Thousands of Ballymun residents faced a Murphy’s Law freezing damp cold August Bank Holiday weekend in the flats complex, until the emergency Dublin City Council water department engineers worked long hours over the holiday to get the hot water and heating back into people’s homes.

Again Murphy’s Law kicked in, just as the pipes were fixed and water and heating switched on weather began slowly improving. Still that can all change with the uncertainty of the weather at time of going to press.

For almost a week before the holiday, the hot water and heating were affected due to old pipes near Thomas Clarke tower being replaced and thousands of residents on the East and West side of Ballymun were left without hot water.

Normally the heating is switched off from June to September for essential maintenance to the heating system but Dublin City Council in Ballymun, recognising the climate changes when the weather gets cold and damp in summer, turn the heating back at the residents request.

It was Murphy’s Law that the bad weather kicked in just as the pipes were being replaced with new ones. Only a day earlier the glorious hot weather reached a high peak only to turn nasty just at the wrong time.

Continued on Page 2

Boiler house pumps out heat and hot water.
The Heat is on in Ballymun

The Ballymun Concrete News editor Seamus Kelly’s flat like all the other flats in the area, was also affected by the burst pipes and he and his family also experienced the full blast of cold and damp with no hot water or heating. “All we had was a cooker heater to keep us warm, the electric bill will show a marked difference this billing period,” he said.

“The walls, floors and ceilings are solid concrete, there is a huge heat escape loss in the flats due to cracks in walls and chill wind factor which kicks in. With no hot water, baths or showers were out of the question unless you boiled gallons of water on the cooker.

As a result of the meeting, residents on Sillogue and Sandyhill Forum the clean up day was organised by the Gateway residents Association for neighbours in the area. People power works.

A major cleanup got underway at Gateway Estate recently as the neighbours and children got stuck in to clean up the litter around the estate. Supported by the Sillogue and Sandyhill Forum the clean up day was organised by the Gateway Residents Association for neighbours in the area.

“As a result of the meeting, residents on the estate were asked to do their own share of cleaning up, which resulted in a true Ballymun great response.

“Not only did the adults come out but so did the children,” said John Timon, Ballymun Neighbourhood Council.

“The kids used litter pickers supplied by Dublin City Council, to fill over 20 bags of litter that had been dropped on the various roads and footpaths in the area.

“Residents cleaned up their front gardens and removed weeds etc. where necessary. Teams of neighbours swept and weeded the areas that are common to all – like the footpaths, streets etc. The result – a fabulous looking complex when they were finished,” he stated.

Thankfully DCC emergency Ballymun team, worked long hours to replace the old piping and turn heating and hot water back on. However, it’s bad enough having major building construction outside your door without having your water, electric, heating and phone lines cut off unexpectedly. But I suppose this is the major price we pay to have the biggest regeneration in the history of the state on our doorsteps,” said Seamus.

Gateway residents show pride in their area. People power works.

Thinking of buying a house - your Local Authority is good place to start.

In Ballymun Joy Moloney of Dublin City Council will be happy to deal with all your queries in the Council’s Office on the Ground Floor of the Civic Offices.

Some of the schemes that you can consider are as follows:

Tenant Purchase
Terms include:
1. Must be Local Authority tenant for 12 months
2. Value of house at current market value
3. Deposit of 3% for year’s rental up to a maximum of 10 years
4. Clear rent account for three months
5. €400 application fee

For a mortgage loan, you can go to bank, building society or Local Authority who can offer you a mortgage or fixed annuity loan, or shared ownership loan.

DCC for a mortgage loan will require around €180 disposable income plus €20 per child per week after making your loan repayments including car loans, Credit Union loans etc. in order to qualify.

Annuity Loan
You can also apply for the Local Authority’s annuity loan up to €180,000 to purchase any house and satisfy the income and housing criteria.

Shared Ownership Option
Facilitates purchase of property where person, who cannot afford full ownership immediately, acquires share (minimum 40%) in property by means of mortgage from Council and rents remainder from Local Authority. After three years there is an option to take up 100% mortgage

Affordable Housing Schemes
The Council’s affordable housing schemes provide for the sale of properties to eligible purchasers at prices significantly less than the market value of such properties. There are at present, two affordable housing schemes.

Scheme 1: 1999 Affordable Housing Scheme
This scheme provides for the construction of affordable units on Council owned lands or the purchase of turkeys developments which are sold at cost to eligible purchasers. Application forms for developments under this scheme are available only when a specific development is advertised.

Scheme 2: Part Affordable Housing
A parallel scheme has been developed for affordable housing acquired by the Council in private residential developments under Part V of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 – 2004. This scheme may be applied for at any time.

