good quality sporting facilities, changing rooms and clubhouse facilities
- ◆ No strategy for involving young people, particularly girls in sport
- ◆ A lack of accessible training for coaches and leaders
- ◆ No locally based training options exist
- ◆ Services for teenage mothers are seriously underdeveloped
- ◆ A lack of parenting skills
- ◆ Homelessness
- ◆ Not enough programmes for young people
- ◆ Limited support for travellers
- ◆ A lack of innovative programmes for “at risk” groups
- ◆ No structured support for kids involved with animals
- ◆ Community arts work has proved very successful at engaging children
- ◆ A lack of participation by young people in planning and delivering their own services

Some of these issues can be addressed through the provision of leisure services and facilities – but only if the core lifestyle needs of young people can also be met.

## 5 Profile of the Community in Ballymun and Sport & Leisure Needs Analysis

### 5.1 Profile of the Community in Ballymun

The Ballymun Youth Development Plan (1998) included a detailed profile of the community in Ballymun. This report highlighted that two striking features of Ballymun are the serious levels of deprivation and isolation being experienced in the community and the number of statutory based initiatives which are being undertaken to tackle the social and economic problems of the area

Ballymun lies on the north of Dublin city and is comprised of a local authority housing estate consisting of 2,820 flats in 4-, 8-, 15-storey blocks along with 2,200 houses in an area of approx. 1.5 square miles.

Ballymun is consists of five neighbourhoods:

- ◆ Coultry
- ◆ Shangan
- ◆ Sillogue/Sandyhill
- ◆ Balcurris
- ◆ Poppintree

The Masterplan aims to reinforce the identities of these five neighbourhoods.

The official population of Ballymun in the 1996 Census was 16,566 people. This shows a decline of 2.8% on the 1991 census figures.

The total population is broken down as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
0-4	997	1012	2,009
5-9	930	890	1,820
10-14	850	724	1,574
15-19	830	847	1,677
20-24	795	970	1,765
25-29	690	1003	1,693
30-39	826	1064	1,890
40-49	709	859	1,568
50-64	1016	1047	2,063
64+	228	279	507
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,871</b>	<b>8,695</b>	<b>16,566</b>

The total number of households in Ballymun is 5,020, with 36% of all households made up of traditional family units and with 37% of households headed by lone parents. The level of unemployment, and the percentage of social welfare dependants living in the Ballymun area are higher than the national average.

(Source: Ballymun Youth Development Plan, 1998.)

## **5.2 Community Consultation**

This study's community consultation process focused on identifying the needs of:

- ◆ Children
- ◆ Young people
- ◆ Adults
- ◆ Older people
- ◆ People with a physical or mental disability
- ◆ People with mental health problems

Meetings were held with representatives from a wide range of community groups, sports clubs and community agencies in Ballymun.

## **5.3 Children**

### **5.3.1 Introduction**

Meetings were held with a number of parents during the consultation process to gain an understanding of current participation and practice in relation to Sport, Active Recreation and Passive Recreation among young children of primary school age (5-12 years). Parents were asked to identify barriers to participation and methods of overcoming these barriers.

A school liaison officer acted as a channel of communication in contacting parents. The study also made contact with Dublin Healthy Cities. As most of the Community Employment workers on the project were also parents, their involvement contributed two-fold. Firstly, they made an input as parents, and secondly they made an input as leaders of young children's activities.

### **5.3.2 Profile of Children in Ballymun**

According to the 1996 census of population, there were 2,836 children between the ages of 5 - 12 years in the Ballymun area. Due to the inconsistency of delivery of club activities in the area, it is not possible to identify the exact number of activities targeted at this age range. However, people involved felt that there is a lack of clubs and programmes targeted at this age group and especially for children under the age of eight years.

### **5.3.3 Current Participation Among Children**

According to parents in the area, participation in sport, recreation or leisure for young children is seriously restricted/ inhibited by factors in the local environment. These factors include safety, support and supervision.

The place where young children are felt to be most active and creative is the schoolyard. It is thought that they start playing innovative games here and then carry them on outside school, in spaces/ green areas near their homes.

Parents agreed that a lot of the 'old games' are becoming popular again. Children enjoy fun, creative and innovative games more than sporting activities.

### 5.3.4 Barriers To Participation Among Children

- **Safety**

All the parents stated that distance from play and recreation areas/ space was one of the main biggest issues which inhibited participation. Parents do not like their children to be either out of sight or further than calling distance from home. They fear the influence of older children who may be involved in anti-social behaviour will have on them

- **Supervision**

Many parents stated that they need to be able to supervise their children, especially when children are young. The high number of single parent families in the area, can act as a barrier to children participating in sport (especially where there is more than one child in the family). A single parent can find it impossible to look after a young child and supervise/ bring another child to an organised activity.

- **Support**

There was a general consensus that the majority of parents are not aware of the benefits of physical activity, not only to the child, but also to themselves and the community. Parents in general do not encourage their children to participate in sport, recreation and leisure. There is an obvious mindset/ educational barrier to participation in the area, which is reflected in the low participation rates.

- **Expense**

Many parents, especially in families where there are a number of children, cannot afford to send children down to clubs on several evenings during the week.

- **Clubs**

There is inconsistency in the delivery of club activities in the area. It seems that clubs can function on the same night for three weeks of the month but could be closed for the next three weeks. Children in the area get confused and feel let down by the way these clubs are run. Some parents questioned the leadership skills of people running the clubs. It was felt that the majority of people did not have any formal qualifications/ leadership skills training to equip them for the responsibilities of opening and running clubs in the area. Parents also thought that one reason why clubs are inconsistent relates to the appropriate training of leaders. Without training, leaders may not be able to introduce variety and diversity to the club's activities and so children become bored very easily and do not attend clubs on a regular basis. Lack of funding to equip the club was another problem which was identified e.g. children found that they had to queue for a long time for a game of snooker.

- **Parish Divisions**

Some parish representatives play a more active role than others and so make a greater impact on the community which encourages involvement in their area. The Columbans were highlighted as an example of a parish which had a positive role in community development. They were described as playing an 'enabling versus an instructing role' within the community.

- **Promotion/ Advertising**

The physical structure of the towers and flats in Ballymun create difficulties. Groups feel that clubs working from the basements and flats may not be well known due to the fact that they were hidden away in basements. Many people have only heard of their existence by word of mouth. Parents believe there is a need to improve the advertising and promotion of clubs in the area.

- **Favourite Activities**

The most popular activities identified during the study were:

- ◆ Dance
- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Ball Games
- ◆ Relay races
- ◆ Press-ups, sit-ups etc.
- ◆ Rounders
- ◆ Arts & Crafts
- ◆ Relaxation

#### **5.4 Young People**

##### **5.4.1 Quotations - The following quotations from young people were recorded during the study.**

*“When nothing is there as you’re growing up,  
it’s hard to get into the habit when you’re older”*  
Fountain

*“I’ve a part-time job, I don’t have time for any recreation -  
I go from school to home to work”*  
YAP

*“Young people in this area have grown-up responsibilities e.g. part-time jobs,  
and tend to regard themselves as too old for ‘kids’ activities”*  
Youth Development Group

##### **5.4.2 Profile of Young People in Ballymun**

According to the 1991 Census of Population, more than half of the adult population of Ballymun had left school at or before the age of 15 (WRC, 1998).

- ◆ 25% of boys and 28% of girls in Ballymun who had enrolled in the 1988 to 1993 cohort, had dropped out without obtaining a Junior Certificate (NEXUS 1995)

Fewer than one third of young people attending school in Ballymun are expected to sit the Leaving Certificate in any given year. (Fountain, 1998), contrasting with 79% of the national cohort (Fine Gael 1998)

### **5.4.3 Projects in Ballymun Catering for Young People**

#### **The Fountain Project**

This training programme was established by the Ballymun Job Centre in 1988. The project includes six months training and also includes work experience. Two groups have graduated since the project started and a third group is now in training.

The programme caters for approximately 20 places per course and specifically targets early school leavers in the Ballymun area between the ages of 14 -18 years.

#### **YAP- Ballymun Youth Action Project**

This project was established in 1981 as a community response to drug abuse in the area. The project targets all aspects of drug abuse ranging from work with individuals, families and groups to educational and training courses.

The aims of YAP are to:

- ◆ Develop a community response to drug abuse.
- ◆ Provide information, advice, and a support service for people involved in drug abuse including their families.
- ◆ Develop preventative services, particularly in relation to young people at risk or vulnerable to drug abuse.
- ◆ Engage in community education in the area of drug abuse.
- ◆ Work closely with other voluntary and statutory groups providing community services.
- ◆ Facilitate research into drug abuse in the area.

In 1996 there were approximately 600 members in the project (YAP 1998). YAP targets young people but it also caters for older age groups (including parents and family members in a support service). The types of services offered to members of YAP include: advice, referral, dissemination of information, one-to-one counselling, parent support groups, contact time, family support, inner journey courses, outreach programmes e.g. prison visits, home visits, residential and hospital visits.

#### **The Ballymun Youth Development Group**

This group has representatives from Dublin Corporation, The City of Dublin Youth Service Board, and the Ballymun Local Area Drug's Task Force (inter alia).

