



# The Forum

## Contents

## Newsletter for Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Community Forum

Page Two

- » **Volunteering**  
EBS Corporate Social Responsibility Programme

Page Three

- » **Caroline Casey**

Page Four

- » **Young Citizens Awards**

Page Five

- » **Insurance**

Page Six

- » **Country House Councils**
- » **Bealtaine Festival 2006**

## Community Forum AGM

The AGM of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Community Forum was held in Stillorgan Park Hotel on 26 April 2006.

Outgoing chairperson Gray Cahill presented an overview of the work done by the Working Group during the year:

- Membership Review in order to update our database of members
- Forum has membership on the various Strategic Policy Committees, County Development Board and associated Focus groups
- Safety & Security Directory for Service Providers was published
- Four newsletters published in the year
- Launch of our website
- Grants Scheme continued: €500 Prize money was disbursed in a membership draw, €300 went to Schizophrenia Ireland and €200 to Alzheimer's Group
- Publication of a Brochure on the Forum
- Assistance in the formation of a Volunteer Bureau
- Completed our CDB Actions

Gray praised the work of Willie Morton our Development Worker, the members of the Working Group and the assistance given by the Community and Enterprise Department of the Council.



Jim Carson, DLRCC, John Nolan (Treasurer), Damien O'Sullivan (Chair) and Willie Morton, Development Officer

Minutes of last years AGM were distributed and read by Jim Carson. The amendments to the Constitution were adopted last year.

The minutes were proposed by Kay Gleeson and seconded by Patrick Long.

A minutes silence was held for Tom Richmond, a dedicated member of the Working Group who recently passed away.

John Nolan presented the Financial Report and briefly reviewed our 2006 Budget.

### Cluster 1 Sub-Cluster Platform Vacancies: 4

Three valid nominations were received: *Mary Collins, Sandra Campbell and Carol Connors*. All three candidates were deemed elected.

### Cluster 1 Sub-Cluster Non-Platform Vacancies: 4

Two valid nominations were received: *William Levers and Theresa Waters*. As neither candidate, nor their nominating organisations were in attendance, their nominations were deemed invalid. Both candidates may be co-opted by the Working Group.

### Cluster 2 Vacancies 7

One valid nomination was received: Damien O'Sullivan gave a profile presentation and said that if we had a full compliment (20 people) on the Working Group that the work could be spread out better. Damien was deemed elected.

One Vacancy Existed on the County Development Board. There were three Nominees and six organisations were registered to vote. John Nolan was elected to the vacant seat.

A presentation of the (J4B) Community Funding Support Website was made while the election results were being tabulated. The membership praised the Forum's initiative in linking this site to their own website.

Damien O'Sullivan praised the dedication of the three people stepping down from the Working Group: *Gray Cahill, Anne-Marie Duffy and Marian White*. Each was presented with a piece of crystal as an appreciation.

Following the AGM and the subsequent meeting of the Working Group, the composition of the new Working Group is illustrated opposite.

### Community & Voluntary Forum - Working Group

Damien O'Sullivan Chairperson & CDB Rep.	Scouting Ireland
Mary Collins - Vice Chairperson	Eye Contact
John Nolan Treasurer & CDB Rep.	Person with Disabilities in Ireland (PWDI)
Carol Connors	Southside Travellers Action Group (STAG)
Sandra Campbell	Hillview Community Resource Centre
Biddy Farrell	Southside Womens Action Network (SWAN)
John Naughton	Ballyogan Estate Management
Patrick Long	Dun Laoghaire Marine Probus Club
David O'Neill	National Maritime Museum
William levers	Schizophrenia Ireland
Abraham Wahid	Dun Laoghaire Football Club
Theresa Waters	Parents Making Children Aware
Billy Kelly	Ballyogan Environmental Group

In our December 2005 edition, we described the approaches of two banks to the issue of volunteering and how their staff are involved in community based projects. The EBS also has a similar approach, which it describes as a **Corporate Social Responsibility Programme**.

At EBS Building Society, corporate social responsibility is defined as anything which EBS does as a business that has a positive impact either in the workplace, amongst its members, in the wider community or in the environment. Based on this definition, EBS has developed a strategic CSR programme known simply as Posi+ive Impact. This programme was awarded the inaugural Chambers of Commerce of Ireland Award in 2004 for the 'Most Innovative CSR Programme'.

Formally launched in 2004 Posi+ive Impact was developed following a consultation process with EBS members and employees. As a result of this process it was determined that Posi+ive Impact would focus on three key areas; homelessness; education and community regeneration.

Through Posi+ive Impact, EBS has entered into three national partnerships relevant to the themes of the CSR programme. Partnerships were forged with the Simon Communities of Ireland and the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) in 2004 and a third one, with Habitat for Humanity, was announced in 2005.

