The New Ballymun

The new Ballymun is here, with the biggest €2.5b regeneration in the history of the state on Ballymun's doorstep, with residents being re-housed into their new homes from the flats complex, private apartments, a major Civic Centre, Leisure Centre, Axis Theatre, in place, two major hotels currently being built and many other major facilities including five neighbourhood centres almost complete.

Work is almost complete on the Santry Cross development which includes a hotel with 16 apartments and 72 hotel bedrooms, crèche, showrooms and shops; most of the private apartments are sold.

A four storey 125 bedroom hotel and 154 apartments is currently under construction where Sean McDermott tower stood and is expected to be completed by July 2006.

Work begins shortly on a major Treasury Holdings €300m shopping centre, four fifteen storey tower blocks and a number of eight and four storey spinal blocks are now demolished and by 2008 all the flats will have vanished from the Ballymun skyline, and this just the beginning of the new Ballymun.

(see page 3 for photos and images of some of the housing developments already built)

One of the major problems for the residents living in the area, is having to live on the spot where this huge development is taking place. Will they be rewarded with a town where they and their families will no longer be labelled with a negative or disadvantaged tag.

Answering these and other Ballymun Concrete News questions are, the Minister of Housing and Urban Renewal Noel Ahern, T.D, Ciaran Murray managing director of Ballymun Regeneration Ltd, and Declan Dunne Chief Executive Officer of the Ballymun Partnership also a member on the board of BRL.

Minister Noel Ahern T.D. stated that the private sector is a major part of the redevelopment of the new Ballymun.

“Having a commercial element to the regeneration was a key requirement of the whole process. There will now be a leisure centre and as the sun sets, a new dawn begins for The New Ballymun. Ballymun Civic Centre overlooking the new Gateway to Ballymun with Dublin City in the background. Photo By Eamonn Elliott.

The Neighbourhood Forums provide you with the opportunity to influence the building of the New Ballymun. Working for the community the forums are your representatives on regeneration and town management issues. The regeneration of Ballymun and the management of the town during the regeneration process is a huge task for everyone involved.

You can contact your Forum representatives by phoning 8832172 or 8832162.

Inside (page 3) are some recent photographs of the progress so far.
The New Ballymun

The commercial side and the education side are important. But certainly you can see the work that is already being done on this side. Ballymun is a place that is on the up and up. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

“This makes a difference, in addition to good housing, because it gives people the opportunity to grow and develop to the level that they want to get to. The truth is that there is so much to be proud of in the area now, but a lot of that is not seen. We should believe in showcasing that success,” he stated.

The biggest concern I have is that the €2.5 billion regeneration will be complete in a few years and the social side needs to be pushed on at the same pace. People shouldn’t just have the same problems in better accommodation.

“These changes come from some form of commercial sector here, some form of employment, and education. Both the social and the education side are important. But certainly you can see the work that is already being done on this side. Ballymun is a place that is on the up and up. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

“This makes a difference, in addition to good housing, because it gives people the opportunity to grow and develop to the level that they want to get to. The truth is that there is so much to be proud of in the area now, but a lot of that is not seen. We should believe in showcasing that success,” he stated.

The biggest concern I have is that the €2.5 billion regeneration will be complete in a few years and the social side needs to be pushed on at the same pace. People shouldn’t just have the same problems in better accommodation.

“These changes come from some form of commercial sector here, some form of employment, and education. Both of commercial side and education side are important. But certainly you can see the work that is already being done on this side. Ballymun is a place that is on the up and up. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

“This makes a difference, in addition to good housing, because it gives people the opportunity to grow and develop to the level that they want to get to. The truth is that there is so much to be proud of in the area now, but a lot of that is not seen. We should believe in showcasing that success,” he stated.

The biggest concern I have is that the €2.5 billion regeneration will be complete in a few years and the social side needs to be pushed on at the same pace. People shouldn’t just have the same problems in better accommodation.

“These changes come from some form of commercial sector here, some form of employment, and education. Both of commercial side and education side are important. But certainly you can see the work that is already being done on this side. Ballymun is a place that is on the up and up. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

“This makes a difference, in addition to good housing, because it gives people the opportunity to grow and develop to the level that they want to get to. The truth is that there is so much to be proud of in the area now, but a lot of that is not seen. We should believe in showcasing that success,” he stated.