The group was established to design a development plan for youth services and facilities in the Ballymun area and in doing so to:

- ◆ Consult widely with all of the agencies working with young people
- ◆ Refer to any existing research into the needs of young people in the area
- ◆ Ensure that any developments, both existing and planned for the area, are incorporated into the recommendations of their plan.

The youth development group has a specific remit of targeting young people aged 10-21 years. According to the census of population 1996, there were 5,016 people in Ballymun between the ages of 10-25. Therefore, this group is catering for approximately 4,500 young people in the Ballymun area. The group has recently been provided with £1.8 million pounds funding through the Youth Facilities Strategy Fund to develop facilities, programmes and leadership for young people in the Ballymun area. This funding was awarded to the group on the basis of the needs outlined in their 1998 Youth Development Plan.

#### **5.4.4 Current Youth Participation**

The groups consulted were asked to estimate current participation levels of young people (13-19 years) in the Ballymun area in sport, active recreation and passive recreation activities. The study found that all young people engage in some type of passive recreation activity, be it computer games, reading, listening to music or some other hobby or passive activity.

According to all the groups consulted, only 20-25% of the young people were actively involved in regular sporting activities (this is an approximate figure that has been recorded from a show of hands in each group). Sporting activities have been categorised by competitive nature and affiliation to an established club. The representatives of the Youth Development Group estimated that less than one quarter of young people take part in organised, competitive sports.

There was a marked difference in youth participation figures as stated between the Fountain Group and the Youth Action Project. This was particularly in relation to participation in active recreation as opposed to sport and passive recreation. Within the Youth Action Project, it was thought that all young people (100%) took part in active recreation while in the Fountain group it was estimated that only half (50%) of young people participate in active recreational activities.

The most popular activities recorded among boys and girls are listed below in order of preference:

Boys:

1. Soccer
2. Horse Riding
3. Snooker
4. Gaelic/ Hurling
5. Volleyball/ Basketball/ Indoor soccer/ Tennis

Girls:

1. Snooker
2. Hanging out
3. Social
4. Swimming
5. Sport

#### **5.4.5 Barriers to Participation Among Young People**

The main barriers to greater participation by young people in sport, active recreation and passive recreation were found to be:

##### **Facility Barriers**

- ◆ There is a serious lack of facilities in the Ballymun area. It was stated during a number of the consultations that even if all the current facilities were refurbished and managed properly that they would not be able to accommodate the number of young people living in the area. The Youth Development Group stated that over the next five years, their aim is to develop a youth-specific facility in each of the five forum areas of the new Ballymun. These facilities are in addition to the neighbourhood centres being proposed by Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. in the Masterplan for the new Ballymun. The type of facility being proposed by the Youth Development Group does not include purpose-built leisure facilities.
- ◆ Swimming was included as a popular activity by most groups, however there is a reluctance to use the local pool as it is currently in a state of disrepair. In general, it is not seen as an attractive facility for young people.

- ◆ Horse riding was given as a very popular leisure time pursuit. The group were open to accepting of the limitations that need to be imposed for the safety of both the horses and the community. An equestrian centre would be a big attraction for young people.
- ◆ 'Extreme Sports' hold a big attraction for most young people. Activities such as Rock-Climbing, Canoeing etc, were included under this heading.
- ◆ A Multi screen cinema facility was one of the most popular passive recreation activities listed by young people during the consultation process. Many young people in the area travel to the 'Omni' in Santry to go to the cinema.
- ◆ 'Leisureplex' was another popular suggestion among the entire group. The idea of having a facility to avail of late at night appealed to the majority of young people in each of the consultation groups.
- ◆ A place to 'hang out' was mentioned by the girl's in particular. They require a space to socialise as part of their leisure time pursuits.

**Barriers in the Home for Children, which later acts as a barrier for young people (as outlined in 5.3.4).**

- ◆ Throughout the consultation process, it was evident that many children in Ballymun are not exposed to organised physical activity sessions at an early age. Parents, particularly single parent families (of which there are a large number in Ballymun) are under pressure to supervise and transport their children to and from activities while tending to other children and/ or daily household tasks. At an early age this will impact seriously on children, as supervision is required during play. In addition, children need to be accompanied to and from games, play areas etc.
- ◆ If one or both parents are unable to fulfil this role, it may lead to difficulties for children becoming involved in leisure activities. This lack of involvement during early childhood years can inhibit participation later (particularly in relation to sport and active recreation) when the child is older and has not been exposed to a routine of involvement in physical activity.

**Employment Issues**

- ◆ From consultations undertaken for this study, it was evident that the majority of young people in the Ballymun area have part-time jobs. One group in particular stated that they worked because there was nothing else to do. The same group was asked if their work would prevent them from participating in activities if more programmes and facilities were available to them in the future. The group was adamant that if facilities and programmes that interested them were put in place they would organise their leisure time around their working hours.

## **Education/ Information**

- ◆ There is a lack of information available in relation to clubs and activities that are currently on offer in the area. The fact that a considerable number of the clubs in the area are located in basements/ flats and lift shafts means that they are not visible to the general public. The lack of advertising means that many people only hear about clubs through word of mouth.

## **5.5 Older People**

### **Quotations**

It has been recognised by the World Health Organisation that:

*“Physically active lifestyles help older adults maintain functional independence and optimise the extent to which they are able to actively participate in society.”*

*(W.H.O. 1996 - Guidelines for Promoting Physical Activity Among Older Persons)*

According to the 1996 Census of Population, there are 507 older adults in the Ballymun area.

### **5.5.1 Classifications**

It is necessary to define different categories within the older adult spectrum, from 50 years and over. The suggested breakdowns were:

- ◆ Active Retired
- ◆ Inactive Retired
- ◆ Independent Retired and
- ◆ Dependent Retired

There are different needs and requirements arising within each of the classifications in relation to transport as well as the types of activities that will be provided.

### **5.5.2 Barriers to Participation among Older People**

#### **Facility Barriers**

There is a residential centre for older adults in Poppintree (Burren Court) and four registered day centres in the Ballymun area. These are:

- ◆ Ballymun Old Folks Group
- ◆ Linx project
- ◆ Welcome Inn, Senior Citizen's Club
- ◆ Coultry Gardens Senior Citizens

Of these centres the only facility that currently has access to recreational space is Burren Court - Poppintree Swingers Senior Citizen's Association.

#### **Barriers in the Home**

Access to lifts, ability to negotiate stairways and changes in gradients can all act as barriers to participation among older people.

### **Environmental Barriers**

Some of the same barriers exist for older adults as for with people with physical disabilities. Difficulties can arise with lighting, changing gradients and other natural and man-made features in the environment.

### **Lack of programming**

Many of the people interviewed suggested that there were no activities specifically organised and marketed to older people to get them involved. They say that they are very interested in being active but that they do not have the opportunity. The demand is there but it is not currently being met.

### **Transport**

The issue of transport is very important for older people, and their requirements are similar to those of people with physical disabilities. There is a lack of accessible transport to and from Ballymun. Increasing age is often associated with the onset of certain diseases that can result in various levels of physical disability. Therefore, regular low floor/ accessible transport is as much a need for some older adults as for people with disabilities.

### **Finance**

Due to the socio-economic profile of the residents in Ballymun, the majority of the older adult population does not have access to high levels of disposable income. Therefore, activities may need to be subsidised in some way to make them accessible to this group.

## **5.6 People with Physical or Mental Disabilities**

### **5.6.1 Overview**

#### **Quotations**

*“What’s the point in having a Free Travel Pass when you can’t get on the bus?”*

Little information is available on the extent and nature of people with a disability in the Ballymun area. BADIG was established in 1998 with 2 primary objectives – to;

- (a) highlight the needs of people with all forms of disability and
- (b) To provide information, education and social opportunities to people with a disability in Ballymun.

### **5.6.2 Profile of People with a Disability**

The National Rehabilitation Board suggests that there are in excess of 350,000 people in Ireland with a disability, ranging from asthma to serious physical impairments.

In the absence of any comprehensive data on disability for the area, the only research available at this time is a study carried out in March 1998 into Special Housing Needs. This study was conducted in conjunction with the Community Action Programme. The study found that there were 18 people in Ballymun flat complexes with special housing needs. Of these, the study states that half are dependent on their family. The study also shows that people with disabilities live in all 5 neighbourhoods in the Ballymun area. There were 5 people with disabilities located in Coultry, 4 in Shangan, 3 in Balcurris, 4 in Balbutcher and 2 in Sillogue.

BADIG, in conjunction with the Ballymun Partnership, are hoping to conduct more comprehensive research into the profile of people with disabilities in the near future. It is anticipated that key baseline information gathered will relate to: -

- (a) the nature and extent of disability in Ballymun and
- (b) Participation of people with a disability in sport, physical recreation and passive leisure.

### **5.6.3 Current Participation among People with Disabilities**

While no information on participation levels is available at present, anecdotal evidence suggests that participation is extremely low. The various barriers outlined below explain some of the difficulties present.

### **5.6.4 Barriers to Participation for people with Disabilities**

The main barriers to greater participation in sport, physical recreation and passive leisure pursuits for people with disabilities include: -

#### **Facility Barriers**

In general, existing facilities in Ballymun are inaccessible to people with a physical disability. Physical obstacles/barriers such as steps and stairs are most prevalent.

Unless specifically adapted, the majority of programmes/ activities of a sporting and physical recreation nature are unsuitable for people with physical disabilities. The lack of coaches/leaders with training in the area of disability is a major impediment.

