

# Ballymun Concrete News

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## News letter

### **Ballymun Residents Will Cheer Demolition of Flats, Say's E.U. Commissioner. By: Seamus Kelly.**

E.U commissioner Padraig Flynn in a visit to Ballymun on Friday, said that Ballymun residents will be celebrating when the flats are demolished to make way for the proposed £280m redevelopment of the area. Over the next eight to ten years the proposed demolition of the high rise and surrounding blocks, will make way for a whole new town. "I know the kind of cheers there will be when they are coming down. Take pictures before they take them down," said commissioner Flynn.

He was addressing a group of Ballymun representatives at Stormanstown House who included members of the Ballymun Housing Task Force, Fountain Project, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd, and the New Opportunities for Women (NOW) Project group. Local politicians were also present.

On the idea of a complete new town being rebuilt Mr. Flynn said: "a new town only happens once in a lifetime. You are the people who are going to decide what it is like". He indicated that not every house or area should look the same "a little individuality, and a little style," he advised. The Ballymun community are to take part in the redevelopment process of the new town through consultation with the planners and architects.

Mr. Flynn said that with the adjacent Dublin Airport, Ballymun is the perfect site for the new town. "You couldn't get a better place if you tried". Speaking on the private interested groups coming into Ballymun, he said residents should welcome them with open arms. "It only works if you the natives, welcome outsiders. We have to create a social Europe, a social Ballymun. There's no other new town being created in Ireland,

if you do it right you can sell it anywhere," he added. In his concluding remarks Mr. Flynn said: "there is nobody in any part of Dublin better than you"

Mr. Peter Davit of the Ballymun Job Centre and Chairperson of the housing task force, presented Mr Flynn with a copy of Ann Power's book: Estates On The Edge as a mark of his visit to Ballymun. He told the commissioner that Ballymun is going through a transition phase. "Commissioner, Ballymun is changing, This is down to the Ballymun community." On the job prospects for local residents in the construction of the new town he said: "We don't want to get all the jobs, but we want our share."



Three Cheers for New Houses.

### **Editorial**

Perhaps Mr Flynn should have reversed his remarks and said Ballymun residents will be cheering when they get their new

'houses', and not: cheer for the demolition of the flats. Some residents will perhaps cry a few tears when they're gone. There might be some happy memories of times spent in their homes over the past 30 years.

He also say's we should welcome outsiders. If he is referring to private development bringing new jobs to Ballymun, then I welcome this with open arms. But if the interpretation is that outsiders get precedence over Ballymunners when it comes to being housed then I say No, Ballymun residents come first. When all Ballymun residents are accommodated in the new dwellings and only then, that's when outsiders will be more than welcome to get new homes in Ballymun. As for BRL giving residents a real say in the redevelopment process of the new town, I hope this commitment is being fully honoured to the letter.

### **Editors Note:**

I would appreciate readers comments and ask you to address them to: **The Editor Ballymun Concrete News c/o Spar Store Ballymun Shopping Centre Ballymun Dublin 11 or Phone 086-819935.**

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