



Ballymun was conceived as a satellite dormitory to Dublin, outside the 1950s suburbs - a huge cul-de-sac - with only country lanes beyond. The layout is from a planning era where space was a priority after the cramped slums of the city from where the residents were moved. No employment or community facilities were planned. Ballymun is conspicuous for its tower and spine blocks, the only ones in Dublin, visible from all over the City and inappropriately planned for families in the air. It is an alienating environment because of its formless windswept open spaces, devoid of trees.

Ballymun Road is a wide dual carriageway that divides the estate, the roundabout which encourages fast through traffic is the main entrance into Ballymun - to the east the two cul-de-sacs of Coulnry and Shangán, to the west the cul-de-sac of Sillogue and fast Balbutcher Lane leading through Poppintree and Balcurris to Finglas. Those cul-de-sacs lead to other two storey houses laid out in gridded courtyards which are also cul-de-sacs.