#### **Environmental Barriers**

Perhaps the most significant barriers confronting people with a disability are those in the immediate environment which prevent people with a disability from engaging in even the most basic of recreational or leisure time activities. These include:

- ◆ lack of dropped kerbs and textured paving;
- ◆ presence of unmarked bollards;
- ◆ presence of uneven pavements, gullies and drains;
- ◆ obstacles presented by street furniture such as lighting standards, litter bins, signposts and seats;
- ◆ Inadequate lighting (both indoors and outdoors)
- ◆ excessive gradients and steps;
- ◆ lack of appropriately controlled road crossings;
- ◆ poorly designed signage;

#### **Barriers in the Home**

The location of a person's home can often be a major barrier to participation in sport, recreation and leisure. Factors which can act as deterrents include:

- ◆ residential level and presence/ absence of lifts (in working order)
- ◆ the proximity to public transport, and;
- ◆ The proximity to sport/recreation retail outlets, medical facilities and pharmaceutical supplies.

Within the home, issues which can deter participation include: -

- ◆ difficulty of entrance/exit
- ◆ width of exterior/interior doors
- ◆ placement and accessibility of toilet/bathroom/shower facilities

## **Transport**

The majority of people with a disability living in Ballymun depend on public transport. Only one route in the area is disability friendly and 'suitable' taxicabs are difficult to obtain. It was highlighted that as the bus only runs from Ballymun into the city centre, it is extremely difficult to get from one locality of Ballymun to another.

## **Finance**

The majority of people with a disability are either unemployed or on a low-income. This lack of disposable income can preclude them from owning a car, as well as preventing many from taking part in a range of leisure pursuits where finance is necessary for membership, equipment, etc.

## **Education/Information**

People with disabilities are too often excluded from activities and programmes of a sporting, recreational or leisure nature. This is often due to a lack of information and/or awareness amongst:

- ◆ service providers
- ◆ leisure managers
- ◆ teachers
- ◆ clubs/organisations
- ◆ sports coaches/recreational leaders/leisure organisers
- ◆ parents
- ◆ The people with the disability.

*“Every person, regardless of physical capacity,  
should be given the opportunity to participate  
in the activity of their choice – at a level of their choice”.*  
*Council of Europe Sports Charter*

It is widely recognised that participation in sport, recreation or leisure pursuits can enhance the physical, social and psychological wellbeing of people with disabilities. The increased integration of people with disabilities into activities and programmes is of paramount importance. People with physical or mental disabilities have the right to be participants in sport, recreation and leisure in the fullest sense, including;

- ◆ spectators
- ◆ performers/ competitors
- ◆ administrators
- ◆ organisers
- ◆ leaders (coaches, trainers, teachers, etc.)
- ◆ Officials.

## **5.7 People with Mental Health Problems**

### **5.7.1 Introduction**

A recent Eastern Health Board report suggests that over 300 people currently living in the Ballymun area, have suffered or are currently suffering from mental health problems. Source: Eastern Health Board, 1999.

The Linx project was established in 1986. Initially, the main focus of the project was to provide a facility for single adults with mental health problems (who had been moved out to vacant flats in Ballymun) to meet and recreate. It now also provides meals to older adults and 'needy who live alone' in the community. The types of disability catered for by the Linx project are both physical disabilities (e.g. multiple sclerosis, epilepsy) and mental illnesses (mental health problems, alcoholism, results of drug addiction).

It is worth noting that research carried out by the co-ordinator of the project strongly suggests that affiliation to the project has significantly reduced the *yo-yo* pattern of psychiatric care (from community to treatment, etc.) which many of these people displayed prior to the establishment of the Linx project. Some research carried out by the Linx project suggests that the main cause of mental health problems among its members is alcoholism. Drug abuse was identified as a less significant cause at the time of the study.

The project is located in two premises in the Ballymun area. The first premises was allocated to the project by Dublin Corporation and is in Thomas Clarke Tower. The second is located at Sandyhill Gardens (senior citizen's complex). The project currently caters for 80 people per day and has approximately 100 members.

### **5.7.2 Profile of People with Mental Health Problems in Ballymun**

There is no comprehensive research available on the extent or nature of individual cases of mental health problems in the Ballymun area. The co-ordinator of the Linx project is interested in carrying out this type of research, but it has proven to be difficult due to the lack of resources.

Research suggests that participation in active recreation and/or sport by Ballymun people with mental health problems is extremely low. Passive recreational activities are provided as part of the regular programme for those who avail of Linx's supportive services. Examples include cards, snooker, pool and darts – cards and pool are most popular. In-house *friendlys* in a range of these activities are very popular and encourage goal setting and preparation by participants.

### **5.7.3 Barriers to Participation**

#### **Past experiences**

The feeling amongst Linx members is that the communication channels between this group and the professionals (e.g. health care) have not always been very client-oriented. People feel that they have been treated as patients and not as people. For it's members, the Linx project has turned this process around by promoting friendly person-centred care and attention to the members of their group.

**Lack of Confidence**

Many members of the Linx project are not confident enough to make decisions. It was outlined that a common characteristic of a new Linx member is that he/ she will continuously ask permission to do anything, even something as small as going out for a cigarette. They will often feel answerable to others (authority figures). The Linx project attempts to instil a sense of responsibility into the people in their group to move away from this dependency. One way they try to achieve this is by getting members to take some responsibility for the Linx day centre, which they use. This helps to instil a sense of ownership among the group.

**Stigma Associated with Mental Health Problems**

Members of the group do not like to participate in activities locally (e.g. walking in the locality). They feel vulnerable and worry that they will be ridiculed by the community. They prefer to go outside Ballymun for day trips etc.

## 6 Summary of Key Issues and Recommendations Arising from Community Consultations

### 6.1 Young Children

Promotion	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Aim to increase parental awareness of the benefits of physical activity, especially at a young age to facilitate the development of motor skills, co-ordination and overall personal development of the young child.</li> <li>◆ A promotional video distributed to parents through schools in the area would be a valuable tool to introduce the topic for later discussion at public meetings. Circulating a video prior to a public meeting was suggested as one method of generating interest and discussion among parents and children within the home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provide regular physical activity sessions/ physical education classes in schools, at least two per week.</li> <li>◆ Maximise the use of recreational activities. Ensure there is plenty of variety in the programme repertoire of activities.</li> <li>◆ Assist leaders in providing diversity in activities e.g. introduce a list of children's games and playground activities to develop a programme in the schoolyard or for organised activity sessions.</li> <li>◆ Use plenty of colour and vary the types of equipment being used also.</li> </ul>
Leadership	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ensure all leaders and coaches of young children's activities are suitably qualified.</li> <li>◆ Obtain Garda clearance for all leaders working with young children.</li> <li>◆ Review the CE scheme work programme for activity leaders in primary schools.</li> <li>◆ Clarify the roles of volunteers and CE scheme workers where necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ There is a big demand for playgrounds, especially for the under 7 age group. These should be located in close proximity to housing estates for parental supervision.</li> <li>◆ For older age groups (over 7's) 'Knock About' areas, suitable for a wide range of activities are required. These areas would obtain maximum usage by older age groups children.</li> </ul>

## 6.2 Young People

Promotion	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Increase young people's awareness of the benefits (health, psychological and social) of participating in regular physical activity.</li> <li>◆ Aim to get more young people, more active, more of the time.</li> <li>◆ Disseminate information/ advertise activities through appropriate channels i.e. display in places where this age group have easy access and therefor can avail of such information.</li> <li>◆ Revise and update information on a regular basis.</li> <li>◆ Place the emphasis on fun and enjoyment. Avoid focusing solely on competitive sporting activities.</li> </ul> <p>Establish links to encourage young people to join local clubs in the area particularly when they become interested in competitive sports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provide a greater number and variety of activities for young people in the Ballymun area.</li> <li>◆ Ensure that programmes are as diverse and progressive as possible. Changing activities regularly and providing a constant challenge for young people is important to keep them motivated.</li> <li>◆ Involve young people in the organisation of activities e.g. in developments of the proposed Equestrian Centre, youth facilities, arts centre etc.</li> <li>◆ When programming, be flexible and sensitive to other commitments of the target group e.g. having found during consultations that the majority of young people in the Ballymun area are involved in part-time employment.</li> </ul>
Leadership	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Establish a network of suitably qualified sports coaches, leisure organisers and recreational leaders.</li> <li>◆ Re-build the sports network in Ballymun. It was highlighted in the consultation process that there has been a drop-off in sports organisations during the past 5-10 years.</li> <li>◆ Provide support and back-up to youth club/ activity leaders, especially anyone wishing to set up a new club.</li> <li>◆ Introduce the idea of a 'Club Development Pack'. This should include guidelines for leaders of youth clubs, containing such information as: insurance, Garda clearance, targeting (a) specific age group(s), equipment standards, health and safety etc.</li> <li>◆ Review the CE scheme programme for activity leaders. Extend the programme beyond one year to allow interested individuals to gain further qualifications. E.g. Dublin Healthy Cities staff; and possibly to set up new clubs in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ In general there is a lack of facilities in the Ballymun area. Young people feel that there is no-where in Ballymun where they can avail of quality recreational activities.</li> <li>◆ Existing facilities are considered to be sub-standard e.g. many young people are reluctant to use the local swimming pool, even though they list swimming as one of their favourite activities. The local Recreation Centre, although used on a frequent basis, is not considered to be an attractive facility for young people.</li> <li>◆ Separate facilities are required for specific or competitive sporting activities as opposed to youth 'hang out' facilities where there is flexibility in usage e.g. with a pool table, social area, arts &amp; crafts activities.</li> <li>◆ There is a huge interest in private sector commercial facilities e.g. Leisureplex and Multiplex/ cinema entertainment venues.</li> </ul>