The biggest concern I have is that the €2.5 billion regeneration will be complete in a few years and the social side needs to be pushed on at the same pace. People shouldn’t just have the same problems in better accommodation.

“These changes come from some form of commercial sector here, some form of employment, and education. Both of commercial side and education side are important. But certainly you can see the work that is already being done on this side. Ballymun is a place that is on the up and up. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

“This makes a difference, in addition to good housing, because it gives people the opportunity to grow and develop to the level that they want to get to. The truth is that there is so much to be proud of in the area now, but a lot of that is not seen. We should believe in showcasing that success,” he stated.

The biggest concern I have is that the €2.5 billion regeneration will be complete in a few years and the social side needs to be pushed on at the same pace. People shouldn’t just have the same problems in better accommodation.

“These changes come from some form of commercial sector here, some form of employment, and education. Both of commercial side and education side are important. But certainly you can see the work that is already being done on this side. Ballymun is a place that is on the up and up. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

“This makes a difference, in addition to good housing, because it gives people the opportunity to grow and develop to the level that they want to get to. The truth is that there is so much to be proud of in the area now, but a lot of that is not seen. We should believe in showcasing that success,” he stated.

The biggest concern I have is that the €2.5 billion regeneration will be complete in a few years and the social side needs to be pushed on at the same pace. People shouldn’t just have the same problems in better accommodation.

“These changes come from some form of commercial sector here, some form of employment, and education. Both of commercial side and education side are important. But certainly you can see the work that is already being done on this side. Ballymun is a place that is on the up and up. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

“This makes a difference, in addition to good housing, because it gives people the opportunity to grow and develop to the level that they want to get to. The truth is that there is so much to be proud of in the area now, but a lot of that is not seen. We should believe in showcasing that success,” he stated.

The biggest concern I have is that the €2.5 billion regeneration will be complete in a few years and the social side needs to be pushed on at the same pace. People shouldn’t just have the same problems in better accommodation.
New Ballymun
Still a work in progress
Below are some example of new residential projects

Countryst
Saltwood opened 2003

Silloquc
Gateway opened 2003

Shangan
Whiteacre opened 2004

Balcurns
Balcurns Park-east - west opening 2005/6

Poppintree
Marewood opened 2003
Two clients of the Job Centre who have made use of their training are June Murphy and Elaine Herdman. June is a single mum and had been unemployed for over a year before she started a course in Clerical skills at the Job Centre. June completed the Clerical Reception course in March after gaining certificates in ECDL, Pitman, Communications and Office Procedures. June then went on to do two weeks work experience at the Job Centre and has now been placed part-time with Eircom in the Telesales Advisor department. June said “this course helped me to realise my full potential.”

Elaine started training with the Job Centre in August 2002 when she completed a basic computer skills course. She then did the ‘Moving On’ course where she gained certificates in Computer Applications and Customer Care. Elaine is now working for Digi Scan and thoroughly enjoying her role. She says that “doing the training is the best thing I have ever done.”

The Job Centre also offers a career guidance service for those who are not sure which direction they would like to take. Maybe you would like to return to work after raising a family, or perhaps you have outgrown your current job and would like to change career. If so, our staff can guide and support you into making a decision regarding your future. The Job Centre can also advise you on college courses and grants and other external training courses available to you.

Lifelong learning means that anyone of any age can enjoy learning new skills! Take a look at our new range of courses below or call in and find out more about ongoing training courses that we can offer you. We look forward to seeing you soon!

GET TRAINING!

Have you ever thought of training for a new job, but not sure how to get started or what you would like to train in? Ballymun Job Centre offers a range of courses which can help you progress into the job of your choice or to upgrade your current skills. Many people are turning to training to help them renew their confidence and enjoy learning in a local environment. Although the idea of learning something new may be a little daunting to some of us, there is always help on hand during the course from the tutors and the staff at the Job Centre.

Elaine Herdman.  June is a single mum and had been unemployed for over a year before she started a course in Clerical skills at the Job Centre. June completed the Clerical Reception course in March after gaining certificates in ECDL, Pitman, Communications and Office Procedures. June then went on to do two weeks work experience at the Job Centre and has now been placed part-time with Eircom in the Telesales Advisor department. June said “this course helped me to realise my full potential.”

Elaine started training with the Job Centre in August 2002 when she completed a basic computer skills course. She then did the ‘Moving On’ course where she gained certificates in Computer Applications and Customer Care. Elaine is now working for Digi Scan and thoroughly enjoying her role. She says that “doing the training is the best thing I have ever done.”

