

Community Facilities Forum Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd May 2008

Present:

Mary Higgins	Chair
Emma Freeman	BCON
Dermot King	BCON
Manus Bree	Ballymun Partnership
Colma Nic Lughadha	Ballymun Partnership
Elise Finnigan	BNC
Eamon Farrelly	BRL
Mary Taylor	DCC
Bernie Roe	DCC

In attendance: Margaret Doyle - DCC

Apologies:

Siobhan Guyatt – BNC

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting which were not addressed in the Agenda.

1. Social Sustainability Team – BRL

Patricia Scanlon, Social Regeneration Development Manager, BRL addressed the meeting. She reported that the Social Sustainability Team is in the process of preparing a written social sustainability strategy for Ballymun which is expected to be completed in the autumn. The strategy encompasses the following areas:

- Social Development
- Education
- Recreation
- Community Safety
- Arts & Culture
- Housing

BRL is looking for synergies between community and voluntary groups in Ballymun to ensure efficient use of resources and sustainability. An example of such synergy is the current negotiations between The Law Centre, Legal Advice Board, Citizens' Information Services, Threshold, and Family Meditation Service regarding the possibility of a shared facility that will house all these organisations. BRL is looking at the Integrated Services model in Donegal as a good model for other integrated services.

Potential sources of funding are being identified by BRL and information was requested from the Department of Community, Rural & Gaelteacht Affairs regarding the groups that are receiving funding in the area. Emma Freeman agreed to provide this information for the Forum.

It was agreed that a mapping exercise needs to be completed on existing services and groups in Ballymun and it was further agreed that the database being developed by the BCFF would be useful in this regard.

It was also agreed that it would be of benefit the Community Facilities Forum and the development of the Socials Sustainability Plan if a member of the Sustainability Team could attend the Forum meetings. Eamon Farrelly undertook to review BRL representation in light of this and the fact that there is a vacancy on the Forum arising from Róisín Burke's departure from BRL.

2. Protocols

Bernie Roe & Dermot King distributed a draft of the Ballymun Community Facilities Forum protocol for the movement of community groups from flats to interim accommodation. It was agreed that Dermot would finalise the document to incorporate comments made at the meeting. These will then be circulated to community groups in Ballymun.

These protocols address the issues in relation to groups moving to interim accommodation and other procedures need to be completed in respect of moves to permanent premises.

3. Database

The DCC data base has been completed and a copy of it was given to Manus Bree, on disc so that the content can be cross-referenced with the Partnership list, before the next meeting. It will also be looked at by BCON and gaps, inaccuracies and formatting issues addressed. The viability of the data base will be discussed at the next meeting of the Forum.

4. Review of the 'Reflections of People Who Have Moved' Seminar

There was discussion on the seminar and the following points made:

- The experience was a positive, useful and helpful one.
- The Seminar was good for the Community Groups who had the opportunity to speak about their experiences and be heard
- The groups' experience of DCC was positive.
- Lessons were learnt regarding the needs of groups when being relocated in interim accommodation.
- It was insightful to learn from the groups in the flats.
- It is inappropriate to use flats to accommodate Community Groups.
- It was a good process for learning about the local groups.
- The Ballymun Neighbourhood Council had taken on board the issues in relation to local neighbourhood forums and will address them through the introduction of guidelines / principles and a Strategy Plan

It was agreed to produce a document on the findings from the seminar. This will be done before the next meeting by Margaret Doyle, Mary Higgins and Colma Nic Lughadha.

5. Work Plan

The Work Plan was not discussed due to pressure of time. It will be put on the Agenda for the June meeting.

The next meeting of the **Community Facilities Forum** is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 26th June 2008 at 10.00am** in the **Architect's Room** on the **3rd Floor** in the **Ballymun Civic Centre**.