### 6.3 Older Adults

Promotion	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Consider means by which all service providers can organise sporting, recreational and leisure activities appropriate to the specific needs of older adults.</li> <li>◆ There is a need to educate older adults about the benefits of regular physical activity (physical, psychological &amp; social) and to reinforce that benefits can accrue at any age.</li> <li>◆ Promote the American idea of ‘Active Living’, including a wide range of activities in the one facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Prioritise the inclusion of socialisation opportunities before, during and after activity sessions.</li> <li>◆ Ensure that there is an aerobic base to each session/ routine.</li> <li>◆ Facility managers/ providers must facilitate the needs of older adults.</li> <li>◆ Differentiate between different groups of older adults e.g. Active, Inactive, Dependent, Independent and structure/ adapt activity sessions according to ability levels.</li> </ul>
Leadership	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ There is a need to establish a network of activity leaders that are suitably qualified and competent to adapt activities to facilitate the majority of individuals.</li> <li>◆ Maximise clarity and quality of each session by using acoustics where needed, especially when dealing with people with hearing impairments. This is important to ensure optimum delivery of teaching points and instructional cues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provide access for all older adults within existing and proposed facilities in Ballymun by programming popular activities e.g. mat bowling &amp; dancing.</li> <li>◆ A central facility to meet and recreate is required to cater for active older adults. These people want a wide variety of activities available to them.</li> <li>◆ Allocate an area, preferably a hall for recreational purposes within day centres, residential care centres etc. This would primarily target those who cannot access a town centre facility, and who otherwise would not avail of any leisure time activities.</li> </ul>

## 6.4 People with Physical or Mental Disabilities

Promotion	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Aim to make people with physical or mental disabilities and their carers aware of the benefits to be gained from physical activity for both the individual and the community.</li> <li>◆ Develop and implement programmes geared at motivating people with physical or mental disabilities to participate more often in activities of a sporting, recreational or leisure nature.</li> <li>◆ Create a means by which information regarding sporting, recreational or leisure activities is made available to people with physical or mental disabilities on a regular, ongoing basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provide greater access to, variation of, programmes and activities for people with physical or mental disabilities.</li> <li>◆ Ensure that programmes/ activities of a sporting, recreational or leisure nature facilitate the integration of people with a physical or mental disability.</li> <li>◆ Give special consideration to the provision of activities of a therapeutic and mental health nature, which will be of particular benefit to people with disabilities. Such activities could include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Reflexology</li> <li>◆ Aromatherapy</li> <li>◆ Massage</li> <li>◆ Sauna</li> <li>◆ Weight Watching</li> <li>◆ Arts &amp; Crafts</li> <li>◆ Board Games (e.g. chess, scrabble)</li> <li>◆ Computer games/ activities (which can greatly enhance hand/ eye co-ordination). Assisted-mobility, and voice-activated computer programmes should warrant special attention.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Leadership	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Establish a team of trained recreational leaders, sports coaches and leisure organisers within the Ballymun area with the ability to adapt and deliver activities to a range of special needs (e.g. physical, visual and sensory impairments).</li> <li>◆ Ensure that facility managers/ providers facilitate the needs of people with physical or mental disabilities.</li> <li>◆ Consider means by which all service providers can:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organise sporting, recreational and leisure activities appropriate to the specific needs of people with disabilities, and</li> <li>- Integrate people with disabilities into “mainstream” activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Significantly improve the accessibility of existing indoor venues for recreation, leisure or sport.</li> <li>◆ Ensure that any new facilities cater to the variety of accessibility issues relating to people with physical or mental disabilities e.g. changes in gradients, poor lighting, misplaced obstacles (e.g. bins, sign posts, equipment).</li> <li>◆ Aim to make the physical local environment of the new Ballymun as disability-friendly as possible (e.g. paving, bollards, seating).</li> <li>◆ Improve the range and frequency of disability-friendly public transport, which will enable people with physical or mental disabilities to visit, travel out of, and travel within the new Ballymun.</li> </ul>

## 6.5 People with Mental Health Problems

Promotion	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Promote the benefits of physical activity (passive or active) in the amelioration of mental illness and/or mental health problems to both the individual and carers.</li> <li>◆ Advertise activities and emphasise that they are fun, enjoyable and open for competition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Encourage activities which promote social interaction, recreation and relaxation e.g. walking and bowling (ten-pin or short-mat) suggested.</li> <li>◆ Provide regular get-away opportunities (e.g. easy hiking) where participation is less threatening.</li> <li>◆ Avoid excessive marketing of specific programmes for this group, as the feeling tends to be that local, outdoor involvement draws unwanted attention and fear of ridicule to individuals in this target group.</li> </ul>
Leadership	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ensure that leaders who work with people with mental health problems have training in counselling skills. Alternatively, counsellors could undergo training in leadership and coaching to enable them to adapt activities to meet the abilities of the group.</li> <li>◆ Allow participants time to get to know leaders so that they can build up a trust with them. Initial progress may be slow until the group gains familiarity with leaders/ instructors and confidence with activity movements and developing new skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provide basic recreational spaces for activities, such as cards and pool, within day centres.</li> <li>◆ Make existing recreational, sports or leisure venues accessible to the group by programming/ allocating designated times for the use of the venue by the group.</li> </ul>

## 6.6 Adults

Promotion	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Links are required with local and national health promotional agencies to focus on the benefits of participating in regular physical activity.</li> <li>◆ The aim should be to increase participation and to target groups with low levels of activity N.B. men.</li> <li>◆ Promotional campaign can only occur in conjunction with the development of opportunities to participate both through better provision of facilities and offering programmes based on the needs of adults i.e. participating within their families and at time outside of work.</li> </ul>	<p>The key programmes which are required to increase participation by adults in sport and recreation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The establishment of walking groups supported by trained leaders</li> <li>◆ Fitness and health programmes based on bringing local groups and communities together (consider separate men's/women's sessions)</li> <li>◆ Learn to swim groups and swimming programmes</li> <li>◆ Package of indoor sports and gym programmes which are non competitive and focus on opportunities for families to participate together</li> </ul>
Leadership	Facilities
<p>The consultation identified that there is a demand for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Leadership training courses for leaders</li> <li>◆ Creating links with the NGBs and the National Coaching and Training Centre to train tutors in Ballymun who in turn can train coaches for the various sports clubs</li> <li>◆ Volunteer training packages to support volunteers involved in clubs and local groups</li> <li>◆ Club development programmes to encourage more adults to become involved in clubs</li> <li>◆ Training for adults who are dealing with young people in sport</li> </ul> <p>The opportunities for developing new skills and building confidence should be highlighted through these courses and training programmes. People in other parts of the country who have participated in similar programmes, have highlighted these points following the completion of courses.</p>	<p>The issues in terms of facility provision for adults are similar to other age groups. The community indicated a strong demand for access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Walking routes which are well lit and secure</li> <li>◆ Open space areas</li> <li>◆ Swimming pools with leisure water</li> <li>◆ Gyms and health facilities linked to local health information centres</li> <li>◆ Indoor sports centres</li> <li>◆ Changing rooms</li> <li>◆ Quality club rooms with social facilities and places to meet in comfort</li> </ul>

## 6.7 Sports Clubs

Promotion	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Clubs have been experiencing declining membership and have highlighted the need for a campaign to promote competitive sport among young people.</li> <li>◆ Clubs want to attract more adults to the clubs to keep senior and veterans teams going.</li> <li>◆ Clubs also like to attract more adults to help out in the areas of administration, officiating, coaching, managing teams and developing the clubs.</li> <li>◆ The development an up-to-date database of clubs/participants is necessary to track the development of clubs and the success of promotional campaigns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The clubs need help in running club development and training programmes for their volunteers, coaches and participants.</li> <li>◆ More work needs to be done through their NGBs to train tutors and coaches in the National Coaching and Development Programme. This need to increase the number of local coaches has been highlighted in the second cycle of the programme – ‘Good Coaching Makes A Difference’</li> <li>◆ Many local clubs highlighted the good work, which is happening in clubs outside of Ballymun; notably the GAA who are running excellent club training &amp; coaching programmes.</li> <li>◆ If these programmes were available across the spectrum of clubs they could all benefit and prosper.</li> </ul>
Leadership	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The issues here are similar to other areas. The clubs have identified that people are the most important resource and support is required to retain and recruit more people to work in a voluntary capacity in clubs.</li> <li>◆ More coaches, club administrators and parents are required to sustain the clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The provision of quality sports facilities is vital if these programmes are to succeed. This is the, most critical factor for most of the clubs. They are trying to provide a vital service and part of community life in totally inadequate facilities. The priorities for their clubs are:</li> <li>◆ New club rooms – NB for those clubs who are currently working out of empty flat complexes which are due for demolition</li> <li>◆ Improvement in the quality and management of playing pitches</li> <li>◆ Provision of quality multi-purpose training facilities</li> <li>◆ Securing access to quality school facilities in the area</li> <li>◆ Securing access to indoor halls</li> <li>◆ Suitable Swimming pool facilities</li> </ul>

## 7 Recommended Policies

In order to develop and implement a recreation, sport and leisure strategy, clear policies will have to be adopted. The following policies are recommended for adoption by Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. & Dublin Corporation.

