



The Forum

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Forum AGM

The working group of the Community and Voluntary Forum have set 26 April 2006 as the date for our AGM. The venue is the Stillorgan Park Hotel, a central location in the County.

Chairperson Gray Cahill said, "The AGM is important in bringing the membership together. The member groups choose who will serve on the working group. They then see that we, the community, are represented on the County Development Board, and many other boards and fora which are making decisions about our lives. They also plan the work of the Forum for the year and make this known to the membership through the newsletter and the AGM."

The Working Group consists of 20 members representing varied interests of the community and voluntary sector in the county. Members are elected from the general membership for a period of two years, which allows them to represent the views of the wider membership on various statutory bodies in the County. Opportunity is given to members of the working group to build on their own capacity to represent their groups' interests, and the interests of the wider membership. Two members of the working group sit on the County Development Board, with the hope that the views of the membership are taken into account in the development of the county of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown.



Stillorgan Park Hotel

Your groups' views are important. Come to the AGM and have your voice heard in the development of the County.

If your group is not currently a member of the Community and Voluntary Forum, we invite you to join by visiting our website at www.dlrccommunityforum.ie. You are also welcome to come along on the night and join us then.

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Community and Voluntary Forum AGM Stillorgan Park Hotel 26 April 2006 at 8.00pm

DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY FORUM WORKPLAN 2006

The working group have agreed the following workplan for 2006.

- 1 Develop capacity of Working Group members to proof Local Development Plans with particular emphasis on equality and poverty proofing and with the view to ensure that the particular concerns and needs of Forum Members are reflected in those plans.
- 2 The Community Forum Working Group will strengthen its programme for the support of volunteerism and the promotion of good Citizenship in the County.
- 3 It is agreed that member groups be targeted on a geographical basis. The County is divided into six electoral districts; it is proposed that a maximum of three forum area committees be created (allowing for population density) within those districts. This will allow for Community and Voluntary Groups to come together and discuss items of mutual concern, and allow the Working Group to represent their concerns at county level.
- 4 Work would continue on the updating of our website, the posting of news items, the input of our newsletter and the posting of any reports that the Working Group would agree on.
- 5 The grant scheme run by the Working Group has been very successful in not only supporting and promoting our member groups, but also in promoting the Forum. It is proposed that the scheme funding be increased to allow for more groups to apply.
- 6 The Community Forum will support the implementation of the CDB Action Plan 2006-2008.
- 7 It is intended to bring together the members of the Working Group, the members of the SPCs and other Forum members who represent the Forum on various committees etc.

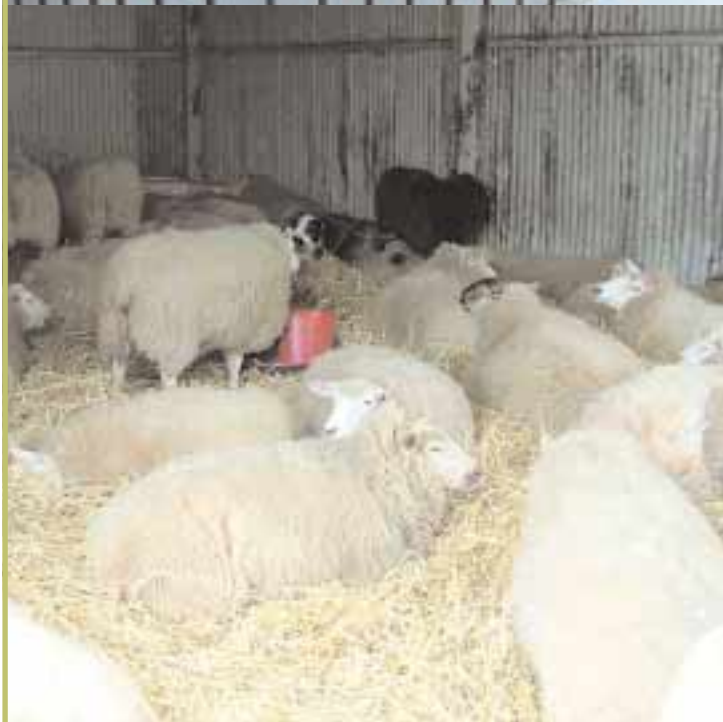
At this meeting members of the various committees will be able to create lines of communication between all concerned. The Working Group needs to be able to inform the members on the various committees of the concerns of the wider membership, but more importantly the feedback from these various committees will allow for a more informed Working Group.
- 8 Publish 4 newsletters. Each member of the Working Group should actively seek articles on the membership organisations. It is intended that a stockpile of articles be created.
- 9 The Working Group will become more actively involved with the National Forum; it would appear that the National Forum is gaining a recognised status at Government level. This could be achieved by getting a member of the Working Group on to the national executive.
- 10 After five years in existence the Working Group should look to build ties with members of the other Working Groups in the Dublin area. The Working Group will look to holding a seminar with the other areas on best practice, items of mutual concern etc.

