



Construction of future replacement housing schemes

Since the beginning of the regeneration project 1,460 new replacement homes have been completed for the residents previously living in the flats in Ballymun. There are a further 311 new replacement homes under construction this year.

The regeneration of Ballymun is heading into a different financial climate since its inception in 1997. The effects of the slowdown in the economy has meant there is likely to be a slow down in the delivery of Government funding to complete the project. The impact of the slowdown in funding will mean that future social housing schemes will be delayed. BRL is waiting for confirmation of its budget allocation from the Department of Environment Heritage

and Local Government (DoEHLG) however it is likely that there will not be any new housing schemes started this year. The future housing schemes affected by the slow down are those targeted for Phase 4 construction: Shangan 5A, Shangan 5B, Coultry 6, Sillogue 8, Sillogue 9, Balcurris 6, Balcurris 7A, and Balcurris 7B.

The BRL team have been working to ensure that these schemes go through the planning process and all documents are ready for the schemes to go to tender. When we know the budget that can be given to the Ballymun regeneration project the Phase 4 housing schemes with planning and tender packages prepared can then be prioritised for construction.



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REGENERATION NEWS

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Ciaran Murray (BRL) accepts the Green Community Award from Edel Clancy (Musgrave Group)

BALLYMUN COMMUNITY WINS A GREEN MEDAL

Ballymun added another feather to its cap last month by winning the Green Community category at Ireland's first ever Green Awards. The Green Community Award was open to any village, town or city or other local community that is leading the way in ensuring a collective approach to more sustainable living.

The panel of judges including the well-known environmentalist, Duncan Stewart, and representatives from leading environmental businesses and consultancies, were impressed by the many and varied Green initiatives across the Ballymun community, including Ballymun's award-winning Tidy Towns Committee, the innovative Rediscovery Centre and its Biodiversity Action Plan.

"2008 has been a very good year for the Ballymun. This Green Award is a great result for all the hard work and creativity which the whole community has put in to making Ballymun a vibrant and green place to live," said Ciarán Murray, Managing Director of Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. The variety and

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creativity of the Green initiatives in Ballymun show how this community has truly gone Green. Ballymun is setting national best practice standards for waste management at the Rediscovery Centre, where a civic amenity site, resource recovery centre and an educational resource help us all to prevent waste through reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering. The weekly farmers' market sells organic produce, recycled materials and local arts and crafts. Ballymun has already been recognised for its commitment to Green procurement and Fairtrade by being named Dublin's first Fairtrade town in 2006.

Ballymun has also turned its attention to nature with the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan, the first sub-regional plan to be developed in Ireland. In this Ballymun is leading the way for small communities to take action to protect and improve their natural environment.

BRL works with local businesses and community groups such as Global Action Plan to ensure that awareness of the environment runs through every aspect of life in Ballymun. Even the rubble from the original tower blocks has been recycled!

Ballymun is blazing a trail as Ireland's top Fairtrade Town

On 27th September 2008, Ballymun was awarded Fairtrade Town of the Year at a Fairtrade towns meeting in Clonakilty, Co. Cork. The Fairtrade Towns Awards is a national competition organised by FAIRTRADE Mark Ireland. Ballymun beat off stiff competition from other Fairtrade towns and cities.

Ballymun was chosen as Fairtrade Town of the year based on the efforts to promote Fairtrade products with local businesses and through a variety of school and youth initiatives. Global Action Plan organises workshops in all 11 of Ballymun's schools to teach students about the Fairtrade concept and to allow them to sample Fairtrade juices, bananas and chocolates. The Travelodge Hotel is the flagship project in Ballymun for Fairtrade products and 35 other local businesses and organisations either supply and/or use Fairtrade products, with new organisations joining all the time.

"A lot of hard work and dedication is required to gain the status of Fairtrade Town. Ballymun Fairtrade Initiative has worked to create greater understanding of Fairtrade and to ensure Fairtrade products are widely available in businesses and shops. Gaining Fairtrade Town status is a measure of commitment rather than a badge of honour." Melanie Drea, Project Manager, FAIRTRADE Mark Ireland.