Each of the partnerships has its own aims and objectives and in addition to providing financial support for each of the programmes, EBS is also committed to adding value to its partners by donating staff time through its employee volunteering initiative and by loaning executives with specific areas of expertise to help provide strategic support as appropriate.

*Jane Conan of the EBS describes one unusual project arising from its relationship with Habitat for Humanity ....*

"November 2005, a group mail was sent out: EBS was looking to send a team of volunteers to Chile to work with Habitat for Humanity. A briefing session was held. It sounded like a fantastic opportunity to get involved and experience something totally different. Eleven people signed up for the expedition.

Our first challenge was to raise €2,300 each. It seemed quite daunting! We decided to do a group fundraiser to boost our own individual efforts so we held a Race Night in Club Anabels on 24 March. It was a great success, not only in terms of raising €4,100 but also the fun everybody had on the night not to mention the support and generosity shown by our colleagues and friends. Individual fund raising efforts were also very creative. To date the team has raised just under €32,000 and money is still coming in.

Before we knew it, 21 April had arrived - there was a fantastic send off from EBS Burlington Road, it was destination Santiago de Chile via Madrid. At the airport in Santiago, we were met by Fanny Bertrand (Habitat Chile co-ordinator) and brought to the town of Los Andes, an hour northeast of Santiago.

On Monday morning, our first day on site we packed into our yellow minibus and headed for the small community of La Rinconada. Here we met the family with whom we were working. Their names are Don Ludo and Clementina. We introduced ourselves and were given a safety briefing in Spanish by Maestro Pepe (aka the foreman) and Christian (site engineer). Then it was safety goggles and gloves on and all hands on deck! We were raring to go! Our job was to complete a house that two other Irish volunteer teams had started on. A big part of the first day was getting to know the people, the work, the house and not to mention getting used to the physical aspect of things! But by the end of the day, the transformation from EBS employee to chief brick/chippie was complete.

Day two on site - everyone is all geared up and ready to go. They know what they have to do. There are specific tasks to complete - cross beams to be fitted, eaves to be hung, fascia boards to be fitted over them, cement to be made and walls to be plastered. The team set about these tasks with a lot of enthusiasm. The work is quite physical and tiring (what? another 4 inch nail in over my head - but my arms achen!). The atmosphere in the house is full of good humour and fun! Suddenly the radio goes on and



Jane Conan on left



Some of the volunteers at work

Dolores O'Riordon howls out from the speakers. The next song is Chris De Burgh's 'Lady in Red', followed by the Cranberries. This is priceless, we're miles away from home and they're playing all this Irish music. Then Christian tells us that the local radio station knows we're in town and they're playing the songs for us!

Despite having a very useful list of words for the different tools in Spanish! (yes we now know the words for hammer, nails, plumb line and more), the team are fortunate that Clem O'Regan has plenty of Spanish - otherwise we would have been lost. >>>

>>> It's work work work until 1pm, then its 'down tools' and off to the local community centre for lunch. The local ladies spoil us each day with good homemade Chilean fare and some of the Irish sun worshippers grab some time under the hole in the ozone layer, much to the amusement of the locals sitting in the shade. The Irish - Chilean rugby challenge also causes a few passersby to stop and look at these mad Irish out in the midday sun. At 2pm it's back onsite. The work is incredibly satisfying and you can see instant results. At the end of the day, our little yellow bus picks us up, luckily it's an old bus and so doesn't mind our big dirty work boots and grubby clothes, some grubbier than others! Then it's back to the hotel for some well deserved refreshment!

By the end of the week the ceilings are finished and plasterboard goes up on the walls where needed, the windows are in and the doors are being hung. The outside has its fascia boards almost complete and the finishing touches are being put to the plastering. It is clearly visible how much progress we've made and the house is really coming together.

Sadly Monday is our last day on site. There's a definite feeling that nobody really wants this to come to an end. We make the finishing touches and do a big tidy up. Then it's 'down tools' for the last time.

On our last day, the kind people of Rinconada host a lunch for us and the new homeowners. They've set a table outside under an avocado tree. The Chilean and Irish flag fly side by side whilst we each sing our own national anthems. Amhran na bhFiann gets a good airing! Everyone is a little emotional that we've finished and will soon be leaving this warm community with its friendly and hospitable inhabitants. The time has gone so quickly that it's hard to believe. Then the little yellow bus arrives for the last time. Everyone says their goodbyes to these wonderful amigos.

It's been a wonderful experience, amazing! We've learnt so much about the people, the culture, the ways of Chile and it's kind of hard to leave but hopefully we've given something back and hopefully I hammered that nail in properly on that beam...."

Our thanks to Jane for that most interesting account.