This is a brief outline of the 2006 workplan. The full workplan including the reasoning and implementation method is available on our website www.dlrccommunityforum.ie

The working group have agreed that the major emphasis of our workplan for 2006 should be in promoting Volunteerism and Good Citizenship and in creating Area Networking Groups.



The 'Flea'



AIRFIELD HO

Upper Kilmacud Road Dundrum, Dublin 14

Tel: 01 298 4301 Fax: 01 296 2832 Booking Tel: 01 298 4301

To book tickets: Email: booking@airfield.ie Website: www.airfield.ie

Airfield is a 35-acre estate located on Kilmacud Road Upper, Dundrum, Co. Dublin. The house was built in the late 1820's as a small farm cottage named Bessmount. Thomas and Elizabeth Scully were the second occupiers who basically gave Airfield the shape it is today, dramatically increasing its size from a two to three roomed cottage to a substantial family home. It is they who were responsible for naming the house Airfield.

The Overends first came to Airfield in 1894 when Trevor Overend, a successful Dublin solicitor, bought the house and moved here with his wife, Lily Butler and two daughters, Letitia born 1880 and Constance, born in 1894. Unfortunately, Constance Overend died of meningitis as a young child but happily (and somewhat unexpectedly) in 1900, they had another child, Naomi who quickly became the family pet.

The two sisters, Letitia and Naomi, grew up as part of a large extended family of Butler and Overend relatives. Despite the twenty year age gap between the two sisters and the fact that they led quite independent lives, they nevertheless remained very close. They were united by their mutual friends, their motorcars and travel.

One of their greatest achievements was the finance, time and effort they dedicated to the opening and running of the Children's Sunshine Home, Stillorgan, along with its founder Dr. Ella Webb. Originally opened as a convalescent home for children suffering from rickets in the early 1920's, the outlook of the home changed with demand and today it is still in existence as a Care Centre for mentally handicapped people.

Letitia and Naomi Overend lived on the estate their entire lives. They were very well known characters in the Dundrum locality, mainly thanks to their beautiful range of vintage cars, their pedigree herd of Jersey cows, and of course, for their altruistic endeavours, of which Airfield Trust is a living testament.

Apart from their interest in Airfield one of the activities the sisters had in common was their motorcar. In 1903 Letitia and her father had attended the first Irish motorcar rally and she credited this as sparking a lifelong interest for both. Trevor Overend purchased one of the first motor cars in the Dundrum area, a Daimler, and Lily Overend drove a small Peugeot, nicknamed "the flea" by her family as seen here. In 1927 Letitia was given a present of her own car, a magnificent Rolls Royce, pictured opposite. By this point Naomi was also a keen motorist and in 1936 she was given an Austin Tickford.

Both women attended a course at the Rolls Royce School of Instruction in London although it was Letitia who really enjoyed carrying out basic maintenance on her own car and often changed the oil and spark plugs and stripped and cleaned the engine. They were both members of various vintage motoring clubs and loved to travel around Ireland entering rallies and to socialise at the Automobile Club in Dawson Street .