The Job Centre also offers a career guidance service for those who are not sure which direction they would like to take. Maybe you would like to return to work after raising a family, or perhaps you have outgrown your current job and would like to change career. If so, our staff can guide and support you into making a decision regarding your future. The Job Centre can also advise you on college courses and grants and other external training courses available to you.

Lifelong learning means that anyone of any age can enjoy learning new skills! Take a look at our new range of courses below or call in and find out more about ongoing training courses that we can offer you. We look forward to seeing you soon!

UP AND COMING TRAINING COURSES

Leisure Facility Instructor Traineeship
Commencing in September 2005 until July 2006, this full-time course is ideal for people interested in a career within the leisure industry. Modules include exercise and fitness, health and safety, introduction to information technology, leisure facility customer care and team working, pool lifeguard and workplace training.

Pharmaceutical Process Operator
Starting in September 2005 to February 2006, this is a full-time course aimed at those people who would like to work in the pharmaceutical company in a manufacturing and engineering role. Modules include safety health and environment pharmaceuticals, communications, information technology, instrumentation and process control, quality assurance and manufacturing practice and unit operations.

Clerical Reception
Are you interested in a career in the clerical field (reception work, administration etc.)? If so, this may be the course for you. Commencing in October 2005, this part-time course will run until May 2006. Modules include communications, office skills, ECDL and Pitman typing.

Warehousing Skills
This is a 6 week, full-time course in warehousing skills designed to supply all participants with the relevant training for seeking employment within a warehouse environment. Modules include forklift driving, health and safety, manual handling, introduction to computers and customer service.

Degree in Information Technology for FIT graduates
Calling all FIT graduates! DCU Oscail and FIT Ltd are collaborating to provide opportunities for FIT graduates to obtain a third level degree in Information Technology. The target group for this programme are FIT graduates i.e. people who have recently completed a FIT course. To prepare students for third level study, DCU Oscail and FIT Ltd are organising a 13 week induction programme and this will commence in October 2005. The distance education programme is an ideal way of combining study with work and by attending 6 tutorials and committing to on-line learning, students will learn study management skills and skills for studying on-line. Successful candidates will then progress on to the degree programme starting in January 2006.

Oscail and FIT Ltd are collaborating to provide opportunities for FIT graduates to obtain a third level degree in Information Technology. The target group for this programme are FIT graduates i.e. people who have recently completed a FIT course. To prepare students for third level study, DCU Oscail and FIT Ltd are organising a 13 week induction programme and this will commence in October 2005. The distance education programme is an ideal way of combining study with work and by attending 6 tutorials and committing to on-line learning, students will learn study management skills and skills for studying on-line. Successful candidates will then progress on to the degree programme starting in January 2006.

To find out more information on any of these courses, please contact Ruth Brant or Martin O’Connor in the Ballymun Local Employment Centre. Tel:- 866 7000 or call into Ballymun Job Centre.

Talk to us
GET GOING PROGRAMME

The Job Centre is pleased to announce a new programme for people who are moving on from drug dependency. This course is designed around Consumer Awareness and is aiming to allow people to explore their social and educational needs with the ultimate goal of designing a career path. The course will be ideal for those people who are ready and willing to make a positive change in their life.

Participants will be trained at a basic level with the aim of progressing onto a higher level of training that will equip them with the appropriate skills for accessing employment. The course will cover consumer awareness along with life skills, stress management, computers, social skills, positive parenting, literacy, maths, career guidance and skills for the job market. The course is due to start in August and will run for five mornings a week over two months. To find out more about this course please contact Kathryn Smith or Brendan Murphy on 866 7000 as there may still be places available.

Apprenticeships

If you are looking for an apprenticeship in any trade, please drop into the Local Employment Centre to make an appointment to speak to someone who can help you decide which apprenticeship will suit you, or you can call into the Job Centre and leave your name with the staff there. The Job Centre often has apprenticeship vacancies which need filling.

Launch of Equal Youth

A consortium of agencies in Ballymun and Mayo were recently awarded the European project called ‘Equal Youth’ and Ballymun Job Centre is the designate partner in this project. The Irish Youth Foundation have contributed funding towards this project.

The project will be launched officially on 4th October 2005 at the Civic Centre, Ballymun by Tony Kilkeen, TD, Minister for Labour Affairs. The project’s aim is to bring together all the main agencies in the area who work with young people in order to develop a method of working with each other to assist early school leavers to progress into training/education and sustainable employment.

