

COULTRY NEWSFLASH

Coultry
Neighbourhood Forum

November 2003 Edition

Ballymun Halloween Festival goes off with a bang!

The annual Halloween festival held in Coultry and organised with the support of DCC proved to be a very successful evening. Speaking on behalf of the Forum, Kendra Campbell said "Coultry forum would like to compliment all the participants of the parade; there was a superb turn out and the costume designs were very inventive".

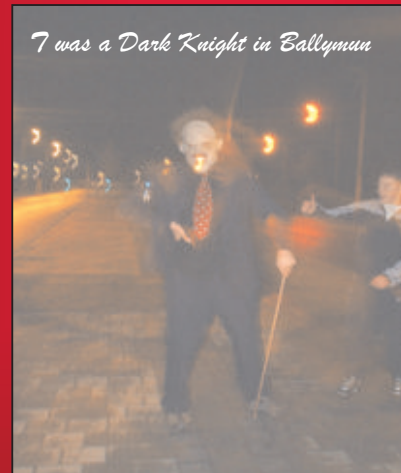
The theme for the evening was "The Lord of the Rings" with an emphasis on "The Dark Knights".

Stewart Dowie along with participants from "Community Arts" were responsible for the excellent designs of the Dark Knights.

Ballymun Regional Youth Resource was involved in the preparation by organising the art workers to assist all the community groups including core funding. BRYR commented that "the event was a great success, the costumes worked very well and there was good attendance".

The steering committee which was made up of community groups from all over Ballymun did an excellent job with the organisation and in particular we would like to recognise the work done by Brian Mongey of DCC.

Thanks must also go to members of Coultry Forum, Sandyhill Celtic and BRYR who provided stewards for the event.



I was a Dark Knight in Ballymun

Year of the Disabled Comes True for Coultry Family

We reported in our August Newsletter about the Muldoon family and the difficulties they were having with getting a specially adapted extension for their son Adam (inset). We can now happily report that the work has been completed and Mrs Muldoon is delighted.

Not only does the extension have wide door access but the front and internal doors of the house have been widened to allow access throughout the house for Adam. The extension contains a large bedroom as shown and a bathroom with a specially adapted shower.

A clearly delighted Mrs Linda Muldoon said;
"Adam and I, would like to sincerely thank

Sean Smith of Dublin City Council, Coultry Forum, Roisin Shortall TD and Ballymun Neighbourhood Council for their great assistance".



Happy as Larry in his new bedroom, Adam Muldoon was only too delighted to take the Forum and BNC representatives on a tour around his new domain.

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Who and what is Coultry Forum?

By Kendra Campbell

Coultry Forum was formed in 1996 as a voluntary body to make representations on behalf of the Coultry community, and is recognised as such by Dublin City Council and Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. The Forum receives its major funding through Ballymun Neighbourhood Council who also supply one of their project workers to assist the Forum.

Presently Coultry Forum consists of the following volunteer representatives:

- Kendra Campbell Chairperson
- Dave Mangan Secretary
- Maria Thompson
- Ollie McGlinchey Vice Chairperson
- Jude Prendergast
- Paddy O'Reilly

The Forum is elected to represent the views and interests on a whole range of issues such as Neighbourhood Management and Regeneration Issues.