The Airfield Trust was established in accordance with the wishes of both Naomi and Letitia, who wanted the estate to be used for educational and recreational purposes. Since 1998, Airfield has been open to the public, where visitors can enjoy the farm, estate walk, formal gardens, arts programme, shop and restaurant. Airfield runs a number of courses focusing on nature and the environment for primary and secondary schools. A full description of the Spring programme is available at www.airfield.ie.

Under the guidance of Kathy Purcell, General Manager, Airfield is setting up its first official volunteer programme. There are many areas to work in such as the education department, gardening or working on events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at Airfield or have had experience in setting up volunteer programmes and would like to help, please contact either Brenda on 298 4301 or Kathy on 296 7603 or email info@airfield.ie

**If you are interested, please attend an Open Forum in Airfield House:
Tuesday 11 April 2006
8.00 pm.**



Austin Tickford



Kathy Purcell at the wheels of the Rolls Royce

PLANNING PAST & PRESENT

WIDE STREET COMMISSIONERS

Many of the wide streets in the centre of Dublin which we now take for granted resulted from the work of the Wide Street Commissioners. 'The Commissioners for making Wide and Convenient Ways, Streets and Passages in the City of Dublin' was established by an Act of Parliament in 1757. The Commission had extensive powers with the authority to acquire property by compulsory purchase, demolish it, lay down new streets, set lots along the new streets to builders for development and control building standards.

The following year an act was passed to make 'a wide and convenient street from Essex (now Grattan) Bridge to the Royal Castle of Dublin'. When the owners of the planned site changed their minds about selling, the Commission 'unroofed the houses in the middle of the night to get people out for the street widening'. Parliament Street opened in 1762.

The Commissioners were responsible for converting Dame Street, Westmoreland Street and D'Olier Street from narrow lanes to the present wider thoroughfares. They were also responsible for shifting the main north-south axis of the city from Capel-Parliament Streets to O'Connell Street. They built Carlisle Bridge (now O'Connell Bridge) and extended Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) down to the Liffey.

The Commission was abolished under the Dublin Improvement Act of 1849 with the final completion of its work in 1851.

Two lessons can be learned from the era of the Commissioners:

- The planning process has improved immeasurably since their time
- The results of the work of environmental planning may take decades or even generations to be fully appreciated.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

Up to 1976 all decisions on planning appeals were made by the Minister for Local Government. This created difficult conflict of interest situations and could not have been seen as fair or impartial. It was accepted generally that an independent Board should be set up because political parties at the time agreed that an independent tribunal should deal with appeal decisions in an area as controversial and sensitive as land development. An Bord Pleanála was therefore established in 1997 under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1976.

The Chairman is John O'Connor and Deputy Chairman is Brian Hunt and there are ten other Board members. They are supported by a staff of about 130.