The project is operating in Ballymun and Mayo to give a contrast of both rural and urban settings. It will focus on three groups of Early School Leavers; young early school leavers who are currently unattached to any services, young early school leavers who have completed or are completing ‘Foundation Training,’ and Young Early School Leavers who are job ready or already in low level employment.

Current members of the Equal Youth Development Partnership include, Ballymun Job Centre, Ballymun Community Training Centre, Ballymun Youthreach, Ballina Youthreach, the City of Dublin Youth Services Board, Ballymun Regional Youth Resource (BRYR), The Northern Area Health Services Executive, Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force, Ballymun Partnership, Probation and Welfare Services, FÁS, Co Mayo VEC, Meitheal Mhaigeo, Mayo County Development Board, The Linkage Programme, Ballina Neighbourhood Youth Project, Ballymun Education Support Team and Ballymun Women’s Resource Centre.

The Ballymun Job Centre runs a programme called Gateway for 15-17 year olds. The programme lasts for 9 weeks and the latest programme finished in August. Seven participants successfully completed the programme. They covered modules in video production, computers (including animation), jewellery making, mini-company, music production and creative literacy. The video that the group made and designed was called ‘Bad Days.’ It looked at a group of young people who leave school and get themselves into trouble but resolve their difficulties. The group also decided to look at the level of violence that young people in Ballymun are facing. The video starred the Gateway participants and some members of the Job Centre. The participants from the programme are now moving on into Youthreach, Ballark Community Training Centre and Ballymun Junior Comprehensive.
Boylesports bring the luxury and comfort of their betting shops to Ballymun!

Ireland’s fastest growing bookmakers, has recently opened a betting office in Ballymun bringing their shops in Dublin to 29 and bringing the company’s number of stores to 89 nationwide.

Boylesports’ customers in Ballymun will be pleasantly surprised with the premium facilities and high level of service on offer. Boylesports owner and Managing Director, John Boyle from Co Armagh, believes that service and standards are key to the company’s success. Recognising the needs of our customers and looking at our shop from the eyes of our customers is the Boylesports recipe for success.

State of the Art Facilities

This warm friendly and inviting office is fully air conditioned, carpeted, offers sofa style seating and has 36 screens to ensure punters can follow all the action across all sports. The high tech audio visual and multi-screen information systems ensure customers are kept fully informed of all sporting fixtures and betting in running.

Boylesports’ customers in Ballymun will now be able to enjoy complimentary tea and coffee in the café area while watching the big races on cinema style screens. The team is headed up by Brian Leith shop manager, who believes the fast friendly service and the clean fresh, comfortable facilities are his main attraction in Ballymun.

Boylesports offer you the opportunity to bet on a comprehensive range of local, national and international sporting fixtures as well as the traditional horse and greyhound racing. So if you fancy Kerry for the All Ireland, or Ireland for the World Cup Boylesports have the bet for you!

For those who cannot make it into our shop, Boylesports offer betting on line at www.boylesports.com or Fon-A-Bet on call free 1800 221 321. We have recently launched our poker on line at www.boylepoker.com.
A letter from Down Under: Australia.

Dear Editor,

I am a former Ballymun resident of some eighteen years. I lived in Ard Na Meala, and we all attended the Holy Spirit School while I was surfing the net, I came across your newspaper on line. I just had to drop you a short note of congratulations for a wonderful publication. It’s wonderful to see changing faces of Ballymun after so long.

The Ballymun I left behind was a much different place from the wonderful Phoenix that appears to be rising from the ashes of the towers. The grey sense of hopelessness and despair that I and my contemporaries saw all around us in our youth are as if they never were.

Even though the face of Ballymun is changing to such an extent that it’s almost unrecognisable to the place I left behind. The one thing that you could never fail to recognise no matter how long you were away, and the one thing that jumps from the pages of your newspaper is the strength and fortitude of its people.

A community spirit that will continue to tower over Ballymun itself, longer after the towers themselves are a distant memory.

Kind Regards,

Michael Farrell

Dublin City Council says No to Litter!

Dublin City Council is currently focusing on improving the appearance of the North West Area by concentrating on tackling litter.

Our Environmental Services include the regular bin collections, roads are swept as often as resources allow and this year a free junk collection service will be made available to over 5,000 households. An additional cleansing crew and lorry have also been provided to deal with bulky waste dumped on green spaces and at litter black-spots.

