



# Ballymun Update

November PRODUCE BY: Ballymun Neighbourhood Council 2003

## Confronting Anti-Social Activities Requires Combined Statutory and Community Response - say Residents.

The tremendous potential to create a bright new Ballymun, characterised by new housing, main street, neighbourhood centres, new Civic building, the proposed huge new Shopping Mall and Town Centre and a host of other building projects, is daily becoming a reality. Who would have thought six years ago that Ballymun would undergo such a change?

However there exists a darker side to living in Ballymun illustrated by police helicopters flying overhead, residents moving out of the area, a young lad is badly beaten up by youths, drug dealers delivering on motor bikes! No, we are not talking Los Angeles or anywhere else, this is the reality in parts of Ballymun, of serious anti-social behaviour.

The Board of Ballymun Neighbourhood Council (BNC) recognise that it is this dark side of Ballymun that needs to be effectively tackled. The Board believes that progress can best be achieved by all the key statutory and community agencies plus the Ballymun community working together for common objectives.

### Community Meeting

Ballymun Neighbourhood council has therefore, organised a series of meetings with the key sectors to see if a co-operative and co-ordinated

response to anti-social, anti-community actions can be delivered. The first such meeting took place on November 4<sup>th</sup> in Axis Centre to focus on residents concerns and was attended mainly by Forum and residents association's representatives.

The residents fully agreed with the assessment of the BNC Board that all the key agencies and the Ballymun residents must work together to resolve the issues, **Now!**

Having documented the issues raised by the residents present, BNC will invite all the relevant agencies including schools, Gardai, Dublin City Council, Councillors/TDs, Drugs Task Force, Ballymun Partnership and Youth Strategy Group among others, to meet on November 25.

This meeting will be Chaired by Peter Davitt, Chairperson of BNC. The meeting will be addressed by high profile persons who are living or working in Ballymun.

Mr. Davitt has said that the core purpose of the meetings is to identify the main issues of concern and seek ways of formulating a programme to deal with all aspects of anti-social activities. He emphasised the importance of such a programme delivering actions by the first quarter of 2004.

## Dublin City Council's Northwest Area Committee Order Removal of Shangan/Oldtown Wall and Consultation with Residents.

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In an effort to balance somewhat, the concerns of Oldtown residents (Santry) about anti-social activity and the public right of way for Ballymun people, the Dublin Northwest Area Committee has ordered the removal of a dividing wall between Shangan and Oldtown Road.

However, the wall which was a hiding place for anti-social elements will be replaced by a railing with a pedestrian opening in the middle of the rail. The area will be monitored by CCTV cameras and the Gardai have been requested to continue additional patrols in the area.

Commenting on the decision, Ballymun neighbourhood Council Manager, Brendan Boyle said: "The decision of the committee should be welcomed by all concerned. However the long-term security of the residents of both communities could be enhanced by continuing the Oldtown Road into Ballymun when the Shangan blocks are demolished. This would allow the Gardai to effectively police both areas".

**Further Developments**  
Following their decision, the Northwest Area Committee (NWAC) instructed Dublin City Council to carry out a consultation process with residents of Ballymun and Oldtown to seek a long-term solution to the issue. Liz Johnston, a resident of the Shangan area who attended at the DCC consultation said; "There appears to be a move to install a lock on the proposed railings gate which could see Ballymun residents effectively imprisoned after 9 pm at night. Such a backward proposal would not be acceptable in Ballymun".



## Habitat for Humanity - Report from Uganda.

Ballymun Neighbourhood Council Project Worker, Christine Healy could have had a holiday in a Spanish resort. Instead, she opted for two weeks voluntary labour, helping to build new homes for poor people in the former war-torn Uganda.



Building a new home. Christine and friends at work

using donations of money, labour and materials.

Once the houses are built they are sold to the families at no profit through an interest free loan. Monthly repayments are placed in a revolving fund to finance the construction of further homes. In encourages empowerment and gives dignity back to people who thought they had none.



Hoping for a peaceful future.



Traditional mud hut.

In her spare time, Christine is a volunteer worker with a charitable organisation called Habitat for Humanity' which encourages self-help home building.

More than 1.5 billion people, almost 25 percent of the world's population, live in substandard housing or have no home at all.

Housing charity, Habitat for Humanity (HFH) works in partnership with families in need of shelter to build simple, decent homes. HFH doesn't build houses for people; it builds **with** them. It works together with homeowners to construct the houses,



The finished product.