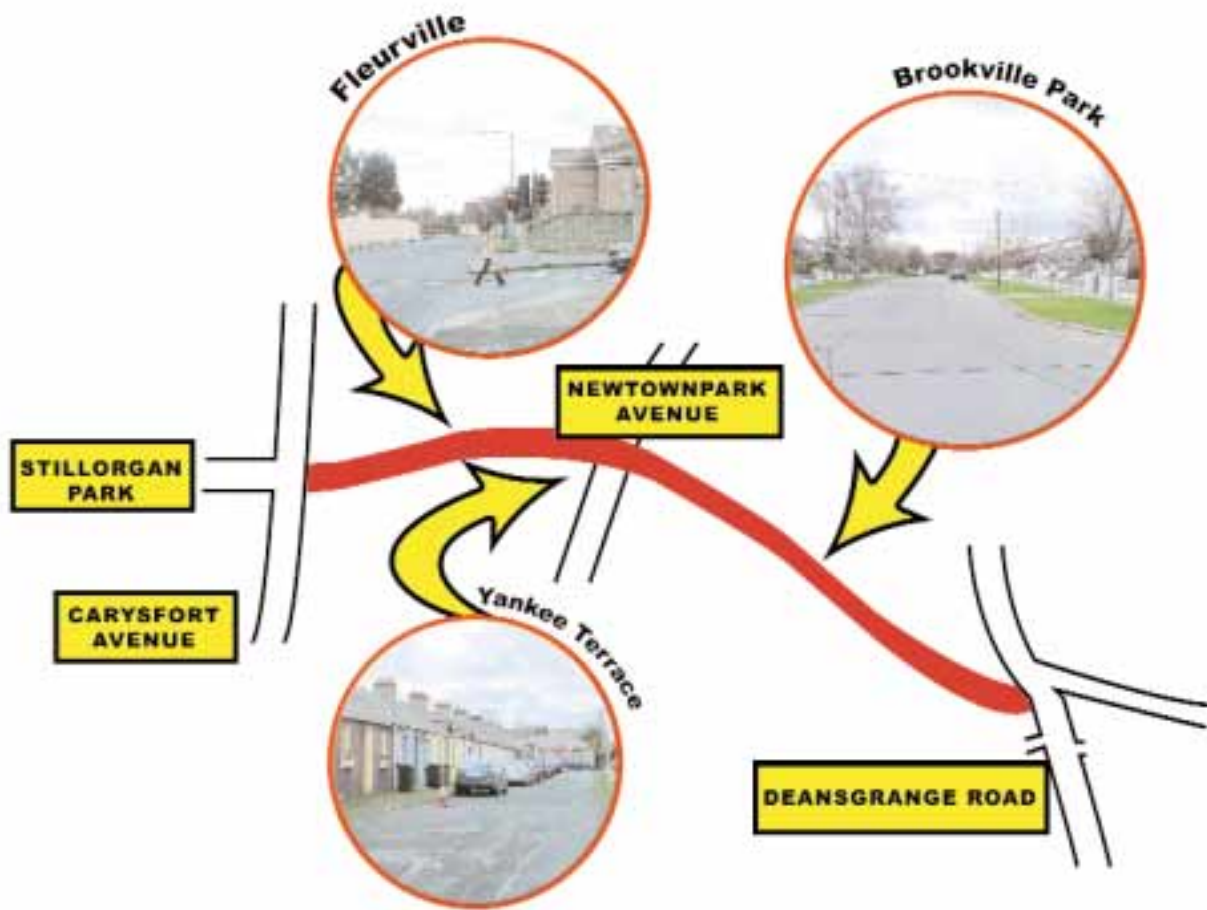
There are three main characteristics of the system:

- The system is independent
- The system is designed to be fair and impartial, and
- The system is open.

The Board is responsible for assessing and determining major local authority infrastructure projects (including motorways and road projects) and also local authority proposals for the compulsory purchase of land. These cases are submitted to the Board directly by the sponsoring local authority. The range of cases dealt with can be grouped under six headings: Compulsory Acquisitions, Road Projects, Other projects requiring environmental impact assessment (EIA), Sub threshold EIA cases, Scoping and Exemption from EIA requirements.

Appeals and referrals are generally dealt with on the basis of written submissions from the parties together with a site inspection by an inspector appointed by the Board. The Board has absolute discretion to hold an oral hearing of such cases whether or not a hearing is requested by a party to the appeal. The Board must hold an oral hearing in relation to certain compulsory purchase orders and road schemes.

In 2004, 324 decisions in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown were appealed to the Board. Only 24% of these were confirmed by the Board, 42% were varied by the Board and 34% rejected.



Monkstown Ring Road

The idea of a 'ring road' linking Stillorgan with Dun Laoghaire has been in the minds of Council planners since the early 1970s. Various bits of preparatory work were carried out since then including the improvement of Stillorgan Park. The idea was also included in the planning permission for Fleurville.