*'The full team on their last day on site (EBS, Christian and Pepe (Habitat for Humanity engineer and foreman), Don Ludo and Clemtina.'*



*The Completed House*

## CAROLINE CASEY Lunchtime Talk

**D**ún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council was delighted to welcome Caroline Casey to County Hall to speak as part of Social Inclusion Week 2006 (12 to 16 June). Caroline is the founder of both the Aisling Foundation and Ireland's O2 Ability Awards, which she co-presented on RTE 1 with Pat Kenny on 2 February. Caroline's adventures and success as an activist have raised her profile internationally as a determined and confident young woman with an important message - despite being born with a visual impairment, she has never allowed her disability to hinder her success. At 34, Caroline was appointed the first Irish Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, is the Junior Chamber International's "Ten Outstanding Young People of the World" 2002, and one of the RADAR UK's (Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation) People of the Year 2001.

Caroline is probably best known for her 1,000 km solo elephant-back trek around India, and her circumnavigation of the world using eighty different forms of transport. Impressed? We were too and hope to report further in our next edition.



# YOUNG CITIZENS AWARDS

**P**resident Mary McAleese launched the New Young Citizen Award Scheme in November 2005. The scheme aims to recognise active citizenship among young people aged between 12 and 25 who are involved in their local communities through active citizenship projects such as environmental work, caring for people with special needs or affirming diversity.

The scheme was supported by county and city development boards, which organised the local coordination and assessment of applications. There was a total of 631 Award recipients throughout Ireland.

In Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, the awards were presented by Councillor Pat Hand, Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council at a ceremony in the County Hall on Wednesday 24 May.

Members of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Board adjudicating sub committee introduced the winning groups and gave a brief outline on their winning entries.

*The four winning groups were:*

**1 Shankill Youth Club  
(Introduced by Damien O'Sullivan)**

The Club was involved in a Peace Process Project which brought together young people from North and South. They learned the importance of respecting the dignity of others and the difficulties faced by the people of Belfast who, historically are divided by politics and religion.

**2 Oran Cowan  
(Introduced by Marian White)**

Oran coaches the under 7 and under 8 Rugby teams at Seapoint Rugby Club. He is anxious to encourage all players, not just the good ones and wishes to give something to all the Community.

**3 Plus Campaign  
(Introduced by Torry Schellhorn)**

This group is involved in a campaign to help young asylum seekers to become more integrated in the local community. They hope to eliminate anti-social behaviour towards ethnic minorities and are involved in voluntary work in community education and sports.

**4 CBC Monkstown Zambia Immersion Project  
(Introduced by John Maloney)**

The group raised €50,000 for the Community and Aids Hospice in Zambia. They helped children in the slums of Lusaka particularly those with special needs e.g. the deaf and blind. As a result the school and wider community have all been made aware of the deep poverty in Zambia.



*Councillor Pat Hand with panel of speakers- Damien O'Sullivan, Marian White, Torry Schellhorn and John Maloney*



*Presentation to Oran Cowan*



*Presentation to Monkstown CBC*



*Presentation to Plus Campaign*



*Presentation to Shankill Youth Club*

## Voluntary Sector Fights Rising Costs

### *Insurance package designed for the voluntary sector*

**R**esidents associations, tidy towns committees, community games groups and other voluntary and community bodies will this summer rest easy knowing that one of the most prohibitive costs to their activities may now finally be more affordable.

The umbrella body for the community and voluntary sector, the Irish National Community and Voluntary Forum (INCVF), has signed an exclusive arrangement with leading insurance broker BHP Insurances giving its 22,000 members direct access to the most competitive and comprehensive insurance package for their sector.

Designed by the INCVF and BHP Insurances, the insurance package is tailored to protect the specific risks of community and voluntary groups and covers a wide range of activities, which can include anything from Summer Fetes and Barbeques to Meals on Wheels and Fancy Dress Parades. Since the launch of the scheme by Minister of State Noel Ahern in March of this year the Irish National Community and Voluntary Forum has so far managed to save its members up to 45% in insurance costs. The Minister confirmed that he was "satisfied that volunteerism is now in safe hands and that the insurance facility was a massive achievement in such a short space of time".

INCVF members represent a diverse range of Community interests including Cultural/Heritage, Community Development, Sports/Recreation, Disability, Economic/Social and Youth Groups.

Alice McAuliffe, Insurance Coordinator for the INCVF, says: "Insurance issues are having a significant impact on the operating environment of many non-profit and voluntary groups. The inability to meet insurance costs has, in the past, put many Groups out of business and prevented others from ever getting started." She continues: "In response to this and the growing demand from our members for more affordable and easy to arrange insurance we designed a package that serves to greatly reduce insurance premiums for our members - in many cases by 40%. This is a great boost to the sector and comes at a time when the costs of running these community and voluntary groups is at an all time high. The great thing about this group insurance facility is that the more who sign up for the service the greater the chances of reducing premiums even further."