Christine and a team of 17 others built 3 houses in 2 weeks alongside the locals and families who would benefit from the houses. She said "It was amazing experience and one I would recommend to everyone, seeing the condition of the houses that people lived in was very humbling, it made me very grateful for what I have".

Habitat for Humanity Ireland can be contacted at: *Quadrant House, Chapelizod, D. 20. Mobile: 086-3842775. Email info@habitatireland.ie*

## GAP Ballymun Pilot Programme On Correct Green Wheelie Bin Usage

GAP (Global Action Plan) Ballymun has launched a pilot public education and awareness programme aimed at encouraging correct Green Wheelie Bin (GWB) usage in the Shangan Gardens area of Ballymun.

By inviting households in this area to receive Information and education literature, accompanied with ongoing motivational support, GAP hopes to show residents how to reduce their household waste through the use of GWBs to lessen the negative impact on the environment. This will be done over a 5-6 month time period.



GAP receiving an ESB/CVI Environmental Award for their Ballymun Schools Programme

"As Ballymun's population begins to move from high rise to low rise style housing, residents are now being expected to take responsibility for their own waste," said Jo Faulkner, Project Manager for GAP Ballymun.

If you are interested in further information about the GAP, programmes, please contact Orla at 01-862 5846.

## Ballymun Active Disability Group Issues Its First Major Report

If you find the heading of this article difficult to read, then you are on the road to understanding the difficulties of a visually impaired person.

Ballymun Active Disability Interest Group (BADIG) which was established in 1998, has been seeking to highlight the difficulties faced by the fairly large number of Ballymun residents who suffer from various disabilities, in the Ballymun regeneration process.

Their June 2002 Organisation Report should be required reading for the various agencies such as Dublin City Council and Ballymun Regeneration Ltd and not to forget, local politicians.

What is admirable about BADIG is not that they simply challenge the service delivery of statutory agencies, but that they seek to lead by example and challenge their own ability to serve their own present and future clients.

If the new Ballymun is to be a community that cherishes all its residents equally, then organisations such as BADIG must be listened to and supported. *Contact BADIG at Basement 5G Balbutcher Lane. Telephone and Fax: 01-8624593.*



Ballymun Neighbourhood Council may be contacted at: **Axis Centre, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 11. Telephone: 01-8832154 : 01-883215**  
*For information about 'Ballymun Update, or your local Forum 'Newsflash' then please contact: contact: Noel Martin at 01-8832154 or Email: noel.martin@axis-ballymun.ie*

## You Tell Us.

Ballymun Update are striving to give the best possible service information-wise to the Ballymun community. While we attempt at all times to give accurate information, from time-to-time inaccuracies may occur, for which we sincerely apologise.

We would therefore welcome your opinion on the quality of the publication and information contained in 'Ballymun Update' and your ideas as to how to make the publication more informative to you, the Ballymun residents.

Contact : Noel Martin, Ballymun Update  
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## BALCURRIS REGENERATION PROPOSALS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF BALLYMUN UPDATE.

## Are Building Contractors Ignoring An Bord Pleannala Planning Conditions In Ballymun?

The Ballymun regeneration programme cannot be carried out in silence and without a certain amount of dust and disruption. Most Ballymunners will and have at the end of the day, put up with a fair amount of discomfort in the interest of the future of the estate.

However, there is a great deal of anecdotal evidence from Forum meetings, that the patience of Ballymun residents is being sorely tested by unduly early start times and some late finishing times on some of the building sites.

### Planning Conditions

All the planning permissions granted by An Bord Pleannala to building

Contractors in areas such as Ballymun, carry certain conditions. An Bord Pleannala would have to bear in mind the health and safety aspects of the construction work that can effect the local residents i.e. noise pollution.

Therefore, as a planning condition, the Contractors are instructed not to start work before 8am and finish later than 6pm, Mondays to Fridays.

Where the Contractor operates on a Saturday, the work day is from 9 am to 1 pm. Anything over and above that must have the permission of the relevant BRL site architect.

## Coultrey Forum Initiative highlights the need for Collective Action to deal with Anti-Social Activities.

Coultrey Neighbourhood Forum were attempting for some length of time, to get the local authority to take action against the young hooligans who are dealing drugs and creating a reign of terror for local people.

With the assistance of Ballymun Neighbourhood Council Board and staff, the Forum, finally succeeded in getting Dublin City Council (DCC) to agree to shut down unused lifts in Block D and to seal up all the flats.

