

# Ballymun Concrete News

Volume 1 Issue 24 Created and Produced By: (c) Seamus Kelly Tel: 8425174 or 086-8199935

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## Newsletter

### **£250,000 Raised For Ballymun Animal Centre. By Seamus Kelly**

Over £250,000 in funding has been raised by two women for the setting up of a unique all animal centre in Ballymun. The centre which is expected to be the first of its kind in Ireland is proposed to cater for horses and all animals in need of shelter, care and veterinary treatment. Under the umbrella of BACA (Ballymun Animal Caring Association) both Dog's Aid and the Ballymun Horse Owners Associations aim, is the protection and welfare of all animals.

According to BACA some of the proposals for the animal centre are to include a veterinary hospital, stables for horses, kennels for dogs, and special areas for other animals. It is expected that a ten acre site needs be secured for the project to be successfully completed. Other programmes will incorporate subsidised riding lessons, training courses in animal and medical care. General work experience opportunities, riding for the disabled and pets as therapy are also included in the project. It is also hoped that education in this area will lead to employment opportunities for young people.

Mrs Victoria McElligott chairperson of BACA and the Ballymun Horse Owners Association and Ms Maggie Howard Secretary of Dog's Aid, worked together in raising the funds for the proposed animal shelter to make their vision of an animal centre in Ballymun come true. "We receive funding through the work we do for animals and through BACA we applied for funding all over the place. We also received a pledge of £20,000 from the Ballymun Partnership.

I can safely say at this moment we have secured a quarter of a million pounds. But we do need matching funds to bring

us up to a total development cost of in the region of £600,00. The majority

of our funding comes through private donations," said Ms Howard.

Pointing out that Dogs Aid don't have proper facilities to cater for all animals she said. "we take them into our own homes so we are in desperate need of a proper shelter for all animals." From her organisations point of view, Ms Howard felt the centre could provide a better quality service for animals. "There are plans to include a Veterinary Hospital who's main function is to treat, neuter, and generally care for sick and injured animals. There will be a cattery for cats, kennelling and exercise areas for dogs dog training and agility. This will be open to the general public. I think it's brilliant that Dogs Aid are included in the project," she said.

Mrs Victoria McElligott of BACA said that the Ballymun Horse Owners Association work with local people to maintain the Dublin working class culture. "There has been horses in this area for 18 years. They are kept at an old derelict Workmen's Club which was converted into stables where the horses are well looked after. However, there is a need for a more permanent facility where the horses can be made available for the wider community and training provided in caring for the animals," she said. She also believes young people would benefit greatly by being involved in the caring for horses and other animals in a more structured centre.

"Under the Control of Horses Bill 1996 legislation, many urban horses may be liable for confiscation by the local

authority. The removal of these animals would leave many young people and children without a positive social outlet," she said. With training young people

working with horses at the new project, Mrs McElliott said: "through training and equine skills, we would hope to enter some of our horses and riders in a national horse riding show."

As BACA receive strong support from the Dublin Business Innovation Centre, Mrs McElligott said: "we are grateful to the BIC who have supported us from day one." Mr Gerard Cashin of the BIC commenting on the project said: "the project has received considerable support through professional services and advice through the Dublin Business Innovation Centre." According to BACA, funds were raised through various sources including the Ballymun Partnership and the Dublin Business Innovation Centre.

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Also a number of private individuals and organisations giving a total £184,500 plus other donations for ongoing costs giving a total of just under £250,000 (Mrs McElligott also believes there is funding in place through the Department of Agriculture for these type of projects.) In addition BACA has made applications for grants which they hope will be somewhere in the region of £300,000. The constructions costs are: Stabling £110,000. Kennelling £25,000. Siteworks £150,000. and Veterinary clinic £65,000. This gives a grand total of £350,500 for initial building costs. On board the BACA committee are representatives from; the Ballymun Horse Owners Association, Dog's Aid, An Garda Siochana, Dublin Corporation, Dublin Innovation Centre, and the Ballymun Partnership.



**Note:**

Beginning with this issue I am introducing a 'letters to the editor' spot and news extra on this page. Readers might want to express their views on issues concerning Ballymun. If you feel you have something to say and get off your chest then put pen to paper and send it to address at the top of this page. Please keep letters short and to the point. News Extra is for short snippets of late news.

**The Ballymun Concrete News reserves the right to edit your letters and create more space. The editor accepts no responsibility for readers letters published in the Ballymun Concrete News. They are merely readers comments and do not necessarily reflect the editors view. Editor.**

**Address Your letter to:  
Letters to the Editor  
Ballymun Concrete News  
66 Joseph Plunkett Tr  
Ballymun Dublin 11**

**Readers Letters**

**1st Letter received.**

**Dear Editor,**

The Gardai and Dublin Corporation deserve credit for their recent move against drug dealers in the Ballymun area. 118 notices to quit over the past 18months, and 29 court orders have been taken out to rid the area of this minority of tenants who are dealing in drugs. A total of 161 flats have also been retrieved for allocation to genuine tenants.

This success is due to tremendous co-operation between Garda authorities, the corporation and local tenants in rooting out these dealers in death and removing them from our estate. This shows what can be done if people are determined enough and are prepared to work in partnership with the Gardai and local authority in the battle against drug pushers on working class estates. A co-ordinated approach involving all concerned parties is the key to eliminating this scourge.

Hopefully, this approach will continue and will be built upon and that in the near future, we can have a totally drug free Ballymun.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Sean O' Cionnaith  
37 Sean McDonagh Tower  
Ballymun  
Dublin 9

Hopefully there will be more letters in next issue. Most readers would not have been aware I was running a letter to the editor spot. I would hope to run three to four letters each issue, depending on space available.

**News Extra.**

As reported in a recent issue of the *Ballymun Concrete News*, Poppintree man Mr Aidan Kelly (Northside People)

edited a book on Finglas titled Finglas A Celebration. As they have sold out the first issue a second edition is expected to be out in the shops in the near future. You can order a copy by contacting Mr Aidan Kelly at 8621611.

*My Thanks this issue goes to: Dublin Corporation, City of Dublin Youth Service Board The Men's Networking Resource Centre Of Ireland for photocopying service. Also special thanks for A4 paper to CAP and Councillor Eamon O' Brien. A special thank you to, Alex and Daphne on Balcurris Road (block B) and Mr. Aidan Smith of Ard Na Meala for supplying A4 paper out of their own money, many thanks. Ed.*

