



# BALLYMUN

## REGENERATION NEWS

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*Celebration of Phase One Housing and Demolition Launch in the Civic Centre*

## 8 BLOCKS OF FLATS TO BE DEMOLISHED THIS YEAR INCLUDING PEARSE, MCDONAGH AND CEANNT TOWERS

**T**wo of Ballymun's seven 15-storey tower blocks, Pearse and McDonagh Towers and two 4 storey blocks in Sillogue could be demolished as early as mid-July, according to Noel Ahern, TD, Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal at the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

Speaking last week at a community celebration in Ballymun to mark the completion of re-housing the first 600 families in new homes in Ballymun, Minister Ahern said it is expected that Pearse, McDonagh and Ceannt Towers as well as two 4-storey blocks at Sillogue, two 4-storey blocks at Shangan and one 8-storey block of flats at Coultry will be demolished this year, with preparations starting immediately so that the first blocks could be demolished as early as July.

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**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



Dublin City  
Baile Átha Cliath

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Demolitions experts from the UK will prepare the eight blocks for demolition under the supervision of Irish Consultants Muir Associates.

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd and the Health & Safety Authority have now agreed a process whereby outstanding health and safety issues can be resolved. BRL will continue to work closely with the Health & Safety Authority throughout the demolition programme, which is expected to take at least six years. Artex wall and ceiling coatings containing asbestos will be removed from any affected areas in Phase 1 blocks before demolition.

"The demolition of the Phase 1 blocks of flats will be the strongest symbol yet of how Ballymun is changing. Anyone visiting the area now can see it growing into a new vibrant town with all the amenities people expect

like a Main Street, good public transport, parks, neighbourhood centres, leisure and arts facilities," said Minister Noel Ahern.

"Tests carried out in recent weeks suggest that asbestos may not have been used in the flat blocks built between 1965 and 1967, which includes half of the flats in Ballymun. We hope further tests will substantiate these results, paving the way for the early demolition of Pearse, McDonagh and Ceannt high rise tower blocks and the two 4 storey blocks in Sillogue neighbourhood", says Ciarán Murray, Managing Director, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.

There are a total of 36 blocks of flats in Ballymun, all of which will be demolished and replaced with at least 5,000 new homes over the next six years.

## PHASE 1 DEMOLITIONS 2004

PEARSE TOWER

MCDONAGH TOWER

CEANNT TOWER

TWO 4-STOUREY BLOCKS AT SILLOGUE

TWO 4-STOUREY BLOCKS AT SHANGAN

8-STOUREY BLOCK AT COULTRY

## Ballymun Regeneration Limited Summer Activities

**B**RL is organising summer activities for kids from the 19<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> August, with separate activities catering for under-eights and over-eights. The



*Fun and frolics – local children enjoy fun activities*

programme will include sports, play and arts and crafts . It will link into other local summer projects and will cater for 100 children every day. The programme will be implemented and co-ordinated jointly by Ballymun Regeneration's Sports Development Officer Emma Byrne and Play Development Worker Debbie Clarke @ (01) 6755660.

Activities include soccer, GAA, tag rugby, swimming, drama, dance and arts and crafts – to name just a few. On "Freaky Friday" a production or show will take place that will cater for approx. 200 children. There will be a celebration disco or performance for all the young people at the end of the summer activities. BRL's summer activities programme plays an important role in community development and provide the opportunity for local people to come together with an agreed objective to work positively for their own children and community.

## New Playground for Balcurris

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Royston Brady, has launched the first of twelve new playgrounds in Ballymun at Balcurris Park. Balcurris Playground has three separate sections;

- Toddlers Play Area for children aged 2 to 6 years
- Junior Play Area for children aged 6 to 12 years
- Teen Zone for 12-15 year-olds



Approximately 1 person in 5 in the new town of Ballymun will be under 14 years of age. BRL plans to have four large regional playgrounds for all age groups and eight playgrounds for smaller children. During construction there are temporary playgrounds in Coultrey, Shangan and Sillogue.



"Phase B of Balcurris Park, will be completed this year to coincide with the completion of 90 new homes", says Ciaran Murray, Managing Director, Ballymun Regeneration. The junior hurling pitch and bowling green in this phase will be ready for use next year.

Ballymun's new parks will enjoy extensive tree planting as well as small areas of natural woodland planting and shrub planting. Ballymun Regeneration is also committed to upgrading existing open spaces and providing a range of small parks and green spaces in housing estates. New parks and playgrounds are being developed on a phased basis to take into account the location of existing flats and the new building sites as well as local access needs.

## Ballymun Ballet



Pictured above are children from Ballymun practicing at their ballet class in the dance studio at Axis. Classes are run on Tuesday, Thursday and



Friday afternoons for children and adults, so if you would like further information call to the Axis Centre, Ballymun or call Eimir Mc Grath on 087 413 8101.

## National CVI / Vodafone Nature Award



**B**alcurris Aisling Project won the CVI Vodafone Nature award for their plans to develop the community garden they began work on last Autumn. The garden gave children an opportunity to experience gardening and learn how to grow beautiful and colourful plants. So far they have planted garlic, potatoes, flower bulbs, shrubs and even trees. With the funding from this award the group can continue developing the garden as well as making a trip to the National Ecology Centre in Co Meath to get inspiration to make the garden even more beautiful.

Pictured in the photograph are Sister Malen, Aisling project leader, Yasmin & Kyle, members of the Aisling Project, Mairead McGuinness, who presented the award and Simon Cocking from GAP Ballymun who is working with the Aisling project to create the garden.

## Amaptocare

"Who Cares?" inviting people who care to donate trees to Ballymun has been launched by artist Jochen Gerz. Anyone wishing to donate a tree can complete a leaflet and post it in the new **amaptocare** mailboxes located in the Civic Centre, BRYR and Tesco. The red mailboxes were made for amaptocare by Edel, Natascha, Tanya and Joanne from the Arts Factory. Joanne, one of the many people to have donated trees so far, said "I see this as a chance to dedicate something special to my child. The people who live here have a chance to own a part of Ballymun". She is looking forward to bringing her child to see their tree. Donors will also have their names engraved into the pavement of the new Civic Plaza creating a Hollywood style walk of fame.



**The answer to the mystery tree competition, sponsored by Coillte, was the Cedar.**

**Congratulations to Lorraine Kavanagh who wins a cedar to donate to amaptocare.**

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