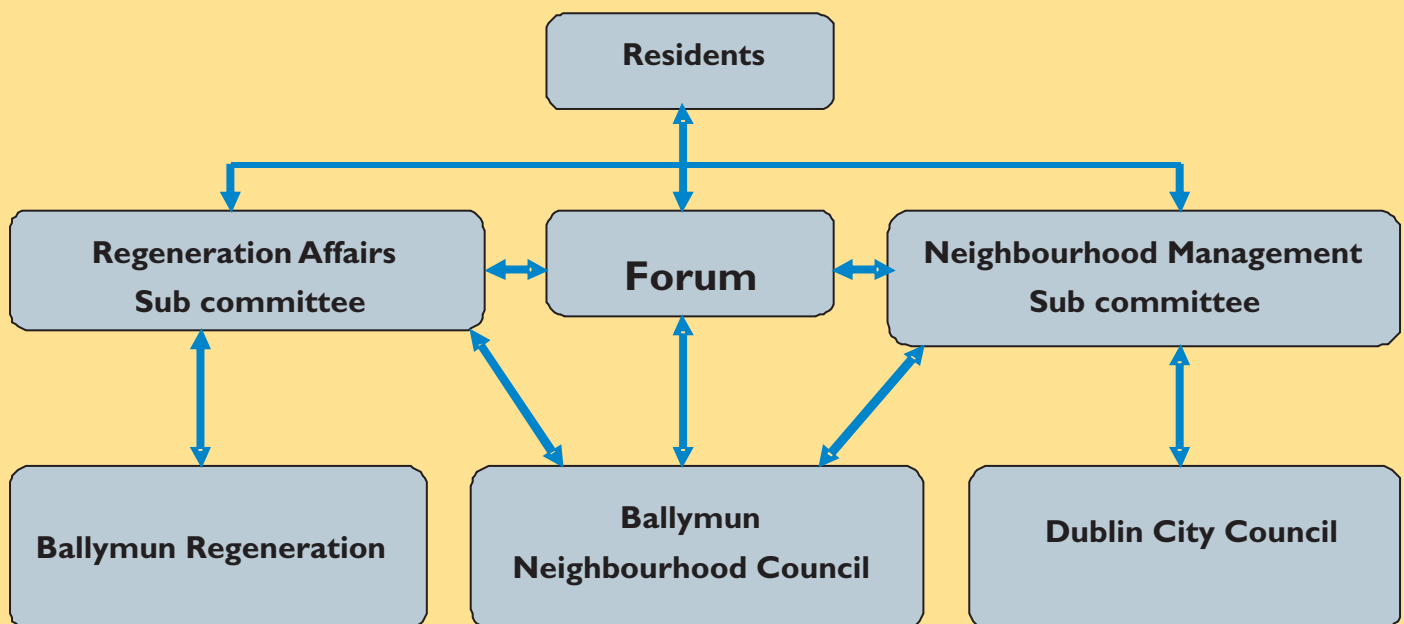
The Neighbourhood Management Sub-committee meet with Dublin City Council on a monthly basis to discuss issues such as: Anti-Social, Allocations and House Maintenance Complaints,

Waste Disposal and other items of concern in the Neighbourhood that DCC are responsible for e.g., a resident recently complained about the rubbish on the street following Halloween and that it hadn't been collected by DCC. Following telephone calls from the forum this issue was resolved and were subsequently thanked by the resident.

The Regeneration Affairs Sub-committee meets with BRL once a month to get updates on the ongoing projects and anything that will be happening in the area in the future. Any problems or concerns are also raised here and at a recent meeting the issue of the continual noise of a site generator was brought to the forums notice. Forum representatives immediately contacted BRL, who instructed the contractor to replace the generator with a quieter one.

Objecting to everything regardless, is not positive participation, all it achieves is to delay residents in the flats their right to decent housing in Ballymun. On the other hand working in partnership, difficult as it may be at times, can deliver a win-win situation for the majority of the community.

Structure of Neighbourhood Forums



Gardai Report €600,000 Drug Seizure Success

At a recent Coultury forum meeting Gardai representatives reported recent successes over drug seizures in the area. In October hauls of Cocaine, Cannabis and Ecstasy totalling over ?600,000 were made and recently there were further seizures of Speed and Ecstasy. The Gardai have set up a special drugs initiative unit targeting the Coultury area.

Forum secretary, Dave Mangan said “the forum are pleased with these recent successes, but more needs to be done on a wider scale as this is just one element of the anti-social problem in Ballymun and it requires the complete cooperation of all the agencies and community groups in the area”.

At this meeting the forum raised concerns about the

level of underage drinking in Ballymun. It was reported that children as young as 10 years of age under the influence of alcohol, were seen walking past Gardai and holding cans of beer in their hands on Halloween night!

It has also been reported that teenagers are being admitted to local pubs on a weekly basis and that they are also able to obtain alcohol from local off licenses by sending adults in for them!!

The forum has asked Gardai to look into these concerns as a matter of urgency.

Coultury 4 and 5 Housing Sites is Re-tendered.