The Ballymun Fairtrade Committee was established in 2005 and Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (BRL) adopted a

Fairtrade policy which captured the imagination of the local community. In November 2006, Ballymun became Dublin's first Fairtrade Town.



Ian Callanan (Ballymun Fairtrade), Lord Mayor, Eibhlín Byrne, and Ciaran Murray (BRL) with the Fairtrade Town of the Year Award

"Three years ago Ballymun Regeneration Ltd and Dublin City Council decided to adopt a Fairtrade policy and we have been supporting the work of the Ballymun Fair Trade Steering Committee since then. We congratulate them and everyone in Ballymun who supports Fairtrade – this is their Award, too," Ciaran Murray, Managing Director, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd.

Bringing Fairtrade to young people in Ballymun

Global Action Plan has been running Fairtrade-related educational programmes in Ballymun for several years now. The aim is to raise awareness amongst young people on issues such as global justice,

unfair trade and the impact that we have as consumers on producers in developing countries. Workshops are run in schools throughout the year with a particular emphasis around Fairtrade fortnight. Students

get to taste Fairtrade products and learn about the principles of Fairtrade.

Students in Ballymun have responded positively to Fairtrade workshops, which have resulted in students taking some really positive action. For example, during Fairtrade fortnight 2008, students at Trinity Comprehensive School in Ballymun sent over 1,000 pencils and 300 pens to Fairway Primary School in Uganda following a visit from Nimrod Wambette, a Ugandan Fairtrade Coffee Producer and primary school teacher. The students were very taken by Nimrod's story and wanted to help his school. "It really opened my eyes to what is happening over there," said one of the Fourth Year students.

Another regular feature of Fairtrade fortnight is the Fairtrade football tournament. This has become a highlight of the fortnight's activities for the Aisling Project participants. The children battle it out on the

pitch, armed with ethically sourced footballs, Fairtrade food and drinks and Fairtrade goodie bags for the winners!



Ugandan Fairtrade coffee producer, Nimrod Wambette at the Trinity Comprehensive School in Ballymun with members of the Gap team and Trinity students

Fairtrade for producers and retailers

It's a funny old world. Whilst we in Ireland are beginning to feel the economic pinch in many facets of our lives and the media is whipping up a storm to accompany our perceived ills, the world's poorest people have been getting steadily poorer over the last 20 years. Farmers the world over are faced with prices for their goods that no longer cover the costs of production. Take coffee for example; taking inflation into account, the money farmers make from coffee can only buy 25% of what it could 40 years ago.

Given that coffee is second only to crude oil as the world's most traded commodity, it isn't difficult to imagine how many people are affected by these low prices. It is because of this glaring inequality that Fairtrade works with small farmers and communities on achieving a fair price for their products. This has made a huge difference to the lives of many the world over. We in Ireland have played our part in bringing about this change simply by buying more and more Fairtrade products! In fact, figures from 2007 show that sales of Fairtrade products in Ireland grew by an incredible 101% that year, more than double the global average! But Fairtrade is about people, not statistics. Raul del Aguila, a Peruvian coffee farmer noted, 'No other certification system but Fairtrade guarantees that small producers get a decent return for their hard work'.

Retailers in Ireland have played a large part in offering an increasing variety of Fairtrade goods. Robert Murphy, general manager of SuperValu on Ballymun Road, has been selling Fairtrade products for 3 years and is very proud that Ballymun was not only Dublin's first Fairtrade town but is also the current holder of the Fairtrade Town of the Year award. Robert says, 'I am delighted that Fairtrade products continue to prove so popular with our customers. Hopefully more people will become aware of the benefits of buying Fairtrade products in terms of quality for them and also because of the real difference it makes to the lives of people around the world'.



Robert Murphy, General Manager, SuperValu and Siobhan Walsh, Floor Manager pictured with some of the Fairtrade products sold in SuperValu