### **7.1 Facilities**

To provide and maintain a wide range of quality facilities to cater for both recreational users and competitive athletes.

### **7.2 Programmes**

To develop recreation, sport and leisure programmes which respond to changing market needs and trends.

### **7.3 Pricing**

To operate a pricing policy which will ensure as far as is practicable that cost can be removed as a barrier to participation.

### **7.4 Personal Development**

To create a framework where people, in so far as is practicable, are able to reach their recreation, sport and leisure goals whether they are motivated by health, social or competitive objectives.

### **7.5 Safety & Ethics**

To ensure that high standards of safety and ethics are maintained at all times.

### **7.6 Staff**

- ◆ To recruit, train and motivate staff to provide high standards of customer service.
- ◆ To create and maintain working environments where every employee will be encouraged to develop to their full potential.

### **7.7 Marketing**

To market facilities and programmes in a cost-effective manner to ensure the widest possible awareness in the local community.

## 8 Proposed Facilities Strategy

### **8.1 Facilities Provided for in the Masterplan**

The Masterplan discusses the requirements for play areas, pitches, changing facilities and open space. The proposals are:

#### **8.1.1 Openspace strategy**

The strategy in the Masterplan is to provide a linked network of local greens, parks and open space areas which will be landscaped, secured and equipped.

#### **8.1.2 Playgrounds**

The aim is to provide a formal open space area or play facility within easy reach of most children, reached only by crossing minor streets. Playgrounds are proposed in all neighbourhoods to cater for the very young (under 6 years). Playgrounds specifically designed for under 12 year olds are planned for the major open spaces at Poppintree, Coultry and Balcurris.

A specialist in the area of playground provision has been appointed to fully develop and implement playground strategy for the Ballymun area.

#### **8.1.3 Club Rooms and Playing pitches**

The outline proposals in the Masterplan provide for:

##### **Naul Park**

10 senior soccer pitches with changing facilities to replace existing facilities in Naul Park.

##### **Poppintree Park**

4 senior pitches

Retain Camogie pitch and GAA pitch

All weather training surface

##### **Balcurris Park**

Retain exiting soccer pitch

Upgrade GAA pitch

Provide changing facilities

##### **Coultry Park**

One well drained pitch

### **8.2 Proposed Facilities Strategy**

The strategy for developing sports, leisure, and recreation facilities to meet the future needs of Ballymun will fall into two strands: (a) making better use of existing resources, and (b) developing new facilities which have broad appeal and meet a wide range of needs.

### 8.2.1 Making Better Use of Facilities

Making better use of existing facilities in the Ballymun area will involve: -

- ◆ Improving the management of the facilities to ensure that they are used to their full potential.
- ◆ Providing equipment and carrying out small works to existing facilities to broaden the range of activities which can be accommodated.
- ◆ Removing barriers to 'dual use' of school facilities, e.g. by developing a group insurance scheme.
- ◆ Developing a network of leaders and coaches to organise programmes which can be based at the centres.
- ◆ Collating and publicising information relating to the availability of natural resources, e.g. walking routes.

### 8.2.2 Developing New Facilities

By comparison to most other Western European countries, the standard of public sports and leisure facilities in Ireland is very poor. While in recent years the level of Government funding for sports and recreation facilities has increased significantly, the 'grant' budget to support (non-pool) projects in the Dublin area in 1999 was only £3.8M. It is clear therefore that a special allocation of funding will be required to develop the facilities needed in Ballymun.

With the limitations which exist on funding, priorities have to be established. We have used the following criteria to establish priorities for the first stage of the strategy.

- ◆ **Multi-Purpose** Priority should be given to multi-purpose facilities such as halls which have a wide range of uses for sport, recreation and social activities; as opposed to squash courts for example, which are limited in their use.
- ◆ **Broad Appeal** Facilities which cater for the most popular activities such as swimming, hall games and fitness should be prioritised over those catering for minority sports and recreation activities
- ◆ **Recreation Standard** While some level of competition should be accommodated, the emphasis in the first phase should be to create opportunities for participation as opposed to focussing on competitive facilities for elite athletes and clubs.
- ◆ **Realistic** In prioritising any new projects it will be important to manage expectations and not promote projects which, in reality, have little or no chance of being developed due to the limited funding available. In this regard, the resources of BRL, Dublin Corporation, and Government and their respective policies on facility development, must be taken into consideration.

In addition to the above criteria, the **operational viability** of proposals needs to be considered. While it is recognised that in order to meet certain social and health objectives, many facilities in disadvantaged areas such as Ballymun cannot be self-financing in operation, the potential to generate income from areas such as fitness gyms for a Leisure/ Sports centre should not be ignored.

### **8.2.3 Existing Facilities**

#### **Indoor Dry Sport Facilities**

The extent of purpose-built community sports hall facilities in Ballymun is very limited at present. Both Ballymun Recreation Centre and Poppintree Sports Complex, which are in poor condition, have secured funding for refurbishment under the Youth Facilities Strategy Fund (also known as the Chris Flood Fund). The Ballymun Recreation Centre funding is to develop a recreation centre for youths in the 10 to-21 year old age group. Only a small amount of money has been allocated to upgrade the Poppintree Centre. Sports Hall facilities are also available at Ballymun East Community Centre and St. Pappins.

Community use and sporting needs are also accommodated in the existing school halls. The halls at 4 primary schools: St. Josephs, Holy Spirit, Virgin Mary and Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch, as well as the Boys junior Comprehensive school are all used to varying degrees by the community after school hours.

Many sports groups operate in sub-standard accommodation in lift shafts and basements or in vacant flats which have been made available by Dublin Corporation.

#### **Existing Swimming Pool**

The Ballymun Swimming Pool was built in 1974 and like other 25-year-old pools around the country, it is in relatively poor condition and has lost its market appeal. The external image of the facility is poor and attracts anti-social behaviour. Internally, the accommodation is considered as relatively spartan by modern standards. The facility is open to the public for 44 hours per week in the summer and 20 hours in the winter. In the winter, there is no public access on Tuesdays, Fridays or Sunday afternoons. The pool attracts in the region of 77,000 visits per year, approximately half of which are made during public sessions. By comparison, a well-managed modern facility in Ballymun should be capable of attracting 125,000-150,000 visits each year.

### **8.2.4 Capital budget for New Facilities**

The total ballpark estimate for the re-development of facilities in the Ballymun area is between £20m and £25m, spread over the next 5 years. The total amount of National Lottery Funding allocated for the country in 1999 was £14m. The total allocation to Dublin alone was approximately £3m. A strong political case will need to be made to secure a special allocation for Ballymun to meet the demands of the re-development. There will be a requirement to secure funding from the private sector and the Dublin Corporation, in addition to State Grants. Extensive community contribution is unlikely but services provided by local community groups can be factored in.

There is also a need to deal with the short term funding implications of re-locating groups from their present facilities during the building programme.

### **8.2.5 Recommended Redevelopment of Ballymun Swimming Pool**

It is proposed that the existing pool be developed as a leisurised community pool. This would involve substantial demolition of the existing structure and the rebuilding of a facility which would have: -

- ◆ A c.200m<sup>2</sup> swimming pool for fitness swimming, which is shallow enough for aqua aerobics.
- ◆ A childrens 'fun pool' which would also be suitable for childrens' lessons.
- ◆ Slides and other play features.
- ◆ An adults' health suite with sauna and steamroom.
- ◆ An information social/viewing area with a snack bar.
- ◆ A fitness gym of c.200m<sup>2</sup>.
- ◆ Ancillary changing, administration and plant areas.

A leisurised pool complex will appeal to a wider market, both in terms of catchment and market segments than a conventional pool. Experience has shown that leisurised pools are particularly attractive to young women with children. The proposed facility mix will allow a varied 'programme' to be developed which can cater for all ages and sexes.

Leisurised conventional pools have also been shown to provide the best opportunity for optimising potential viability, by comparison to conventional or pure leisure pools.

This swimming pool complex would be integrated into the New Town Centre Sports Complex.

### **8.2.6 Town Centre Sports Complex**

A town centre sports and leisure complex, incorporating a swimming pool, sports hall and fitness suite is proposed.

- The project is estimated to cost in the order of £5M+ with the 'wet' facilities accounting for c£3.25m
- The proposed funding is envisaged as follows:

Department of Tourism, Sports & Recreation*	£3M
B.R.L.	£1M
Dublin Corporation	£1M
- A 'special' allocation would be required under the Sports Capital Programme. This will require political support at the highest level.

### **8.2.7 Leisureplexes & Omniplexes**

During the consultation process many references were made to the desirability of having a 'Leisureplex' entertainment centre and an 'Omniplex' type cinema complex in Ballymun. Visits to existing centres in Coolock and Santry are very popular with young people in Ballymun.

These type of centres are developed exclusively by the private sector, who are 'profit led' and will only locate where there is sufficient market potential. Where the market potential is low but could develop in the future, as in Ballymun, promoters of 'leisureplexes' may consider investing in a new facility if tax incentives are available.