Clawback:
Should an affordable property be sold within 20 years of the original purchase, a percentage of the proceeds of the re-sale of the property is payable to the Council.

Forms may be downloaded from the City Council’s website; www.dublincity.ie

All of this may appear to be very complex but the object of it all is to assist people to own their homes. So head down to your Local Authority office, where leaflets and forms are available, to explore your house purchase options.

If you have any other legal question you want answered in particular on housing issues or any aspect of law you would like to have examined in this column please drop a line to: 

BCN Law Column
Ballymun Concrete News
66 Joseph Plunkett Tower,
Ballymun, Dublin 11.

Solicitor Frank Murphy
Ballymun Law Centre
Youngballymun celebrate Fun Day.

Hundreds of children, parents and residents were treated to a Youngballymun fun day in the Ballymun Town Centre at the Ballymun Partnership offices last week.

The young children were fascinated by the performance of a magician, a puppet show and face painting at the open day in the shopping centre. While the boys and girls were enjoying the entertainment a number of people were asked to take part in a survey, to identify the outcomes that would improve the lives of children and young people in Ballymun.

In total on July 14th, over 300 questionnaires were completed with 117 responses, which indicated that in ten years time children should be safe. 111 responses stated that people wanted children educated, 102 wanted to see that children would be healthy and seventy wanted young people aged 0-18 in Ballymun for the period 2006 –2016. To put in place structures, delivery mechanisms and funding arrangement for the successful implementation of this strategy. This strategy will be known as Youngballymun

Youngballymun is an initiative of the Ballymun Development Group for Children and Young People (BDG). The BDG are in the process of producing a 10 year plan for children and young people in Ballymun. This plan will set out a range of strategies and actions, which will aim to improve the quality of life for children and young people growing up in Ballymun. The BDG wants to hear what the Community would like to see in the 10-year plan and this was the main purpose of the open day.

“As another way to inform the 10 Year Plan, the BDG will be carrying out a needs analysis over the next two to three months that will include households with children and young people,” stated Anne Matthews Project coordinator, BDGCYP

Youngballymun had another open day on 2nd August in the Ballymun Partnership office in the town centre, to continue welcoming the input of the Ballymun community.

Youngballymun aims to produce a 10-year strategy for children and young people aged 0-18 in Ballymun for the period 2006 –2016. To put in place structures, delivery mechanisms and funding arrangement for the successful implementation of this strategy. This strategy will be known as Youngballymun

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The BDG (Ballymun Development Group) is a multidisciplinary team with members from: The Health Services Executive, the Department of Education, The Drugs Task Force, Ballymun Partnership RAPID, Ballymun Regional Youth Resource Centre, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd, Early Years and Education Experts.

For further information contact Anne Matthews c/o Ballymun Partnership office
Tel: 8423612.

COACH DAN’S SPORTS CAMPS

Camp dates
AUGUST 15-19 & AUGUST 22-26

TIMES AGES
BASKETBALL 12:00 - 2:00 11-17
2:00 - 4:00 6-10
FOOTBALL 12:00 - 2:00 6-10
2:00 - 4:00 11-17

CRAFTS, GAMES & DANCING
(girls only / spaces limited) 12:00 - 2:00 6-12
2:00 - 4:00 6-12

Cost: € 3 Each SESSION € 6 FOR 2 SESSIONS

VENUE FOR CAMPS:
BALLYMUN JUNIOR COMPREHENSIVE SPORTS HALL

Daily raffle prizes, contest winners, sweets & water, with medals given out on Friday for all participants. We will also sell sports clothing available in our camp store.

Pick up Camp flyer / application in AXIS reception area

Camps Director: Coach Dan Phone Number: 883 2113

CAMP SPONSORED BY SPORTSLIFE INTERNATIONAL & BALLYMUN REGENERATION LTD.
Ballymun Citizens Information Centre celebrates 30 years
1975 – 2005

Ballymun boasts of the oldest Citizens Information Centre in the country and recently the Ballymun CIC marked its 30th anniversary with a celebration in the Ballymun Civic Centre.

A large number of invited guests including Councillor Dr. Bill Tormey (FG) representing the Lord Mayor, Pat Carey T.D. (FF), Councillor Julia Carmichael (FF) and Councillor Dessie Ellis (SF) attended the prestigious event in the Civic Chambers of the Civic Centre.

The celebration was also marked with the cutting of a cake celebrating 30 years of voluntary service to the Ballymun community.

