



# BALLYMUN

## REGENERATION NEWS

DECEMBER 2004 ISSUE 43

### INSIDE

- Minister turns sod on new youth facility
- World premier for Ballymun
- Minister praises regeneration project
- €2.5 million for Ballymun Horse & Animal Centre
- Tell us what you think



## BALLYMUN'S FIRST NEW PARK OPENS THIS DECEMBER

**S**hangan Park, the first of the new parks, was opened on 9th December. Residents living in Shangan and Coumtry attended the opening ceremony.

The park is enclosed on all sides by existing and new housing. The space used to be a pedestrian through-route and residents' wishes to retain this feature were taken into account.

- Children can climb, swing, use the roundabout and rocker. People can also test their skill at basketball.
- The central hard surface area will allow small children to ride their bikes and other areas should present challenges for older kids.
- Low cut bamboo and willow plants can be used as a "maze" or hiding place for smaller children. Steps on the east side will allow adults to sit and watch their children while they play. You can stop for a while to talk to neighbours or have a picnic in summer.



*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year*

#### HEALTH & SAFETY

If you see anything outside of working hours that you are concerned about on the building sites please contact Ballymun Gardaí at 01 666 4400



Dublin City  
Baile Átha Cliath

*continued page 2*

continued from page 1

- The entrance is planted with small trees and low ground cover planting will bring colour into the park all year round. The larger cherry and mountain ash trees will provide flowers in Spring and berries and coloured leaves in Autumn.

One of the very special features of the park will be 10 bronze sculptures of giant ants, made by local people as part of the Breaking Ground Per Cent for Art project. The sculptures were cast in bronze casting workshops by the artist Dave Kinane and local people.



Minister Dick Roche, TD, and Pat Carey, TD, visiting Pauline Waters and her daughter at their home in Forrestwood Avenue

Dick Roche, TD, the new Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, visited Ballymun recently

and was very impressed by the progress that had been made so far. Minister Roche, visited the new housing schemes and Pauline Waters proudly showed the Minister around her new home in Forestwood Avenue.

With 1,313 new homes under construction and with more than 740 families already moved into their new homes nobody can still doubt that the regeneration is well and truly happening. While new housing is essential, we are not forgetting about the importance of new community facilities like the new pool and leisure centre due to open in March 2005.

BRL welcomes the two new supermarkets. Other shops and services will follow shortly when the Poppintree and Coultry Neighbourhood Centres are completed early next year. Both centres will include houses and apartments for sale at affordable prices. The Coultry Neighbourhood Centre includes a new creche that will be operated by Glor na nGael.

## €2.25 million for Ballymun Horse and Animal Centre

The Minister for Agriculture, Mary Coughlan TD, came to Ballymun recently to announce that her Department was allocating €2.25 million for the Ballymun Horse and Animal Centre.

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd and Dublin City Council lobbied the Department of Agriculture and worked very closely with the Department over the years for this project. Together with BACA we are very pleased with Minister Coughlan's announcement. The land earmarked for the scheme has full planning permission so the project can now go on site very quickly.

Minister Coughlan said that the Control of Horses Act 1996 had been effective in reducing the problem of wandering horses. The Act allows for the detention and seizure of horses, the application of control areas and licensing arrangements.

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd is very committed to ensuring that the Ballymun project for horses is built and run to the highest standards with a management committee representing the various interest groups overseeing the project.



Cianan Murray, BRL, Tommy Spooner, BACA, Vickie McElligott, BACA, Minister Mary Coughlan, TD, Gerry Sally, architect and Bernard O'Rourke, BACA

The Minister referred to similar projects in Cherry Orchard and Fettercairn, where young people have been equipped with skills in relation to managing and caring for horses alongside a broader education, training and life skills dimension. The ultimate objective of urban horse projects like these is to enhance the employment and career prospects of the young people involved and improve their quality of life.

## World premiere for Ballymun

Congratulations to Ballymun's Axis centre where Dermot Bolger's new play **'From These Green Heights'** was premiered to rave reviews. The play was directed by Ray Yeates, Axis Art Director.

This was Dermot Bolger's first new play in over five years and was commissioned by Axis. It was also the first professional theatre production by Axis. It follows on from Dermot Bolger's 'The Ballymun Incantation', so successfully performed at 'The Demolition Wake' in July 2004.

The play stars Vincent McCabe as Christy, Alan King as Dessie, Melanie Grace as Marie, Anne Kent as Carmel, Ann O'Neill as Jane, Doireann Ní Chorragain as Tara. The play also marks the professional stage debut of two young Ballymun actresses Karen Brady and Catherine Barry. Robert Ballagh was the design associate for the production, with costume design by Marie Tierney, lighting by Conleth White and original music by Mark O'Brien.



*Vicent McCabe and Alan King*

**AXIS is located behind the Civic Centre, Main Street, Ballymun. Booking Phone 883 2100**

## Minister turns sod on new youth facility

Noel Ahern, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, led local people, including parents and young people, at the 'Turning of the Sod' to mark the construction start of Phase 2 of the Ballymun Central



*'Turning of the sod'*

Youth Facility. Known locally known as "The Reco", the centre is being developed at a cost of approximately €3 million and is due to open in 2005. The new enlarged

centre will have the capacity to host activities for over 100 young people at any one time.

There are many organisations involved in developing and funding this project particularly Ballymun Youth Development Group, Ballymun Regional Youth Resource (BRYR), Dublin City Council, ROUND EU Urban Initiative and BRL.

Donnacadh Hurley (BRYR Programme Manager) believes that the biggest challenge facing the Reco is to develop effective management to make maximum use of this great new resource for young people in Ballymun. "BRYR is there to meet the needs of young people and this can only happen with sufficient revenue resources. Ireland has a reasonably good record of providing facilities but centres like this one will only work properly if there is enough money to run programmes and employ sufficient trained staff so that young people will want to come in and use the centre. This is the challenge facing BRYR in the future".

Eimear Whitfield, who manages the Reco on a day to day basis, wants all young people in Ballymun aged between 10-21 years to feel comfortable and energised by the time they spend in the centre.

She thinks it should be the hub of youth development in Ballymun.

## Tell us what you think

**N**ow that we have more than 400 families living in new homes for more than a year we want to find out how people are finding the change. So BRL has employed FORUM, an independent Market Research Company, to carry out research among these 400 families. The research will establish how people have adjusted to the move and to help BRL to prioritise areas for improvement.

The market research will cover a broad range of issues, including:

- what people like and dislike about living in their new homes
- what impact their new homes have on people's lives (including self esteem and social life, etc) and how well have people adjusted to living in the new homes
- how new neighbourhoods are forming
- what impact new homes have on anti social-activities
- how effective have the training programmes been
- what people miss most and least about the old flats

The research will involve three group discussions between 6 or 8 residents and each discussion will last between 1½ to 2 hours. The discussions will be held in the Axis Centre and the research company will ensure that there is a good mix of men and women and people from different life stages, including single people, those with children, pre-retired and retired people.

After the group discussions are complete, there will be 150 face-to-face interviews, each lasting about 15 minutes. If you are contacted by FORUM, we hope you will take part in the survey. We want to hear what you think.



### Monthly Competition Winner October 2004

Congratulations to Ms. Cecilia Morgan  
who will receive a one year AXIS Arts Friends Scheme membership

### Ballymun Windband Video

will be screened on TG4 Wednesday 22nd December at 11pm

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