



BALLYMUN

REGENERATION NEWS

November/December 2008 Issue 73

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On the 3rd December, Councillor Bill Tornley switched on the Christmas tree lights at Ballymun Civic Plaza. The Christmas Tree lights are powered by a low energy unit and will only cost approx. 60 cent per day to illuminate!

We wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2009!

HEALTH & SAFETY

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



The Artane Boys Band performing in the Atrium for the Christmas tree lighting up event.

BALLYMUN CIVIC PLAZA

The main feature of the new design is an oval-shaped amphitheatre cascading down from the Plaza level to form a generous lower level entrance to the Metro. One of the principal aims of the design is to maximise overlooking of the Metro entrance in order to increase the security and safety of the stop.

The overall design of the Plaza will allow for the staging of large-scale public events such as theatre, performance, markets and suchlike. There will be sheltered spaces at the upper and lower level suitable for outside dining and seating.

BRL have been working closely with the developers of the Shopping Centre to ensure that the finishes in the Civic Plaza are carried into the forecourt of the new Shopping Centre and through to the centre square of the development.

High quality finishes are proposed for the landscaping throughout the plaza with stone surfaces, bollards and benches. A water feature will run around the outer edge of the upper level of the Plaza in front of a backdrop of trees in raised stone planters.

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A glass pavilion with a copper roof will be located at the northern edge of the space along Shangan Road. This will house a number of the Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) services including lifts and vents. A café will overlook the Metro entrance over two levels and a foyer at the east end of the building will form the entrance to the lower level uses under the Plaza. There will also be a small kiosk facing Main Street and an internet café.

The Metro will be entered from the lower ground level. It will also be possible to enter the cafe from this level. A leisure facility is also proposed for this level – to be located under the main part of the Plaza. This will be accessible from both levels.

In the basement level below the Leisure facility it is proposed to provide an extension to the Civic Centre car park for public use. This will house approximately 120 spaces. Pedestrian access to and egress from the carpark is to be provided via lift and stairs adjacent to axis arts & community resource centre.

It is proposed to begin the Part 8 planning process for the Plaza during the month of December.



Daytime aerial view from the southwest

The drawings will be exhibited in the Atrium of the Civic Offices.

Dublin celebrates its 'Unsung Heroes'

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Eibhlin Byrne presented Dublin City Council's Unsung Heroes awards in the Round Room of the Mansion House on Tuesday 2nd December last. Over 350 Unsung Heroes were nominated for a 'Super Hero Award' including our very own Ballymun residents Alex and Daphne Sproule. Unsung Heroes are people of all ages from every community in Dublin, who give their time, energy and skills for free to others in the community.



'Super Hero Award' winner Sean McGuinness with Lorraine Keane at the Unsung Heroes awards in the Mansion House

According to Lord Mayor Eibhlin Byrne, "All the Unsung Heroes have one thing in common – they have put others first. They make a hugely important contribution to the life of this city and its communities.

We often hear that in today's society people aren't as community-minded as they were in the past but the Unsung Heroes have set a wonderful example and shown us what is possible. With citizens like our Unsung Heroes Dublin's future is bright."

The awards, which are now in their fourth year, are organised and run by Dublin City Council, and all Unsung Heroes are nominated by the public.

Another great example of community spirit is Sean McGuinness, who plays saxophone voluntarily every Wednesday at the Friends of the Elderly Social Club in Ballymun. He is 90 years old and has been a musician since he was 14.



Daphne and Alex Sproule accept the special 'Super Hero Award' from Lord Mayor Eibhlin Byrne

The new Sillogue Neighbourhood Centre

A new facility for the elderly has opened its doors to Ballymun this October. The new Sheltered Housing complex on the Sillogue Road, called 'Marewood Court', has been developed by Clúid Housing Association to a design by Fionnuala Rogerson Architects. The scheme reached completion in mid-October and the apartments within the building are gradually becoming occupied.



Bracegrade Ltd has constructed the building to a high standard of finish. It incorporates forty-one, one- and two- bedroom apartments plus two guest bedrooms wrapped around a secluded inner courtyard, along with landscaped gardens, reception, office, laundry, resource room and communal facilities that include a function room, lounge and a catering kitchen facility (funded by Ballymun Regeneration Ltd). In addition to all of this there have been two small houses constructed on the site.



Also included in the overall design, though not yet complete, are four new retail units facing on to Sillogue Road, and a new area office for Dublin City Council and the Sillogue Forum at the corner of Sillogue Road and Sandyhill Gardens. It is expected that these elements of the design will be fully complete by the end of November although it is not yet known who will be occupying the four retail units.



The architects have chosen a selection of bright colours for the interior of the building and the good use of natural light ensures it is a pleasant place to be. It is intended that the communal facilities will be available for the use of both the occupants of the apartments and the residents of the existing sheltered housing in Sandyhill Gardens and the wider community.



Don't forget, Ballymun Farmers Market every Thursday

Ballymun encouraged to take healthy steps

Slí @ Work, an Irish Heart Foundation initiative, designed to promote exercise from the workplace was launched in Ballymun Civic Centre on Thursday 9th October 2008 by Sharon Daly of the Irish Heart Foundation.



Ballymun Tidy Towns committee has worked with the Irish Heart Foundation to develop a 1.5km 'Virtual' Slí Route, which can be used by both staff and customers of the Ballymun Civic Centre. In particular BRL, BNC,

HSE and GAP were instrumental in developing this route.

This Slí @ Work programme is the first part of a series of initiatives to promote healthy living and active citizenship by the Ballymun Tidy Town's committee. We will be encouraging various walking groups and other similar activities in the future.

The Irish Heart Foundation recommend walking for at least 30 minutes on most days for maximum health benefits. Physical activity reduces the risk for several chronic illnesses including heart disease and obesity.

Ireland has the highest rate of death from heart disease in Europe. Every year almost 10,000 people die from heart attack and stroke. Almost 5,000 die from sudden cardiac arrest. This represents almost 35% of all deaths within the overall population. (CSO 2008).

Other organisations who have set up Slí @ Work virtual routes include: RTE, Independent Newspapers, Iarnród Éireann, St. Vincents Hospital, Hertz Ireland, Intel, Waterford IT, Dept of the Environment, Department of Health and Children and all DART stations.

Come out for a stroll and check out the Ballymun Slí!

axis

Little Red Riding Hood

8th to 25th January 2009

- Time: Performances Weekly Thursday to Sunday 2.00pm (Sat & Sun) & 7.30pm (Thurs & Fri)
- Tickets: €12/7 (All tickets on Thurs performances €6)
- Company: Holding Court Theatre Group

Local Christmas Panto for all the Family



**Ballymun has won
The Green Community Award at the
Greener Ireland Awards in December**

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