The insurance package is underwritten by one of the largest insurers in the Irish market, Royal & Sun Alliance and the premium is uniquely guaranteed for two years. Quotes can be obtained in under ten minutes and no proposal form needs to be filled out. Prices for cover start at €135.

Mark Phelan, MD of BHP Insurances says: "Community and voluntary groups fulfill an essential role in Irish society - their very existence benefits hundreds of thousands of people all over the country. We are delighted to be able to work with the INCVF to provide a service that can help reduce part of their daily overheads and ensure they can get on with their core tasks."

The insurance package provides for a range of cover including Public Liability, Employer's Liability and Property Damage cover - all of which can be provided for under one policy. The core cover, Public Liability, is required by all community and voluntary organisations and includes a standard limit of €1.3m with the option to increase this to €2.6m or €6.5m.

Phelan continues: "Liability insurance is essential and will cover any damage to property or injuries to another person for which you may be responsible. Most voluntary groups only have a requirement for €1.3m worth of Public Liability cover whereas for groups involved in what's considered more hazardous activities, such as indoor sports, this cover needs to be higher."

Any voluntary group affiliated to the Irish National Community and Voluntary Forum who is interested in availing of this facility, must first contact their local City / County Forum to obtain an ID number. The ID number is unique to them and must be quoted when contacting BHP Insurances to obtain a quote. Some fora have already started sending out ID numbers to their various members and those who haven't received them are being asked to contact their individual fora to obtain this. A dedicated BHP Forum helpdesk and lo-call number has been set up to deal with all enquiries on 1890 666 111.

### About BHP Insurances

BHP Insurances is a leading provider of insurance and financial planning services to commercial and private customers nationwide. Founded in 1998, it is a privately owned Irish company and only employs industry experienced specialist brokers. Professional expertise and technological innovation are the foundation of BHP's success in delivering the highest levels of customer support and increased transaction speed.

BHP has agencies with 60 major insurers, underwriting organisations and financial product producers locally and globally. Services include: Commercial Insurance, Home Insurance, Group Scheme Insurance, Life Assurance, Mortgages, Pensions and Health Insurance.

*BHP is regulated by the Financial Regulator as a Multi-Agency Intermediary and Mortgage Intermediary and is a member of the Life Assurance Association and Irish Brokers Association. More information about BHP and its services can be found at: [www.bhpinsurance.ie](http://www.bhpinsurance.ie)*

### About the INCVF

Established in November 2003, the Irish National Community and Voluntary Forum (INCVF) is the national representative body for community and voluntary organisation across the 26 counties of Ireland. It consists of 35 county and city Fora who have a combined membership of 22,000 community and voluntary groups. The County and City Fora were established as part of the County and City Development Board process to facilitate consultation with the Community and Voluntary sector.

#### **To obtain your ID number contact**

##### **Willie Morton**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Community and Voluntary Forum  
Tel 205 4700 Ext 4265  
E-Mail [wmorton@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:wmorton@dlrcoco.ie)

# Country House Concerts



Cabinteely Park House



Marley House

## Spring > Summer > Autumn

Continuing the successful new series, Country House Concerts returns with a wonderfully eclectic mix of music recitals taking place in two of the most beautiful heritage houses in Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown, Marley Park House and Cabinteely Park House.

The series continues with performances by some of Ireland's most talented classical, jazz and traditional musicians as well as special guests from France and Argentina. This is a new opportunity to visit the houses and enjoy the magnificently restored Ballrooms where the concerts will take place.

**All performances begin at 8.00pm - Admission €15 / €12**

For further details or to request a copy of our brochure, please log on to [www.dlrcoco.ie/arts](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts) or contact the Arts Office of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Tel 205 4869.

## Bealtaine Festival 2006

The Bealtaine Festival 2006 took place in the County Hall Dun Laoghaire on Wednesday 17 May. All associations and groups involved with Older People were invited to participate in the Bealtaine Festival Exhibition. First prize went to CLUB 55 Hillview Community Resource Centre. Congratulations to all involved in the work with older people in Hillview Estate and in particular to Margaret Gillies who put the presentation together.

**HILLVIEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE**  
33/34 Hillview Grove, Ballinteer, Dublin 16.  
Tel 01 296 5025 Fax 01 296 8841

## COMMUNITY FORUM GRANT SCHEME 2006

The closing date for the 2006 Community Forum Grant Scheme is the 30 June 2006. A maximum grant of €1,000 is available to affiliated organisations.

For more information and to apply on line [www.dlrcoco.ie/communityforum](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/communityforum) or contact **Willie Morton** Tel 205 4700 Ext 4265



We would like to hear from your organisation with a view to carrying details in forthcoming editions.

The Forum can be contacted at

**DUN LAOGHAIRE – RATHDOWN COMMUNITY FORUM**

C/o Community and Enterprise Department  
County Hall, Marine Road  
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Email: [ccf@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:ccf@dlrcoco.ie)