Our determination to tackle litter can be seen from the substantial increase in the number of fines issued so far in 2005. Over 460 litter fines have been issued in the North West Area by the City Council’s Litter Wardens in the first half of the year. In fact, in the past two months we have issued more fines than were issued throughout the entire year in 2004!

The on the spot fine for littering is €125 and we fully intend to implement the legislation in every case.

If you are aware of littering in your neighbourhood do not hesitate to contact the City Council’s Customer Services Centre (Tel: 222 2222).

Working together we can make a real difference.

Americans and Canadians help build Ballymun homes

The first team of Global Village volunteers, 13 Americans and two Canadians, arrived in Ballymun recently to spend two weeks working with the future homeowners, helping them to build their Habitat For Community homes.

The volunteers will carry out insulating and plaster bonding the homes, carpentry, painting, and landscaping.

Habitat For Humanity Ireland partnered with Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. for the development of its first building project in Ireland. This involves the building of four homes on a piece of infill land between Shangan and Coultry (located close to the play-ground in Shangan). The building programme is now well underway, with two homes due for completion within the next couple of months, and the other two by the end of the year. The homes that Habitat for Humanity is building consist of two two-bedroom apartments, and two three-bedroom houses. These homes will be completed using donations of money, services and volunteers. Volunteers will come from the families selected to buy the houses, the local community, corporate sponsors such as Vodafone Ireland, EBS Building Society and Whirlpool, and Global Village teams from North America.

Habitat for Humanity Ireland relies on volunteers from abroad and the local community to keep the cost of the homes affordable to local families. If you would like to volunteer on the Ballymun building site, please ring 01-6299611.
Whitehall College of Further Education

Full time Day Courses – Post Leaving Certificate and Mature Students

- Information Technology
- Business Studies
- Applied Languages
- Social Care
- Office Administration

All enquiries to the college.
Applicants who are eligible for the Vocational Educational Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) are welcome to apply for all courses.

On your bike

“Should children be safe to cycle to school” read the leaflet distributed by the children from the Sillogue Recycling Centre outside the Motor tax, and Civic offices last Monday week. Members of the local recycling clubs are anxious that bicycle lanes be provided on roads throughout Ballymun.

Paul Stone, Karl Murphy, Adele Aqil and Kelly Scanlon.

Ballymun Senior and Junior Comprehensive Boys and Girls are now amalgamated into a new school called Trinity Comprehensive School Ballymun. The new school opened on Monday 29 August partly housed in a new state of the art building. The upgrade works at the school are due to be completed next year.

The RECO is back!

Ballymun Regeneration Ltd is delighted to announce the completion of the construction phase of the new RECO. Designed by BRL Architects, the substantial extension and impressive makeover means bigger and better facilities for young people.

BRL and the Ballymun Youth Development Group (City of Dublin Youth Services Board, the Local Drug Task Force and FLAC) led a design process involving over 30 adults and 165 young people to create the vision of the RECO that will shortly become a reality for the young people of Ballymun. With money from the National Development Plan, through the Young Peoples’ Facilities and Services Fund for 10-21 year-olds, the Lotte and Dublin City Council, BRL Architects and development team have managed the construction of this major new contribution to young people.

Matthew Stevens, BRL Architect says that “James Eustis Construction Ltd completed the building contract on time and will hand over the keys to BRYA this week. BRYA will start the fit-out and a phased opening of all the RECO’s facilities, building up to a grand ‘official’ opening next May”.

The new RECO has (opening dates in brackets):

- A dance/activities hall (October)
- A youth gym for 15 people (December)
- A large internet café (December)
- A computer training room (October)
- A Youth Information Centre (March 2006 – awaiting funding approval)
- A youth café (January 2006)
- A music room (November)
- A youth club room (October)
- A conference/training room, with seating for up to 40 people (November)
- An arts room (October)
- A roof garden (Summer 2006)
- Staff offices and storage spaces for sports equipment (October)

The new RECO is meant to be a place where young people will feel comfortable and at home. BRYA has lots of art and other projects planned to help young people gain a sense of ownership of the new building. It is built around a beautiful courtyard with one of Ireland’s only mature olive trees and is likely to be the setting for many artistic and other performances.

BRYA will start taking bookings for the RECO in September. For more information contact Eimear, the RECO Manager, on 01 842 3011.