



BALLYMUN

REGENERATION NEWS

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Back row: (l - r) Writers; Maura Clancy, Joan Mc Donnell, Victoria Sargent, Ray Corcoran, Margaret Ellyn, Eileen Dennon, Eric Lalor, Anthony Furlong. Front row: (l - r) Alice Maher (artist), Joe Morelli, Lia Mills (facilitator/ editor), Daniel Seery, Drefus Kaye. Not in photograph, Karen Brady.

LOCAL WRITERS SET FOR SUCCESS

Launching "You Had To Be There!", a collection of short stories and poems by twelve first-time writers from Ballymun and the surrounding area just before Christmas, the award winning writer Roddy Doyle praised local talent and said he expects to see some best selling authors and successful plays emerging from Ballymun in the near future.

The new writers have been working together in an intensive Creative Writing project under the guidance of the novelist Lia Mills since March 2003 as part of Breaking Ground, the major Per Cent for Art programme which runs concurrent with the regeneration of Ballymun.

"I got the book and started reading it because I had to, but very quickly I was reading it because I wanted to. It is very engrossing because it's about Ballymun which is particularly fascinating, especially at the moment with the regeneration work going on," said Roddy Doyle. "It is extraordinarily good."

Renowned writers Roddy Doyle and Jimmy Murphy worked with the group to explore playwriting techniques and the novelist Sheila Barrett gave workshops on autobiography.

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Dublin City
Baile Átha Cliath

HEALTH & SAFETY
If you see anything outside of working hours that you are concerned about on the building sites please contact Ballymun Gardaí at 01-6664400

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Lia Mills and Roddy Doyle admire Alice Leahy's illustrations

The artist Alice Maher created a series of 21 drawings in response to the writing which are reproduced in the book and are on exhibition in Axis, Ballymun Arts and Community Centre from 11th December 2003 to 30th January 2004.

"We talked, laughed, wrote, read, argued and plotted future work," says Lia Mills who initiated and facilitated the project. "We took a lot of risks in our workshops and most of them paid off. If something didn't work, we tried it again, or tried it differently. We had a lot of fun. Somewhere underneath it all, we were always conscious of the process of writing itself, of its challenges and frustrations, its disciplines and surprises and above all, the sheer joy of it."

The creative writing group will continue to meet in the AXIS centre in 2004 as the "Tierney Group" to develop ideas, plots, unfinished stories and plays. The group is confident that more publications - and possibly other groups and projects - will emerge from this one in the future.

"**You Had To Be There !**" the 186 page limited edition book of stories is now available through Axis or Breaking Ground, Floor 2, Civic Centre, at a price of €7.00 or two for €12.00. For any further information please contact 675 5611.

News Briefs

Hoardings Art Project

A consequence of building 5,000 new homes and a whole new town is that Ballymun is inhabited by cranes, machines and building sites with lots of timber hoarding. A new cross community arts project has decided that the building sites do not have to be eye-sores and so plan to use the hoarding as a space for local people to create a range of artworks on.

Phase 1 of the project, focusing on the Balcurris area, was set up by the Balbutcher Balcurris Forum, the Columban Youth Project, BRYR, Breaking Ground, the Community Arts Factory and the Aisling Project. Ideas are currently being developed and groups are exploring the different themes and materials that they will use.

Other neighbourhoods within Ballymun are encouraged to develop similar projects and explore the possibilities for their own hoardings.

To find out more, contact Fiona Whelan, Breaking Ground at 01-675 5611 or Eithne Reilly, BRYR at 01-862 5049

Rage Against Waste

Noel Ahern, TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment presented 5-year old Brandon Doyle with a scooter donated by the Hemp Store for collecting nearly 9,000 bottles, cans and waste papers for recycling between July and October 2003. Brandon is a member of GAP Ballymun Bounty Hunters Club which works with children to increase recycling. For more info contact GAP at 862 5846.



Demolition Update

Subject to arrangements being finalised by the Health & Safety Authority the first demolitions are due to take place in early 2004. Seven blocks have now been vacated as the families have moved into their newly built homes and soft stripping of the empty blocks will continue.

Ballymun Regeneration People

Architectural Teams

Ali Grehan, David Byrne, and Derry Solon lead the three teams of architects currently working within Ballymun Regeneration.

