
Ballymun Concrete News

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Latest News - One Page Newsletter

Hi-Tec Art and Civic Centre For Ballymun By: Seamus Kelly.

A new cultural experience is about to hit Ballymun as a new arts and civic centre costing £2.2m out of urban development funds is expected to be built in the area within the next eighteen months. The building is to be located next to Thomas McDonagh tower which is planned for demolition early in the year 2,000.

Everything from Drama, Art, to a hi-tech recording studio and facilities will be located in the art centre. But above all local community groups are to have a managing role in the future of the centre. It is expected that a number of community groups presently working from basement flats in the area will be accommodated in the building.

According to Mr. Sean Cooke Arts and development officer of the Ballymun Partnership, the arts centre and civic offices will be linked together as one building. "The whole of the building as a centre, is a community facility, he said, and is being designed in consultation with the local residents.

I think there is a vibrant community here, I did some research in 1996 and there is a massive groundswell of arts activity in the area that's hidden," he added.

Mr. Cooke claimed this research showed at the time that eight per cent of the population of Ballymun are involved in arts and cultural activity. He said that Ballymun is at a point within the development of the whole new Ballymun, where there is an opportunity to portray this type of cultural identity. "I think a cultural perspective in relation to development is an essential part of that."

People will be involved in the management of the centre and Mr Cooke believes this will help to sustain the centre over the years. "There is a sense of ownership and people will see this as a classy hi-spec building.

It will be used in a manner, he claimed, which will facilitate the needs of the community." He indicated that they will at some point need to source funding from the arts council and central government to ensure the smooth running of the centre. "Our business plan should outline those different things and when it does we will have to take the necessary steps to find that money," he added. Mr. Cooke indicated that the Ballymun Partnerships role in this project, is to draw on the various different types of funding for the centre and "help the community take charge and develop these projects."

Editorial



Welcome to the Ballymun Concrete News. This is a first

for Ballymun with up to date local news on one page. Just pick a copy up from your local newsagents free of charge.

From time to time news comes up which is either too localised for Nationals or late for publication in Local papers. This is the reason for the Ballymun Concrete News, it fills the gap. There has been too much negative news hitting the daily papers over the years and it's time to put the facts straight. I've been trying to do just that over the past two years in National and Local papers.

I have received welcome recognition from the community, Gardai, and other bodies in the area for my coverage in newspapers on Ballymun issues. Hopefully this will continue, it depends on editors of National papers. I think by this stage some of them are fed up with me trying to get as much good coverage as possible.

My work has been published in Irish Independent, Irish Times, Star, Evening Herald, Irish Mirror, Sunday Independent and of course the Sunday World. Not to forget your favourite's the Northside People and Local News. **Editor: Seamus Kelly.**

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