In our august edition of “*Coultury Newsflash*” we published an update about the new housing and park for Coultury 4 & 5, to be sited on the large green area bordered by Coultury Gardens, Coultury Drive and Coultury Road. A meeting was due in September 2003 to announce plans.

Unfortunately the company who was awarded the contract withdrew from the project. This caused a delay as a new contract had to be drawn up with another company.

UPDATE

The good news is that another building contractor and architectural firm have been secured to develop the site.

The building contractor is Laing/O'Rourke and the architectural company is O'Mahoney Pike Architects and Coultury Forum members were invited to meet with them on Wednesday, November 19 in the Ballymun Civic Offices.

Site Manager , Kevin Kinsella outlined the sequence of building and infrastructure works. The sites will contain two housing projects and a community park. Environmental enhancing work will be carried along Coultury Drive where the existing

houses are.

Number and type of units in Coultury 4 and 5 as follows.

29 x A type (50m² - 2 bed)

41 x B type (60m² - 2 bed)

21 x C type (80m² - 3 bed)

26 x D type (90m² - 3 bed)

2 x E type (97m² - 3 bed)

Total 119

A Public exhibition of the Coultury 4&5 scheme will be held in Ballymun Civic Offices for the week beginning Monday 8th December.

Planning is due to be submitted to An Bord Pleannala on December 19th.

Regeneration Updates

Pierse Developments

Due to the fact that the forum felt that they were not adequately informed about the Plot 2 development before the plans were passed, nothing can be done to alter the development.

However, residents are taking a proactive approach to ensure that the contractor (Pierse) is not operating outside Planning Permission conditions, i.e. working outside normal hours.

Residents, with the help of the Forum have sent letters of complaint to the Planning Department regarding the working hours and other perceived health and safety issues.

Pierse Contracting have been dealing with all complaints presented to their representatives.

Demolition Update

At a recent Ballymun Neighbourhood Council, Regeneration Liaison Committee meeting, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd announced that the demolition programme is still delayed. However the demolition programme is expected to recommence after Christmas.

Coultury Forum is monitoring the situation and although people can no longer gain access to the empty flats it still could pose a security risk and attract anti social elements. The forum is also concerned about Health & Safety issues as it is certainly not conducive to healthy living.

Residents are encouraged to report all concerns to DCC and the Gardai.

Ballymun Gardai Station

01 666 4400

Garda Confidential Line

1800 666111

Dublin City Council

Ballymun Regional Office

01 675 5610

Coultury Neighbourhood Forum

7 Coultury Road
Ballymun
Dublin 9

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Email: coulturyforum@eircom.net

Forum Office is opened on:
Mondays and Wednesdays
10 am to 2 pm



By Maria Thompson

“Keep it Clean The GAP Way”

Ballymun is changing every day, and the vision for the New Ballymun isn't just about the aesthetics and building nice new houses, it's about rebuilding a community our community.

How do you think people view Ballymun? As somewhere that is clean and environmentally friendly, or somewhere with streets filled with litter. The environment we live in reflects what we do to it and when we throw litter on the ground it does make the area look messy and dirty.

As members of this community we have to accept a certain level of responsibility for its protection! We should take care not to inflict any more damage on our environment by taking action to improve it.

Are you environmentally friendly? Ask yourself the following questions?

- Do I value my surroundings?
- Do I have a sense of pride for my flat, house, garden or street?
- Does it matter to me if they are dirty, untidy and neglected?
- Do my actions make things worse?

Global Action Programme Ballymun was established in 2001 to increase awareness in Ballymun and help local people develop solutions to environmental issues in their community. They run a number of excellent projects in the area such as:



Beautiful Gardens: Free bulbs are available to brighten up your garden, and GAP will even come and plant them for you!

Green Wheelie Bins: GAP is currently knocking on doors to encourage people to use their green wheelie bins. They will even text or phone you to remind you when to put your green bin out! Things for your green bin include paper, card and food tins.

Other items such as plastic and glass bottles, plastic wrapping and aluminium cans can be brought to the recycling centre located in Silloge (block beside chip van) and Shangan (under flat 1, Shangan Rd).

Action Team for Adults: Meet new people, get free gifts and learn about the environment all at the same time!

If you would like more information on GAP's programme, contact Orla at 01-862 5846