Each team is responsible for co-ordinating all of the construction projects being carried out in their own area by building contractors. These include housing schemes and facilities like the Axis Centre on Main Street, the Ballymun Youth Facilities Centre Building - Phase 1 of which has already been constructed and Phase 2 of which is due to start on site early in 2004, and the Shangan 1 housing project which has proved to be very popular with the new residents.



Ali Grehan, Derry Solon and David Byrne

- Ali's team is responsible for the Coultry and Shangan Neighbourhoods.
- David's team is responsible for Poppintree and Balcurreis.
- Derry's team is responsible for the Sillogue and Sandyhill areas.

Planning Team

Ballymun Regeneration has a dedicated town planning team in the Ballymun Civic Centre. Sheena MacCambly is Senior Planner and there are two Assistant Planners, Will Coogan and Louise Treacy.



Will Coogan, Louise Treacy and Sheena MacCambly

The Planning Team ensures a workable balance is achieved between social, economic and environmental concerns throughout the regeneration programme. All of the specific work of the planning team stems from this overriding aim, and includes:

- dealing with legislative obligations under Irish planning law such as planning applications, Environmental Impact Statements, planning appeals, etc.
- liaising with Architects, Engineers, Dublin City Council, developers and the local population regarding the physical redevelopment of Ballymun
- advancing individual development projects, including housing, retail, community buildings, parks, offices, etc.

Get active for Ballymun



"Action Teams are the backbone of our work and we are delighted to announce that two new Action Teams began since September and the first Traveller's Action Team is scheduled to start in February 2004," says Jo Faulkner, GAP Ballymun Project Manager. "These additional Action Teams will bring the total to 23 and we are always delighted to hear from people who want to join."

Contact GAP Ballymun at 01-862 5846 for more information

Exhibitions in Ballymun Civic Centre

Coultry 4 & 5

"I was delighted to see that they are maintaining the park area and good luck with the housing, they look well laid out in their design" - quote from adjoining resident writing in the exhibition's comment book.

Coultry 4 & 5 Phase 3 housing scheme is for 119 houses and apartments and a small neighbourhood park between Coultry Drive, Coultry Crescent, Coultry Gardens and Coultry Road. It will also take in the area currently occupied by the last 8-storey flat block and a section of Coultry Road will be re-aligned as part of the works.

Following a public exhibition in Ballymun Civic Centre before Christmas, a planning application was made to Dublin City Council at the end of December 2003.

The drawings are still on view for anyone who wishes to view them. The scheme is being developed as a "Design-Build" contract by O'Mahoney Pike Architects and Laing O'Rourke Building Contractors.

Improving Shangan Gardens

Residents welcomed plans by Landscape Architects Cunnane Stratton Reynolds and DBFL Engineers to

improve public areas within Shangan Gardens. The plans, exhibited in Ballymun Civic Centre before Christmas, propose replacing existing drains, water-drains and public lighting and resurfacing roads and footpaths in the estate. As no planning permission is required, Ballymun Regeneration will soon invite tenders from Contractors to carry out the works which it is hoped can start in April 2004.

Whiteacre Park

Whiteacre Park will be a new and exciting park containing a children's playground, children's kick-about area, park benches and extensive planting, between Shangan Gardens and Whiteacre Crescent on the site of the second-last four-storey Shangan block. Plans for Whiteacre Park are still on view in Ballymun Civic Centre.

Designed by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds Landscape Architects, Whiteacre Park will be built as part of the Shangan 4 housing scheme, currently awaiting planning permission. As soon as the housing scheme receives planning permission tenders will be invited for its construction.

Leisure Centres Consultation Workshop

Ballymun Regeneration Limited and Dublin City Council's public consultation session in November regarding the Finglas and Ballymun Leisure Centres generated strong interest from the public and proved very worthwhile. Over 100 people attended from a diverse range of sectors throughout the area, including primary and secondary schools, childcare, youth, sports, older adults, community and voluntary, special interests and local councillors.

Following presentations on the two facilities, participants split into working groups to discuss issues such as opening hours, price structure, user groups and suggested use of the facilities.

The feedback from the working groups was very positive and each group expressed strong interest in using the new facilities to their full potential and in maintaining



Swimming pool in Ballymun Leisure Centre nearing completion

and supplementing their current swimming pool usage levels in the new facilities.