It is recommended that BRL identify potentially suitable tax designated sites and examine the feasibility of attracting inward investment from the private sector to develop leisure facilities.

### 8.2.8 Neighbourhood Centres

The B.R.L. Masterplan envisages ‘neighbourhood centres’ in each of the 5 districts in the new Ballymun. The specification of what will be contained in such a centre has yet to be defined and will depend on the extent of existing facilities, which can be refurbished and upgraded. From a sports and recreation point of view the following is considered desirable:

Indoor:	Small Hall	(badminton court size).
	Multi-Purpose Room	(meetings, classes, etc.)
	Kitchen	(linked to both halls)
Outdoor:	Multi-Use Games Area	(tennis court size, floodlit for games)
	Small Changing Rooms	
	Playground	
	Childcare Facilities	

- The provision of childcare facilities will need to be integrated into plans for childcare for the town, which may be prepared by the Ballymun Partnership/Eastern Health Board/ Department of Social Welfare.
- The provision of Neighbourhood Centres is directly linked to the provision of the new residential units. The funding of same therefore should primarily be the responsibility of the Department of the Environment.
- Based on the facility mix outlined above, the cost of a neighbourhood centre would be:

	Recreation Facilities	£650K	
	Playground	£100K	(Regional cost of provision)
	Childcare	£100K	
	<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>£850K</b>	

**Note:** It should be noted that, while funding has been earmarked for ‘neighbourhood centres’, the above facilities were not all envisaged and additional funding will be required.

### 8.2.9 5-A-Side Training Pitches

The most cost-effective solution to meeting the training and recreation needs for field sports is the provision of a ‘5-a-side’ centre.

- A ‘5-a-side’ centre would incorporate 8 to 10 tennis court floodlit size pitches, together with a changing pavilion.
- The development is estimated to cost in the region of £0.8M.
- The proposed funding of the development has yet to be determined, but is most likely to be a combination of the Department of Tourism, Sports & Recreation, B.R.L. and Dublin Corporation.
- If space were available, locating a 5-a-side centre adjacent to the Town Centre Sports Complex would save on staffing costs.

### **9.1 Key Findings**

The summary details from the research are presented below.

#### **9.1.1 Activities and Programmes**

The key need which emerges, is developing appropriate community facilities and promoting participation in physical activity among the entire community in Ballymun. This can be facilitated by developing a range of leisure programmes targeting the different age groups. These programmes need to be over a sustained period rather than the once off special promotion days which have been common in the past and will depend on the availability of trained community leisure, recreation and sports leaders and coaches. Many of these programmes will focus on providing training in the areas of: leadership, marketing, facility management, club development, managing finances, fundraising, communication, recruiting and retaining volunteers, encouraging parents to be involved and training for teachers.

#### **9.1.2 Leaders and Coaches**

There is a strong demand for trained leaders and coaches in the Ballymun area. It will be essential for the development of sport and recreation in Ballymun to increase this number and provide the community with increased access to trained coaches and leaders. Consultation groups identified the demand for leadership and motivators to support participation by the community.

#### **9.1.3 Barriers**

The major barriers to participation and getting involved in physical activity (apart from the lack of adequate facilities) were identified as: lack of programmes, lack of information, time, lack of trained leaders and coaches, difficulty in accessing existing facilities (which were closed or in poor condition), and cost factors.

### **9.2 Analysis**

There are many different leisure recreational and sporting needs in Ballymun. The research has demonstrated that needs vary according to the different group, and the perspective of the individual concern. I.e. whether they participate in casual activity or through organised club or school based activity. There are a wide range of different agencies that have a specific interest in supporting and encouraging increased physical activity in Ballymun. It would be a mistake to identify any one group's needs as being more important than another, as to each group and each organisation, their needs and interests are of prime importance.

However, some key themes and issues do emerge from the research, which provide a common link between the different agencies and organisations. These issues can be examined by establishing a co-ordinated marketing approach to the development of leisure, recreation and sport in Ballymun between groups with a common interest. There is a need to provide the opportunity for all of the different agencies to come together and adopt a co-ordinated approach to the development of leisure, recreation and sporting opportunities, by focusing on the needs of the community in the areas of:

### **(a) People**

The key focus must be on the people of Ballymun and developing the opportunities which will allow them achieve their own personal goals in leisure, recreation and sport. This can be achieved by:

- ◆ provision of training to support individuals and groups achieve their own objectives;
- ◆ increasing the number of coaches and leaders who can work with people of all ages in Ballymun;
- ◆ setting, monitoring and reviewing clear targets for the levels of participation and involvement in physical activity;
- ◆ Understanding the reasons why people want to participate, what they want to do, and when they want to do it.

#### **People: First steps**

- ◆ Research is required on the level of participation of different target groups. This should be assessed against national and international studies and clear targets agreed.
- ◆ A survey of existing coaches is required to assess their current level of interaction with groups, and their skill/ qualification levels.
- ◆ A meeting should be arranged with the different sports groups to identify their specific coaching requirements and to look at ways in which more coaches can be trained.
- ◆ Links should be created with the National Coaching and Training Centre (NCTC) and the relevant National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to examine the coaching issues in the context of the plans for each particular NGB.
- ◆ The possibility of establishing a pilot programme with the NCTC should be examined to train more local coaches through accredited Tutors.
- ◆ A survey should be undertaken to determine the level of involvement of current trained leaders within the community.
- ◆ A training programme should be initiated to train more leaders and match them with different target groups.
- ◆ A promotional campaign is required to highlight the need for parents to become involved with their children's physical activity and sport.
- ◆ A recruitment and training programme is required for volunteers.

### **(b) Programmes**

Programmes are required to support each of the different age groups and sectoral groups. This can be achieved by:

- ◆ improvement in the quality and management of existing facilities;
- ◆ increasing access to existing facilities by more targeted programming and promotion;
- ◆ building links between schools and clubs to share facilities;
- ◆ Development of programmes targeting the different groups.

#### **Programmes: First steps**

Research on the range of programmes available is required and their suitability for the community must be assessed. These programmes can be purchased or adapted from national and international programmes in partnership with clubs, schools, facilities and casual groups. These include:

- ◆ Programmes aimed at introducing people to physical activity and sport
- ◆ Programmes developed on how to increase participation in each different group
- ◆ Programmes aimed at young parents
- ◆ Club development programmes
- ◆ Volunteer recruitment programmes
- ◆ Medical training

- ◆ Women in sport
- ◆ Programmes for people with a physical or mental disability
- ◆ School sport programmes

#### **Facilities: First steps**

- ◆ Finalise feasibility study for new indoor facility and re-development of the pool in Ballymun
- ◆ Secure funding for new facilities
- ◆ Establish management structures
- ◆ Develop a plan for better use of existing facilities
- ◆ Examine current & develop improved management of playing fields

#### **c) Promotion**

It is essential that a co-ordinated promotional campaign be developed between the different agencies. People from all groups and communities have highlighted the need for information on what is available and how they can get involved. A central database should be developed and made widely available to the community. This should be distributed through sports clubs, schools, libraries and the Internet. This increased awareness can be achieved by:

- ◆ Provision of better information on the wide range of opportunities which exist in Ballymun through targeting relevant groups for the different activities;
- ◆ Running promotional campaigns which are jointly funded and developed by the different agencies. these campaigns should emphasise the accessibility of the activities.

#### **Promotion: First steps**

- ◆ Collate all information on leisure recreation and sport in Ballymun into a single database
- ◆ Review options for joint promotional campaigns between the different agencies in Ballymun

#### **d) Partnerships**

It is clear that a new approach to building partnerships between agencies will address many of the needs identified by the community. There are strong interlocking interests, which can unite agencies to meet their own objectives to the mutual benefit of all involved. If a mechanism can be found to allow agencies to work in a co-ordinated approach addressing needs and problems through an integrated, interdisciplinary focus then it will be a unique model for the rest of the country and perhaps internationally. This can be achieved by:

- ◆ Co-ordination of resources between public agencies, individuals, facilities, clubs and schools and community groups.

#### **Partnerships: First steps**

- ◆ Agree on the management structure in terms of addressing the issues.
- ◆ Identify areas of common interest to the different agencies.
- ◆ Identify co-ordinated strategies which will allow agencies to work together and achieve their mutual aims.

## 10 Organisation & Management - First Steps

A number of different agencies will be involved in promoting and providing recreation, sport and leisure opportunities for the people of Ballymun in the future. These will include: -

- ◆ Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.
- ◆ Dublin Corporation
- ◆ Department of Tourism, Sport & Recreation
- ◆ Department of Health
- ◆ The Sports Council
- ◆ National Governing Bodies for Sport
- ◆ Local Clubs and Organisations, and
- ◆ Other agencies involved in youth affairs, combating drugs/crime etc.

Although the agencies involved might seem to have a diverse range of aims and objectives, there are also many common objectives. Experience elsewhere has shown that without a co-ordinated approach at a local level, duplication of effort can arise, and scarce resources are consequently wasted.

We would recommend that BRL and Dublin Corporation's Cultural & Environment Department meet initially to agree who should take the lead role in co-ordinating the sports, leisure and recreation strategy in Ballymun. **It is likely that a co-ordinator will need to be appointed on a full-time basis to manage the strategy implementation.**

A meeting should then be called of all the key public sector agencies to review the strategy and to see how each agency can optimise the use of their resources and avoid duplication. It would be premature to suggest a management structure or operational plan prior to this meeting.