Ballymun CIC has operated over the 30 year span on a wholly voluntary basis since its establishment. Both Marie McVeigh and Brenda Tyer have been involved as volunteers since its inception.

According to the CIC “That spirit of voluntarism is alive and well in Ballymun as the CIC is still providing the community with impartial and independent advice. Their vision, inspiration and determination have been hugely beneficial to the local community over the past 30 years.”

Citizens Information Centres provide the public with information and advice on all rights and entitlements. It is a free, impartial and independent service covering a wide range of subjects including employment, housing, legal matters, health, welfare payments and immigration issues. The service is part of an integrated network with over 220 locations around the country. Citizens Information Centres are supported by Comhairle, the national agency responsible for the provision of information, advice and advocacy on public services.

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Stano’s Punk Rock to Ballet in axis.

Ballymun as you’ve never saw it before, presented visually on screen with blasted heavy punk rock music by Stano, the high rise Ballymun flats, railway tracks, dart, a towering new hotel in Ballymun were all a musical exciting drama at a recent presentation in axis. His work also featured ballet to Stano punk from his music album ‘Wreckage’ choreographed and performed by Ireland’s Jessica Kennedy.

Tomorrow Time is the title of Stano’s latest creation, which brings Ballymun and other parts of Dublin into the punk art creative world of Stano.

Stano originally from Artane in Dublin although not a musician, is renowned for his musical creative arrangement of sounds from any source and transforms them into original music; this is believed to be the source of his success.

The display he presented in axis is a sample of Stano’s creative talent in the musical world of art.

The film, which features his backing track of punk rock, comes to life, which as a film on its own would otherwise be boring to viewers. However, his track brought the film to blasting life and with such electricity the guests viewing the screen were taken by surprise by the dramatic sound effects.

Considered as one of Ireland’s top Choreographers and performer Jessica Kennedy, artistically created dance to Stano’s music and gave a spectacular and stunning performance of elegance, style, ballet type, and modern dance movements almost aerobatic in style to the backing track. This is the type of dance and ballet that brings excitement to the world of art and entertainment.

In March ’94 STANO released his album ‘WRECKAGE’ on Hue Records, featuring musicians as diverse as Richie Buckley and Colm O’Ciosoig. This album displayed Stano’s capacity to cross musical boundaries and merge different styles to create a unique production.

The video footage depicting the film scenes were cut to Stano’s latest music piece ‘This Machine’ directed and edited by (DIT) Dublin Institute of Technology Media Arts graduate – documentary maker, Ciaran Deeney.

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Almost €1m funding for Drugs Projects in Ballymun, Finglas/ Cabra and Blanchardstown.

An €0.860m in capital funding for three Local Drugs Task Force projects including Ballymun was announced recently by Mr. N. A. Ahern, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy.

The funding is being made under the second round of the Premises Initiative, which provides funding to enable community-based drugs projects to address their accommodation needs.

Minister Ahern commented: "Many drugs projects do not have suitable or properly equipped premises from which to work and as a result, they are hampered and restricted in terms of the service they can provide to their clients. The Government is addressing this need through the Premises Initiative through which over €12.8 million has already been committed to 52 projects across the 14 Local Drugs Task Force areas."

"This announcement is further evidence of this Government’s on-going commitment to provide adequate funding and resources to underpin the range of services being delivered to tackle the drugs problem. As Minister with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy I am determined to drive the Strategy forward. Today’s allocation brings the total amount of monies allocated to date under the Initiative to €13.66m in respect of 55 projects," the Minister concluded.

The allocations will be used to develop new and existing facilities in three different Task Force areas. Projects receiving funding are:

- Ballymun: Ballymun Community Addiction Centre €252,760
- Blanchardstown: Tolka River Project €375,000
- Finglas/Cabra: Local Drugs Task Force Office Refurbishment €30,000

Meanwhile the Minister also allocated €420,000 to Ballymun and Finglas for Young Peoples Facilities. A total allocation of €420,000 has been approved under the YPFSS (Young Persons Facilities and Services Funds) for the Ballymun and Finglas areas.

Ten projects in the Ballymun and Finglas areas are being supported involving the upgrading and refurbishment of a number of youth and community buildings as follows:

- Finglas South Scout Den €50,000
- Griffith Hall €20,000
- Leisure Point Complex €30,000
- Finglas Youth Resource Centre €30,000
- Sports Leisure & Recreational Project €22,000
- Ballymun Central Youth Facility Phase I €30,000
- Aiding After School Project – upgrade €15,000
- Young Adults Initiative €30,000
- Upgrade of Existing Youth Facilities €38,000
- Ballymun East Youth Facility €155,000

Minister Ahern T.D., said: "I am delighted to be able to announce the funding of these projects. It demonstrates the Government’s ongoing commitment to the targeting of resources to areas of greatest need. In line with commitments given under ‘Sustaining Progress’, we will continue to support disadvantaged communities and work with them in building a fair and inclusive society."