Coultrey Forum is adamant that Dublin City Council and Ballymun regeneration Ltd must seek the active assistance of the Gardai. If they fail to do so, they fear that the type of anti-social activity, including drug dealing that Coultrey residents are being subjected to, will be repeated in the other decanted blocks across the estate.

Coultrey Forum Chairperson said "We are firmly supportive of the proposal by Ballymun Neighbourhood Council for a unified effort to deal with the issues of crime, and other anti-social activities. Ballymun residents must feel as safe and secure walking our streets as we used to".

## Meeting for Residents of Coultrey Way

Following on from presentations in the Atrium of the new Civic building, of the Piers Construction Plot Plots 1 and 2, that the Coultrey Forum considered to be an unsatisfactory consultation process, the forum decided to organise a meeting themselves for the residents of Coultrey Drive.

Ballymun Neighbourhood Council staff had assisted the Forum in getting answers to a number of resident's questions e.g. the distances of the new buildings from their garden walls and height of the buildings etc.

The residents were also informed that the high block near the Main Street is quite narrow and it will only house thirty six individual residencies.

**Treasury Holdings outline New Town Centre proposals to Ballymun Neighbourhood Council**

Ballymun Neighbourhood Council, Mr. Kieran Fitzgerald of Treasury Holdings Ltd outlined ambitious and innovative plans for a new Ballymun Shopping Mall to replace the old shopping Centre.

To minimise disruption to the community and present tenants of the Ballymun Town Centre, the new shopping Mall will be built in two phases. All going well, construction of phase 1 should begin in 2004.

Ask any of the first Ballymun estate residents what was the major problem with the estate and they would say that the estate was never completed. By that they would mean that many facilities that are taken for granted in most areas the size of Ballymun e.g. recreation and local neighbourhood centres were not put into the Ballymun estate.



**Construction of Coultury Neighbourhood Facilities begins as construction of Santry Avenue (Coultury 3) housing moves towards completion.**

**Coultury Neighbourhood Facilities.**  
Following the decision by An Bord Pleanala to grant planning permission for the construction of the three sections of the proposed Coultury Neighbourhood facilities, Bennett Construction have begun to erect a site perimeter hoarding. The facilities are situated along the new access road into Coultury from Santry avenue.

The An Bord Pleanala decision includes several amendments to the original BRL application, after Coultury Forum made a planning observation about aspects of the designs and some residents objected to the entire project.

The facilities includes a retail and apartment block, a children's crèche and Forum and community offices.

**Coultury 3 Site.**  
The construction of one-hundred dwellings along Santry Avenue is

moving ahead rapidly. These dwellings will be the new homes mainly for residents of Sean Mc Dermott Tower. Completion date is expected to be December 4th 2003, however as experience has shown, snagging and other issues could delay the date/s for handovers to the new residents.



Most of these 100 new dwellings will house Sean Mc Dermott Tower residents.

**Treasury Holdings proposal puts Ballymun in the First League of Shopping Malls.**

Apart from other regeneration projects in the pipeline, the proposed new Mall will include a Multiplex Cinema and a huge area of recreation space.

Prospective home owners will have the option of purchasing one of the 550 apartments which are included in the Mall, some of which will be sold as affordable housing, according to Ciaran Murray of Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.

**Health / Safety / Consultation.**  
It was agreed with Mr. Fitzgerald that during the construction period, Treasury Holdings will attend the Ballymun Neighbourhood Council's Regeneration Liaison Working Group on a regular basis to deal with health and safety issues in consultation with the Neighbourhood Forums.

Alongside this, Ballymun Neighbourhood Council (BNC) and Forums will be supplied with Graphics and plans of the project. These will be put on display in Forum offices and BNC will seek to arrange displays and consultation sessions in the Axis Centre and the new Atrium of the Civic Centre.



The Town Centre apartment block will be situated between Sillogue Road and Ballymun Main Street.

Prospective home owners will have the option of purchasing from a selection of 550 apartments.



**Construction and Demolition Updates in Sillogue and Poppintree.**

- A Knowth Court site liaison group have been informed that work on constructing the realigned Carraig Road has been delayed while the local gas mains are renewed and diverted.
- Ballymun Regeneration Ltd have sent out questionnaires to residents of the courts, and carried out interviews at a random selection of dwellings. The BRL sample survey in the Courts, was to gauge local opinion regarding their proposals to demolish certain houses, create front-door parking, re-surface the internal area of the courts and build a relatively large

number of affordable dwellings for local people.  
BRL however made it clear to residents that even if there is a favourable response, financial and other considerations could well mean that the project may not be viable.

More next Issue.

