

Ballymun Concrete News

Volume 1 Issue 25

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

Date January 28th 1999

Newsletter For The Greater Ballymun And Popintree Area. Circulation approx: 2,000 copies.

Two Page Newsletter

The Future New Ballymun Depends on Trust. By Seamus Kelly

It's time to stop living in the past and get on with the regeneration and planning for the future of the new Ballymun. That's the message of the Balcurreis/Balbutcher (B/B) Estate Forum to all involved in the consultation process of this exciting proposed redevelopment of the area. Trust is the key word that comes from Mr. Aidan Smith, chairperson of the B/B forum. He believes that real progress can only be made if there is real trust between Ballymun Regeneration Ltd, Dublin Corporation, the housing task force, estate forums and residents.

"Real participation can only come about if each side trust each other. As forum members of the B/B forum, we have experienced frustration dealing with the relevant bodies on the residents behalf. Time and time again plans have been changed sometimes without our knowledge or approval. It's high time this was sorted out so we can inform our residents with real and accurate information," he said.

Mr. Smith indicated that the forum needs the support, participation and involvement of residents in the consultation process of regeneration. As public meetings are often held at Stormanstown House, he also felt that a closer venue for the residents would be more helpful and proper informed notification of these meetings.

"We need more people to attend public meetings when they are announced. Notification of these meetings however, leave a lot to be desired and consideration be given to lone parent families and the elderly who on occasion have to walk to meetings at Stormanstown House.

"We need a venue closer to our estate than Stormanstown House, which is a

fair long distance to go without transport," he said.

On the recent announcement of Dublin Corporations new tenants charter, Mr. Smith indicated that all five forums participated in bringing this charter about. "A lot of hard work went into this but it will take even harder work to see that it actually happens. What we hope as estate forum representatives is to: Give feedback to the residents. Work with all other forums on the estate. Work with all other agencies. Consolidate our own forum. Try to get more people involved. Avoid becoming a scapegoat. Recognise our strengths/weakness. We have to deal with and become as expert as possible with: Maintenance, Allocations, (Interviews only) antisocial behaviour, and get the best deal for our residents," he added.

Mr Smith stated that one of the ultimate goals of the B/B forum and all the forums is to get the highest standard of housing for their residents. However, he indicated that not everyone will get a house. "It goes without saying, that not everyone will get what they want but with a little compromise in your heart and head, no one will be disappointed. Not everyone in phase one will get a house either as there will be apartment type dwellings included," he claimed.

Finally, he outlined what the BB forum are aiming to achieve for their residents: The best possible deal for all their residents. A desire to serve their neighbour/community. An eagerness to learn new skills/knowledge. Community

regeneration and issues. Helping the needs of all people in their area. Some of the more important issues which need to be addressed are drugs, employment, environment, people with disabilities, and antisocial behaviour.

"This is a great challenge for all of us who live in Ballymun. I am confident that all Ballymunners will rise to that challenge and let us hope the new Ballymun will bring better opportunities for us all," he said. Mr Smith invited all to take part in the whole process of consultation, even those who might be opposed to demolition of the flats. "Everyone's opinions are important and will be listened to," he stressed.

Note:

For the time being the Ballymun Concrete News will run as a two page newsletter. There is a Letters to the Editor and news extra spot for late news. For further information see reverse side of page. Ed.

Editorial

The comments expressed by the Balcurris/Balbutcher Estate forum makes good sense. It's high time the real issues were focused on and get on with the redevelopment of this town. Too much negativity is being spread through misinformation. This needs to be clarified so all residents of Ballymun and Poppintree can understand just exactly what's going on. Are we going to get the tax designation status that's needed to bring private investment and jobs to Ballymun?. If not, what other plans are there to create a new Ballymun where this can become a thriving new town?.

It's all very well knocking down the flats and putting new dwellings in their place but where's the social amenities?. Where's the jobs going to come from for Ballymun/Poppintree's unemployed?. Are all Ballymunners to be rehoused first before bringing in people from outside the area? These are important questions needed to be addressed by those who are planning Ballymun's future. Real jobs, houses with front and back gardens, apartments for those who want them, first class shopping outlets, and social amenities. This town needs a theatre, cinema, sports complex, and social entertainment venues for young and not so young people. A good clean green environment with trees flowers and public parks . These are very important to the successful redevelopment of Ballymun. With the millennium just around the corner, the people of Ballymun deserve nothing but the best after 30 years of neglect .



A cinema could be a star attraction.



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

The Ballymun Concrete News is once again inviting readers to submit letters to the editor page. If you have anything to say on any issue please drop a line to the address above. As there are no letters this issue I have included an editorial. The Editor 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.



News Extra

A major arts exhibition by Ballymun artists is to take place at Dublin Corporations Civic Office at the

beginning of next month. The Association of Ballymun Artists (ABA) will present a collection of 200 of their works over the two week period at the Imbloc Mun Art display. Imbloc: (the Celtic word for start of the spring season.) The arts display is open to public viewing on the 2nd to 12th of February. The Right Honourable Lord Mayor Councillor Senator Joe Doyle, will officially open the exhibition.

Councillor Eamonn O' Brien, Acting Secretary of the ABA, said the group of 20 people are to exhibit their work for the two week period. and welcome support for the Ballymun group.

"It promise to be the most sensational and unique art exhibition ever displayed in Dublin. "The group are anxiously seeking sponsors and donations. Above all, ABA are keen that local business concerns would be eager to purchase an art item for display and support", said Councillor O' Brien.

He also said Dublin Corporation Regional office in Ballymun have been excellent supporters of this artistic venture.

My thanks this issue goes to: City of Dublin Youth Service Board and Dublin Corporation for photocopying service. I wish to welcome Ballymun Regeneration Ltd as a new contributor to the Ballymun Concrete News and for the A4 paper. Special thanks also to the Penthouse Pub for their support and all who help promote the Ballymun Concrete News. Ed.