This is part of a third round of capital funding of more than €2.9m under the Young Persons Facilities and Services Fund. The Young Persons Facilities and Services Fund aims to attract young people in disadvantaged areas into facilities and activities that will divert them away from the dangers of substance abuse. The Fund primarily operates in the 14 Local Drugs Task Force (LDTF) areas of Dublin, Ballymun and Cork, where a significant drug problem exists or has the potential to develop.

Dublin City Council

Recycling Centres in the North West Area. Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!

From 1st January 2005, Dublin City Council introduced a new pay by use/volume system for household waste collection services. This system is designed to benefit the environment by encouraging households to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste materials and present their bins or bags for collection only when they’re full.

It’s quite simple, the less you throw away the less you will pay! You can reduce your bill by recycling more of your household waste.

Here is a list of the City Council’s Recycling facilities in the North West Area, including Ballymun, Finglas, Glasnevin North and Santry.

Ballymun: Collins Avenue, Dublin City Council Depot, (Opposite D.C.U) Library car park, Ballymun Road Shopping Centre car park, Ballymun Road Grass verge at Shangan Road Poppintree Community Centre Poppintree FAS Centre Finglas/Glasnevin: The Fingal House, Public House, Glasnevin Avenue

Cappagh House, Barry Road Clearwater (Janelle Shopping Centre) Finglas Road Superquinn Car Park, Main Street Dunnes Stores, Cappagh Road Colaiste Ide, Cardiffsbridge Road Clare Haven Nuring Home, St. Canice’s Road Fire Station, Mellows Road Dublin City Council Depot, Seamus Ennis Road

Eirn’s Isle GAA Club, Farnham Road Qurry House Public House, Ballygall Road East Tolka House Public House, Glasnevin Hill Tolka Rovers Football Club, Griffith Avenue Santry: Omini Park, (Cinema Car Park) The Comet Public House, Sword’s Road

Compost bins are available from Dublin City Council: Tel: 222 2222 For other suggestions on dealing with waste log on to www.dublinwaste.ie
Ballymun Town Shopping Centre

"Beat the Rush" and get yourself down to the Ballymun Town Shopping Centre where you can avail of some fantastic back to school offers.

Great value in pens, pencils, markers, copies, binders, pencil cases, calculators, school bags, lunch boxes etc. etc. - available from Miss Mary's, Jon's Newsagents, Thrifty Variety Store, Spar and of course Tesco.

You will find a selection of School Clothing also available at Tesco, 5th Avenue, Vincent's, and from JJ Binders, pencil cases, calculators, school bags, lunch boxes etc. etc. - available from Miss Mary's, Jon's Newsagents, Thrifty Variety Store, Spar and of course Tesco.

For the very latest styles in boys/girls school shoes in all sizes pay a visit to Shoetown where you are assured personal service and can avail of some fantastic back to school offers.

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W hen hen you have finished shopping why not treat yourself to a coffee, snack or meal at Carboni's Café.

Ballymun Town S/Centre at your service for over 30 Years

Centre manager – Martin F. Griffin
The Consultation Paper recommends that the law on capacity should reflect an emphasis on capacity rather than lack of capacity and should be enabling rather than restrictive in nature.

At the outset Mrs. Justice McGuinness outlined the law reform process and the work of the Commission that celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year. The importance of their work was emphasised by her noting that in recent times there had been a good take up on their reforms.

Patricia Rickard-Clarke, covered the current wardship procedure which was viewed as being a cumbersome court application. She spoke of the enduring Power of Attorney whereby a person can make arrangements for someone to deal with their affairs if they are incapacitated. Their recommendation for a Public Guardian was covered in depth.

Deirdre Ahern explained how we might assess someone’s decision-making capacity adopting a functional approach that would promote ability.

Ray Byrne, dealing with procedures, stressed they were going for the greatest possible empowerment and invited people to suggest who they thought had good procedures.

There was a very positive discussion and any concerns that the Law Reform Commission might be concentrating too much on financial matters were addressed.

The commission are looking at all matters to deal with the vulnerable and also that they would review their work in the light of what had been said.

The paper is available on the commissions website www.lawreform.ie and the closing date for submissions is 31st August 2005 and it is quite clear that they want everyone’s submissions so don’t hesitate to get them in even if a little late!