

Ballymun Community Facilities Forum Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January 2009

Present:

Mary Higgins	Chair
Dermot King	BCON
Emma Freeman	BCON
Paul Billings	BNC
Eamon Farrelly	BRL
Fiona Cooper	BRL
Manus Bree	Ballymun Partnership
Colma Nic Lughadha	Ballymun Partnership
Mary Taylor	DCC
Bernie Roe	DCC

In attendance: Margaret Doyle - DCC

The meeting was given over to a brain-storming session facilitated by the Chair, Mary Higgins, to establish what direction the Community Facilities Forum should take in the future.

Q. What do we want out of today?

Comments

- Take stock
- More clarity
- An image of what a coherent plan would be and how we might get to it, including who else needs to be involved
- A clearer picture of the future and what should be in a plan – not just buildings
- Identify capital and other resources
- Pick up momentum
- Review and complete the Workplan, set a timeline and deadline
- Look at expanding with whom we work
- There could be other stakeholders at the table
- Look at the bigger picture in Ballymun
- There is a lack of clarity regarding communications from the Forum
- Be realistic about what we can achieve
- We don't know what we are facing in relation to the management of community facilities in the current recession and we may have to fight hard to keep facilities open

Questions raised:

- ❖ What is the relevance of the Forum?
- ❖ How close to the action on the ground in Ballymun is the Forum?
- ❖ Have we got the tools to make the Forum more relevant?

Q. What is our image of the Plan?

Comments

It would be based on an assessment/analysis of needs in the area

It would be integrated with neighbouring areas to break the isolation of Ballymun

It would take account of vulnerable groups and provide for older people and the less obvious groups

It would be based on an assessment of available resources including buildings, capital and revenue funding and personnel

It would use existing resources properly (opening times etc)

It would be based on consensus and agreement

There would be agreement about the allocation of resources

It would contain mechanism for the development of new responses

It would have clear time lines

It should be bigger than plan to accommodate existing groups

Q. What are the blocks to achieving this Plan?

Comments

- Plans for community facilities have been done outside the Forum
- Deals are done outside of the Forum
- People are going outside the Forum
- The Forum hasn't produced a plan
- We have a working plan but it's not clear and there is increasing confusion
Current work done on the basis of meeting needs of existing groups, not the needs of the area
- The Youth Development Group is influential
- Group is too idealistic, need to get more practical
- We are trying to change mindset
- This group is unique in Ballymun – people don't trust the new processes yet
- The Poppintree Community Centre will accommodate a lot of groups but there may be issues of sustainability
- There is an absence of an overall plan for community groups
- There has not been a good analysis of groups' needs in Ballymun
- The Neighbourhood Centres need to be used more
- Older people are being neglected
- The protocols produced by the Forum are successful but not embedded - others who are not using the protocols are making decisions
- There is a process in place for the development of Ballymun East
- An URBAN Design Study is taking place for Ballymun East, all interested parties are engaged in the study
- Ballymun has fantastic facilities but many are not being used
- Links need to be established with the new communities in Ballymun
- The BRL Neighbourhood Plan is being re-viewed
- The Forum is carrying out a survey of the groups who have not moved
- The overall sustainability of community groups is too big an issue for the Forum
- Someone has to be in charge in Ballymun

- There could be a Mayor of Ballymun
- RAPID was to bring stakeholders in the area together
- There needs to be a more co-ordinated approach and a coming together of groups in relation to the use of community facilities to ensure the future sustainability
- People didn't know the lines of communication open to them in relation to the BRL West Ballymun plan
- A biodiversity plan is being included in the West Ballymun Plan due for completion the end of January 2009
- The Ballymun East plan is due for completion the end of February 2009

Questions raised:

- ❖ Have we the authority to draw up a plan for community facilities?
- ❖ What do we want in a plan?
- ❖ Will people refer to the Forum plan?
- ❖ Is the community getting what it needs rather than what the groups need?
- ❖ Who are we looking to help?
- ❖ Are we only helping groups in the flats?

Q. What are our Achievements?

- Database of voluntary and community groups
- More information on groups and on activities and needs
- A table showing the community groups who have moved and those waiting to move
- Protocols for the temporary relocation of groups accommodated in flats
- Minutes and reports are put on the the following websites:
 - BRL
 - Ballymun Partnership
 - BCON
 - BNC

Q. What do we still need to do?

- Maintain Database. Mary Taylor asked the members to look at the Ballyfermot Community Website www.ballyfermot.ie with a view to doing something similar in Ballymun.
- Complete needs analysis of identified groups – to be completed by end of February by BCON, Partnership and BNC
- Complete plan for accommodation – who are the groups, what do they do, where are they, what accommodation do they have/need. This to be completed for West Ballymun by end January and for the East by end of February.
- Complete planned transition programme
- Agree plan for the accommodation arrangements of voluntary and community organisations
- Complete second lot of protocols - for the permanent relocation of groups accommodated in flats

- Agree the most appropriate model for effective management of community facilities
- Agree and implement communications strategy for plan on accommodation
- Agree and implement arrangements for communicating with stakeholders and groups in Ballymun on the work of the Forum

Management of Community Facilities

The following speakers have agreed to address the Forum on the management of community facilities in the afternoon of 22nd January 2009:

Name	Organisation
Senan Turnbull	Fingal Co Council
Caroline Molloy	Santry Community Association
Hugh Kilbride	DCC
Larry O'Neill	Clondalkin Partnership

Decisions

- The Forum will agree what contribution the Forum can make to an overarching plan for community groups at the meeting on 26th March 09
- The future of the Forum will be agreed at the June meeting

The next meeting of the **Community Facilities Forum** is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 26th March 2009** at **10.00am** in the **Architect's Room** on the **3rd Floor** in the **Ballymun Civic Centre**.