The route was to run from Stillorgan to Dun Laoghaire via Stillorgan Park, Fleurville, Yankee Terrace across Newtownpark Avenue, along Brookville Park, Monkstown Avenue, Mounttown Upper and York Road into Dun Laoghaire and became known as the Monkstown Ring Road.

The final section from Fleurville to Deansgrange Road is now being planned by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and is about 1.1 km long. Because of its environmental impact (the plan envisaged demolition of 16 dwellings and conversion of quiet cul de sacs into busy thoroughfares), Bord Pleanala, at the request of the Council, confirmed that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would have to be prepared.

The EIS was unveiled in Autumn 2005 and the public was invited to make submissions on it. By the closing date in November 2005, a total of 14 objections to the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) and 195 other submissions and objections had been received. As part of the process, the County Council applied to An Bord Pleanala under the Local Authority road development for the road and Compulsory Acquisition under the Housing Act for the property affected. CPOs were also served on those whose properties were affected.

The objectives of The Council as stated in the EIS include:

- To promote and strengthen Dun Laoghaire and Stillorgan as two of the county's prime retail/commercial centres, and Dun Laoghaire Port, by improving accessibility to all as well as improving the linkages between the two centres

- To attract traffic from less suitable roads onto a district distributor standard ring road thereby improving congestion, safety and adjacent environmental conditions on existing roads.

The objections to the CPO relate to 11 houses in Yankee Terrace, two at Twin Cottages adjacent to Yankee Terrace and one to three in Roseville Terrace on Newtownpark Avenue at the exit from Yankee Terrace. The procedure is that the Council will propose a price for each property, which can be appealed to an arbitrator appointed by the High Court.

The other objections relate to a variety of issues dealing with the impact of a new road carrying 16,000 vehicles a day where there has been no through traffic to date.

To deal with these objections a statutory public oral hearing was held in the Gresham Hotel in January. Originally scheduled for three days from 25 January, it spilled over into the following week because of the volume of business. The oral hearing was carried out by Philip Jones, Senior Inspector with An Bord Pleanala and was designed to allow the various objectors an opportunity to question the various County Council experts involved in the preparation of the EIS. While the EIS initially appeared as a very comprehensive document with 14 chapters covering topics such as Traffic, Noise and Vibration, Fauna and Flora etc., it appeared during questioning that it may not have fully dealt with all issues.

The hearing concluded on 3 February. The process thereafter is a presentation by the inspector of his report to An Bord Pleanala by the end of February and the Bord final decision to be published by the end of March.



Sharon O'Connor, Michelle Fulham, Jeanette Hopkins and Dave Hennessy accepting the overall prize of €1,500 on behalf of Mounstown Youth Club

Community Awards

MOUNTTOWN YOUTH CLUB WINS OVERALL COMMUNITY AWARDS

Mounstown Youth Club, a group with a long history of providing and working for the youth in the neighbourhood, scooped this year's top prize and a cheque for €1,500 at the annual Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Community Awards, which was held in the County Hall on 8 February 2006.

Organised by the Community Department and presented by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pat Hand, the Awards are the Council's way of recognising the variety and wealth of projects being undertaken by community and voluntary groups in their local neighbourhoods.

Out of over 50 entrants, the following are the winners of the 2005 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Community Awards:

OVERALL WINNER Mounstown Youth Club

ARTS & CULTURE

- 1st Columbanus/Mulvey Community Group
- 2nd Sallynoggin Youth Group
- 3rd Kilcross Residents and Development Group

ENVIRONMENTAL

- 1st Kilcross Estate Management Forum
- 2nd Cois Cairn Estate Management Forum
- 3rd Moreen/Blackthorn Estate Management Forum

YOUTH

- 1st Ballyogan Youth Group
- 2nd Sallynoggin Summer Project
- 3rd Shanganagh Youth Club

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 1st Southside Travellers Actions Group (STAG)
- 2nd Loreto/Nutgrove Community Association
- 3rd Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Outreach Project (DROP)

SPORTS & RECREATIONAL

- 1st Mounstown Boxing Club
- 2nd Shankill Bowling Club

OLDER PERSON IN THE COMMUNITY

- 1st Central Dun Laoghaire Senior Citizens
- 2nd Johnstown Killiney Active Retirement Association
- 3rd Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Network of Older People

For further information, contact:

Mary Kinane

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Tel 086 609 7532

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

What are we teaching our children?