## Appendix A - List of Groups Consulted

### **Community Consultation**

The team completed the following workshops, presentations

Group	Date
1. Setanta G.A.A. Club	March 1999
2. St. Paul's Boxing Club	March 1999
3. Ballymun Kickhams G.A.A. Club	March 1999
4. The Community Action Programme	April 1999
5. The Local Drug's Task Force	April 1999
6. The Ballymun Partnership	April 1999
7. Estate Forum Representatives	April 1999
8. Fountain - Early School Leavers	May 1999
9. Ballymun Active Disability Interest Group (BADIG)	May 1999
10. Ballymun Youth Action Project (YAP)	May 1999
11. Eastern Health Board (Public Health Nurses)	May 1999
12. Youth Development Group/ Local Drug's Task Force	May 1999
13. Linx Project (with a special emphasis on Mental Disability)	May 1999
14. Transition Year Students from Ballymun Senior Comprehensive	May 1999
15. School Liaison Teacher and Parents Group from Holy Spirit Primary School	May 1999
16. Ballymun Healthy Cities (as Parents and Leaders of Young Children)	May 1999
17. Co-ordinator of the Plough Youth Club	June 1999
18. Sandyhill Gardens - Older Adults	June 1999
19. Poppintree Swingers, Burren Court - Older Adults	July 1999
20. The Men's Centre, Shangan	July 1999
21. Geraldstown House, EHB - Women's Consultation Group	July 1999

### **Organisations**

Meetings were held with representatives of the following organisations

Organisation	Date
1. Department of Tourism Sport and Recreation	June 1999
2. Dublin Corporation	June 1999
3. Irish Sports Council	June 1999
4. ILAM	June 1999
5. NCTC	August 1999

## Appendix B - Current Provision of Facilities in Ballymun

The current provision of facilities in Ballymun are:

### **Halls**

Type	Number	Issues/Comments
Community	3	Ballymun Recreation Centre and Poppintree Sports Complex have both secured funding for refurbishment under the Youth Services and Facilities Fund.
Parish	1	One main parish hall is available primarily for the youth
School Hall	3	3 school halls are in use with varying degrees of access to the community
Scout/Guide	1	

### **Clubrooms**

Type	Number	Issues/Comments
Athletics	0	No facilities
GAA	0	Mostly use flats, basements or lift shafts for changing facilities – the main club Ballymun Kickhams is located outside the area but provides a key service for many people
Rugby	0	No club
Soccer	0	No club house – big demand for changing facilities for over 10 teams in the area
Other	1	Dublin Corporation dressing rooms in Poppintree Park.

- ◆ There is a shortfall of clubrooms /facilities for groups currently in tower blocks. These groups will need to be accommodated in central facilities or through sharing of existing club facilities and dual use of schools facilities

### **Gyms**

Type	Number	Issues/Comments
Fitness Centre	0	There is a need to develop these facilities in the area in partnership with the Corporation and the private sector
Health Club	0	

## **Pitches**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
GAA	6	Not all pitches, supplied by the Corporation are full size; some are made to fit the space rather than the space made to fit the pitch.
Soccer	29	As above – 13 unused due to poor drainage or problems with horses invading the pitches. (see appendix for list of these facilities)
Hockey	0	
Artificial	0	
Other	3	“ All weather” – in poor state of repair

- ◆ Ownership of these facilities is mixed between private clubs and Dublin Corporation.
- ◆ There is concern about the quality of these facilities, many are not available on a regular basis for sports groups and there is a need for management plans, turf maintenance, equine policies.
- ◆ Each group has been surveyed to identify the key issues facing them and will be followed up with a meeting to discuss these issues.

## **Indoor Leisure Facilities**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
Indoor Sports Complex	3	Poppintree Sports Complex, Ballymun Recreation Centre Ballymun East Community Centre
Bowling Alley	0	
Indoor Sport	1	Travelling Community indoor Facility at St. Margaret’s Site
Handball Alley	0	

- ◆ There is expressed demand for a quality central facility. Will the Youth Centre meet the need?
- ◆ The immediate provision of neighbourhood facilities will be need to be integrated as part of the housing developments – securing funding through the Lottery will be difficult and will need strong political intervention.

## **Courts**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
Tennis	0	Main facilities located outside of the are
Basketball	2	2 play areas in Poppintree
Squash	0	
Handball Alley	0	

### ***Golf Courses***

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
9 hole course	0	
18 hole course	1	Public 18-hole course located in Sillogue Park.

### ***Playgrounds***

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
Children's Area	2	Some derelict areas where children play – but no official playgrounds – private playgrounds located in a flats complex and in one of the schools
Adventure	0	Need for a play area for adventure sport

- ◆ The lack of play areas is an issue of major importance given the high number of young people in the community.

### ***Swimming Pools***

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
Conventional Lane Pool	1	Considered to be sub-standard and undesirable as a community leisure facility.
Leisure	0	

- ◆ The combination of a wet and dry facility should be considered to meet the demands for a quality leisure centre in the area

### ***Equestrian Centres***

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
Stables	1	New centre to be built

- ◆ The development of a comprehensive equine policy for the area is essential

### ***Open space and resources analysis***

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Issues/Comments</b>
Parks	4	Contain sports pitches but few other amenities so their actual use is low.
Gardens	0	Refer to Masterplan for proposed developments
Walkway	0	Refer to Masterplan for proposed developments
Cycleway	0	Refer to Masterplan for proposed developments
Horse trail	0	Need to examine feasibility/potential for development of equine facilities

## Appendix C: List of Community Groups & Sports Clubs Contacted during Consultative Process

First Name	Last Name	Org. Name	Address	City	State/Province
Lisa	McKnight	Strategy for Playground Provision			
Tommy	Williams	Poppintree Athletics Club	6, Balbutcher Way	Ballymun	Dublin
Kevin	Savage	Setanta Sports Complex	Poppintree	Ballymun	Dublin
Dermot	Smith	Willows Football Club	15 Willow Park Close	Finglas	Dublin
Thomas	Brennan	Poppintree Celtic Football Club	9 Woodlawn View	Santry	Dublin
Bernard	O'Connor	Ballymun United Football Club	150 Shangan Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Joe	Dwane	Artane Castle FC	45 Sillogue Gardens	Ballymun	Dublin
John	Prendergast	St Paul's Boxing Club	20 Coultry Crescent	Ballymun	Dublin
Joseph	Brennan	Ballymun Kenpo Karate	60 Eamonn Ceannt Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
		Ballymun Snooker Club	Ballymun Town Centre	Ballymun	Dublin 11
Noel	McEnroe	Greenfield Park FC	29 Wadlei Green	Glasnevin North	Dublin 11
Special Olympics Ireland		St Michael's House	Ballymun Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Delores	Barry	Poppintree Community & Sports Complex	Gallaun Road	Poppintree	Dublin
AG	Patterson	Riversdale Sports Club	44 Glasnevin Avenue	Glasnevin	Dublin 11
		Ballymun Swimming Pool	Ballymun Town Centre	Ballymun	Dublin 11
Tony	Martin	Irish Table Tennis Association Ltd.	46 Lorcan Villas	Santry	Dublin
		Glasnevin Lawn Tennis Club	Ballymun Road		Dublin 9
Dermot	Smith	Willows FC	15 Willow Park Close	Glasnevin North	Dublin
Noel	Doran	Ballymun ABC	15 Coultry Crescent	Ballymun	Dublin
Paddy	Reilly	PE Teacher, Ballymun Basketball Club	Ballymun Senior Comprehensive, Ballymun Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Gladys	Cooper	Clonliffe Harriers Athletic Club	177 Shanliss Road	Santry	Dublin
Ann	Ryan	Ballymun Badminton Club	30 Shanliss Walk	Santry	Dublin
Paddy	Dunne	St. Pappins Bowling Club	8 Shanowen Avenue	Santry	Dublin
Peter	Couch	Ballymun Boxing Club	6 Belclare Avenue	Poppintree	Dublin
Thomas	Fay	Ballymun Community Games	6 Balbutcher Drive	Ballymun	Dublin
John	McCormac	Finglas Ravens Cycling Club	22 McKelvey Avenue	Finglas	Dublin
Michael	Shelly	Ballymun Kickhams GAA Club	143 Old Finglas road		Dublin 11
Padraig	O'Maoilsteaghe	Cumann Baire Setanta	93 Faiche Na Seangan	Baile Munna	Baile Atha Cliath
Olive	Kearney	Cumann Baire Setanta	Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch	Bothar Baile Munne	Baile Atha Cliath
Brendan	Cooper	Na Fianna GAA Club	Mobhi Road	Glasnevin	Dublin
Pat	White	Karate Clubs	Sacred Heart Boys National School	St. Canice's Road	Dublin
Andy	Barron	Karate Club	Ballymun East community Centre	Virgin Mary School	Dublin 11
Thomas	Miley	Ard Celtic FC	44 Dolmen Court	Poppintree	Dublin
Bernard	O'Neill	Ballymun Celtic FC	155 Coultry Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Sean	Martin	Ballymun Utd. FC	10 Dolmen Court	Poppintree	Dublin
John	O'Connor	Penthouse Boys AFC	6 Gallaun Road	Poppintree	Dublin
David	Mangan	Sandyhill Celtic FC	11 Coultry Gardens	Ballymun	Dublin 9
Ronnie	Byrne	Shangan Celtic Boys FC	49 Belclare Avenue	Poppintree	Dublin
Brendan	Harntett	Shangan Celtic Senior FC	14 Druid Court	Poppintree	Dublin