In recent times concerns about the possible widespread use of alcohol and drugs among young people have been raised in the media. The blame is placed on various factors ranging from the lack of parental responsibility to the influence of advertising and popular culture. Often the debate on how to deal with the problem focuses on education programmes. What has been done in this regard in our county?

Under the aegis of the County Development Board, a multi-agency forum was set up in 2004 to look at all substance use issues in the county. The Health Services Executive's Addiction Service in Dún Laoghaire chairs the Forum. Other agencies represented include the Department of Education and Science, the Local Drugs Task Force, the Regional Drugs Task Force, Southside Partnership, Dun Laoghaire Youth Services, DLR County Council and An Garda Síochána. The County Community Forum and the DLR Chambers of Commerce actively participate in the Forum on Substance Use. The Forum monitors and co-ordinates initiatives to deal with substance use in the county. Three programmes have recently been implemented in our schools.

The Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE) Programme

Since September 2003 all post primary schools countrywide are required to have Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE) in place in their Junior Cycle Curriculum.

For the students the SPHE aims to enable them to develop skills for self-fulfilment and living in communities; to promote their self-esteem and self confidence; to enable them to develop a framework for responsible decision making; to provide for opportunities for reflection and discussion; and to promote physical, mental and emotional health and well being.

The SPHE programme is designed to build on the primary level experience of the student and to address the major issues facing young people today, through ten modules delivered during the three-year cycle, namely:

Belonging and Integrating

Self –Management: A sense of purpose

Communication Skills

Physical Health

Friendships

Relationships and Sexuality

Emotional Health

Influences and Decisions

Substance Use

Personal Safety

SPHE is a core part of the school's programme for first years for all schools in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and this will be progressed through their second and third year curriculum over the coming two academic years. However, some schools, especially those with more trained staff, have already incorporated the curriculum at second and third year level.

The Walk Tall Programme

In teaching this Programme at Primary school level, a balance is struck between developing skills, values and attitudes and giving children age and developmentally appropriate information. The focus on the drugs information module in the programme is on alcohol, nicotine and solvents. Building children's self esteem and self-confidence is central to this Programme.

The Walk Tall Support Service, which operates in Local Drug Task Force schools as a pillar of the National Drug Strategy Plan, has, as its focus, supporting teachers in the implementation of the programme. The Service supports schools in Substance Use Policy work, Methodology workshops, information updates on the programme, a session on issues related to prevention education, three choices of parent work and planning for SPHE using the Walk Tall Lessons. We also offer Summer and Evening courses for teachers locally in the Blackrock Education Centre.

School Substance Use Policies

In recent times many schools in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area have been involved in the development of a School Substance Use Policy. This was a multi-agency undertaking and was very successful. It is anticipated that more work of this nature will take place.

It is clear that the educational programmes and policies are in place to assist young people to make informed choices. It is also self-evident that to address the scourge of misuse of alcohol and other substances everyone in the larger community has a role to play.

For more information on the above education programmes please contact: Maureen Wilson
Senior Health Promotion Officer for Schools
Tel 274 4361

Community Forum Grant 2006

The Community and Voluntary Forum has as in previous years, set up a limited fund to assist affiliated organisations in promoting their membership and participation in activities.

Promotional projects such as the publication of newsletters, information pamphlets and website development come within the scope of the scheme. Applications must be received by 30 June 2006 and only those projects which will be completed before the end of the year, will be eligible for grant aid. A maximum grant of €1,000 will apply.

Apply on line www.dlrccommunityforum.ie
or contact Willie Morton at 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