Sean	Gallagher	Towers United FC	41 Shangan Avenue	Ballymun	Dublin
Pat	Mason	Ballymun Chess Club	1 Coultry Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Frank	Byrne	Boys Junior Comprehensive School		Ballymun	Dublin
Mary	Downey	Girls Junior Comprehensive School		Ballymun	Dublin
Angela	Murray	Senior Comprehensive		Ballymun	Dublin
Desmond	Deegan	Virgin Mary Boys National School		Ballymun	Dublin
Eileen	Marrinan	Virgin Mary Girls National School		Ballymun	Dublin
Donal	O'Loinsigh	Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch		Ballymun	Dublin
Pauline	Prunton	Our Lady of Victories Girls National School		Ballymun	Dublin
Peter	McCauley	Our Lady of Victories Boys National School		Ballymun	Dublin
Mary	O'Flynn	Holy Spirit Girls National School		Ballymun	Dublin
Patrick	Fitzgerald	Holy Spirit Boys National School		Ballymun	Dublin
Marian	Long	School Liaison @ Holy Spirit Girls National School		Ballymun	Dublin
Maeve	O'Byrne	Access Officer, DCU		Ballymun	Dublin
John	Kerrane	Sports & Recreation Officer		Ballymun	Dublin
Mick	Cowman	Ballymun Partnership		Ballymun	Dublin
Maeve		Gael Scoil Bhaile Munne	Pre-school, 184 Coultry Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Martin	Mooney	Baseball - Buffaloes	36 Sandyhill Avenue	Ballymun	Dublin 11
Joe	Moran	Bowls for the Over 50's	Our Lady of Victories School Hall	Ballymun	Dublin
Hugh	Kilbride	Ballymun Basketball Club		Ballymun	Dublin
Paddie	Christie	Ballymun Kickhams - Juvenile Section		Ballymun	Dublin
Prionsias	O'Chongaille	Cumann Baire Setanta	208 Ballymun Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Leo	Fay	Na Fianna	130 Connaught Street	Phibsborough	Dublin
Paul	Thornton	Coultry Celtic	Basement 19, Coultry Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Thomas	Brennan	Poppintree Celtic	9 Woodlawn View	Ballymun	Dublin
Aiden	Kelly	Grove Albion FC	77 Belclare Park,	Ballymun	Dublin
Ciaran	Burke	Balcurris FC	59 Balbutcher Lane	Ballymun	Dublin
Michael	Mahon	Shangan Athletic	Basement 31 Shangan Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Liam	Murray	The Abyss	Ballymun Recreation Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Liam	Murray	Ballymun Community Cadettes	Ballymun Recreation Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
John	Mullen	Connolly Tower Youth Club	Basement 1+2, Connolly Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
Paddy	Haughey	The Plough Youth Club	Lift Shaft 5, basement 25+42 Shangan Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Sarah	Mandiou	Coultry Youth Club	Lift Shaft 9, Coultry Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Vicki	Dempsey	East Side Youth Club	Ballymun East Community Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Jackie	Lee	Shangan youth Activities Group	Ballymun East Community Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Caron	Tolster	Olympia Youth Club	Ballymun Recreation centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Chrissie	Kinsella	Antons Youth Club	Lift Shaft 12, Sillogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Ann	Harnon	After schools Club	Ballymun Recreation Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Austin	Cox	Ballymun Chess club		Ballymun	Dublin
Una	Larkin	Rhythmettes Dance Club	53 Doon Court	Ballymun	Dublin
Roisin	Woodyatt	Irish Dancing Club	51 Belclare Park	Ballymun	Dublin
Vincent	Fitzgerald	JP Kids Club	19 Joseph Plunkett Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
Deaglan	O'Hanlon	Club na Deagoiri	Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch	Ballymun	Dublin
Aisling	Mulready	Brat Pack	Poppintree Sports Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Linda	Conway	Ballymun Foroige	168 Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
		Dance Technique at Poppintree Sport Centre		Ballymun	Dublin

Karen	at Healthy Cities	Community Games		Ballymun	Dublin
Golf		Silloogue Public Golf Course		Ballymun	Dublin
Pat	Dhalai	First Edition Dance Club	Virgin Mary School Hall	Ballymun	Dublin
Hughie	Greaves	Local Drugs Task Force	Flat 18, McDonagh Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
Malen	del Valle	Aisling Project	453 Balcurris Gardens	Ballymun	Dublin
Eric	Quinn	An Dal Cuinn Clan Trust	Unit 4D, Balbutcher Lane	Ballymun	Dublin
Fr Peter	Mcverry	Arrupe Society	21 Thomas McDonagh Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
Anne	Clare	Assisi DSPCA Clinic	33 Valentia Road	Drumcondra	Dublin
Britt	Du Fournet	BOOM	437, 492, 500 Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Sr. Margaret	Hegarty	Balcurris Flats Development Group	429 Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Mary	Love	Ballymun Adult Read & Write scheme	Geraldstown House Resource Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Vicki	McGelligott	Ballymun Animal Caring Association	c/o Ballymun Partnership	Ballymun	Dublin
Paddy	Roberts	Ballymun Community Workshop	Unit 6, Ballymun Ind. Estate	Ballymun	Dublin
Mary	Brady	Ballymun Day Nursery	Holy Spirit NG School	Ballymun	Dublin
Oliver	McGlinchey	Ballymun Development Co-operative	282 Silloogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Juliet	Gannon	Ballymun Family Enterprise	78 Sandyhill Gardens	Ballymun	Dublin
Aileen	Doyle	Ballymun Home Help Service	Ballymun Health Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Mary	Callaghan	Ballymun Job Centre - Workmate 40 Project	Local Employment Centre	Ballymun Town Centre	Dublin
Val	Arnold	Ballymun Money Advice and Budgeting Service	Unit 20, North Mall	Ballymun Shopping Centre	Dublin
Peadar	Kelly	Ballymun News	62 Silloogue Gardens	Ballymun	Dublin
		Ballymun renewal Project	Basement 7, Silloogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Finola	Dolan	Ballymun Residential Project	163 Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Aine	Rooney	Ballymun Unemployed and Welfare Rights Centre	96 Silloogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Audrey	Meehan	Ballymun Vol. Youth council	3 Silloogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Anne Marie	Hughes	Ballymun Youth Action Project	1A Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Paula	Heenan	BITE Ballymun initiative for Third Level Education	Boys Comprehensive School, Ballymun Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Joanne	Morgan	CDYSB	Kiosk G, Ballymun Town Centre	Ballymun	Dublin
Jean	Brant	Clubzone Foroige Club	381 Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Eileen	Adams	Columban Youth Project	18 Cairn Court, Poppintree	Ballymun	Dublin
Fiona	Cormican	Community Action programme	3 Silloogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Anne	Harnett	Community & Family Training Agency	27 Shangan Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Mick	Dunne	Connolly Creativity Centre	the Basement, James Connolly Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
Joan	Mullen	Connolly Tower Youth Club	The Basement Connolly Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
John Claude	Bayet	Cosmic Recording	500 Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Martyn	Merlehan	Cu Glas - Historical Re-enactment Group	45 Joseph Plunkett Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
Margaret	Howard	DSPCA	46 Balbutcher Lane	Ballymun	Dublin
Tom	Stamp	Dogs Aid	31 Cairn Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Patricia	Higgins	Drop in Well Adult Learning Centre	Ls 3 Coultury Road	Ballymun	Dublin

Breda	Merity	Geraldstown House Family Resource Centre	Geraldstown House	Ballymun Cross	Dublin
Pat	Mulvenny	Home Management Group	3 Glasnevin Avenue	Ballymun	Dublin
Mary	McCarthy	Home/ School Liaison Teacher	Ballymun Comprehensive School	Ballymun	Dublin
Brendan	Bent	Linx Project	5 Thomas Clarke Tower	Ballymun	Dublin
Sr. Majella		Our Lady's Nursery Ballymun Ltd	Silloogue Avenue	Ballymun	Dublin
Mary	Couch	Poppintree Environmental	5A Balbutcher Lane	Ballymun	Dublin
Robert	Henderson	Project Phoenix Ltd.	c/o B7 Sillogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Niall	O'Tailliur	Radharc Ceiteach teoranta	Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch	Ballymun	Dublin
Maire	Cooper	Shangan Community Council	187 Shangan Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Marie	Neeson	Silloogue Ave. Tenants Assoc.	111 Sillogue Avenue	Ballymun	Dublin
Sr. Betty	Kelleher	St Margaret's pre-school	St Margaret's Site	Ballymun	Dublin
John	Keogh	The Peoples Writers club	6B Balbutcher Lane	Ballymun	Dublin
Clare	Harney	Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme	Boys Comprehensive School	Ballymun	Dublin
Kathleen	Maher	Women's Resource Centre	11 Sillogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Britt	Du Fournet	TABBE - Tenants Association Balcurris Block E	492 Balcurris Road	Ballymun	Dublin
Tommy	Spooner	Men's Networking resource Centre	1 Sillogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin
John	Power	Job Seekers Club	c/o 1 Sillogue Road	Ballymun	Dublin