

Construction Finally Gets Going on St Michael's Social Housing

On Monday 15 November St Michael's Estate Regeneration Board welcomed the contractor on to the 2 acre building site in the Estate which will be the location for the construction of 75 residential units. These will be a mix of social and affordable housing.

It is now more that 2 years since the collapse of the Public Private Partnership agreement between the builders McNamara and Dublin City Council which was to have built 480 private residences and 240 social housing units along with a civic centre, library, café, bar, restaurant, parish centre, crèches, supermarket, family resource centre and youth centre with football pitches.

While the current development is a much slimmed down version of the original plan for the area, independent chairman of the Regeneration Board Finbarr Flood said that "it is 2 acres of a 14-acre project and the board will continue



Although modest by comparison to the original plan, the new development is given the thumbs up by the next generation from St Michael's Estate

working together to seek investment and to pioneer innovative approaches to completing the entire site".

On the site of the former CBS next to St Michael's Estate, work on the construction of a Community Nursing Unit is almost complete. It is expected

that this unit will be operational by the end of 2011. A separate development of a Primary Health Care Centre is also nearing completion and the projected date for the Centre to begin providing services to the community is the middle of 2011 ■

New Funding for Childcare

The National Early Years Access Initiative fund announced last summer that it would provide funding for 13 early years projects in Ireland. The Inchicore Family Welfare Initiative and the Rialto Family Centre consortium have gotten through to the second stage of the application process.

The Inchicore Family Welfare Initiative concentrates on providing supports to 'hard to reach' families and their children aged up to 4 years. The initiative aims to provide a more focused approach with experienced and qualified staff from the community to ensure a better outcomes.

The Rialto Family Centre consortium focuses on the 'how' of transitions for children and families from home to crèche to school. And also how to and support families through providing continuity of care.

Both have a good chance of success but we will have to wait to see the outcome from this second stage ■

Masterplan for Dolphin Regeneration Going Ahead

A Masterplan for the regeneration of Dolphin House and Park is being developed by the Joint Regeneration Board of Dolphin House.

Dublin City Council (DCC) has stated its commitment to the regeneration of Dolphin House and has signed up to the board as the place where decisions will be taken about regeneration in partnership with the community of Dolphin.

Last May residents of Dolphin House organised a Human Rights Hearing on living conditions in the flats which highlighted long standing issues with sewage, dampness and the attending



Senator Maurice Manning Chairman of the Irish Human Rights Commission at the second Human Rights Hearing on housing in Dolphin House last October

health problems suffered by the residents.

The Human Rights Hearing was followed in October with another meeting where a further report, commissioned by Barnardos on behalf of the residents group Rialto Rights in Action, was presented. This report indicated that conditions

had further deteriorated since May with waste substances backing up through sinks and baths that exceeded the safe levels for drinking water.

During the summer DCC carried out waste pipe cleaning and has also promised to replace some of the corroded waste pipes. However,

meetings between the Council and the community are on-going to try and address the problems highlighted by the residents

Another Hearing is planned for March 2011 which will focus on the health impacts of the poor housing conditions and assessing what progress has been made in meeting the human rights indicators.

Social Regeneration

The local community has already started work on driving the key social aspects of regeneration such as: education supports, training, employment needs, health, enterprise, estate management, community development and capacity building, community facilities, family services etc.

The drawing up of such a social plan alongside any bricks and mortar development will be central to the successful regeneration of Dolphin House and Dolphin Park ■

Learning for Living Course

Early next year the Partnership will run a Learning for Living programme. This will be a 24 week educational course for people with disabilities living in Bluebell, Inchicore, Islandbridge, Kilmainham and Rialto.

It will cover subjects like Personal and Interpersonal Skills, Social Awareness, IT Skills and Self Advocacy. Part of the course will be FETAC level 3 accredited.

An open morning to provide information about the course will be held on Tuesday 18 January 2011 at 10.30 am in the Oblate Retreat Centre Tyrconnell Road, Dublin 8.

The course will be free to disabled people. For further details contact Maureen or Lucy at (01) 473 2196 ■

Disability Support Group

Are you a parent of a disabled child? Would you like to meet other parents of disabled children? Would you like to see a support group being set up for parents of disabled people in the Canals Area?

The Canal Communities Partnership will be holding a workshop facilitated by the Disability Equality Special Support Agency for parents of disabled children on Wednesday 16 February 2011.

A venue has yet to be decided but for further information and updates contact Maureen at (01) 473 2196 ■

Party Time for Senior Citizens

Inchicore Senior Citizens are holding a Christmas Dinner and Dance in The Good Council GAA Club Drimnagh, on Thursday 16 December.

Tickets cost €25 and include a four course Christmas Dinner. You can dance the night away to music provided by the 2nd Edition.

Doors open at 7pm and everyone is welcome. Tickets are available from the Oblates House of Retreat on Tyrconnell Road ■

Goodbye to All That – Fond Farewells and New Start



Partnership Administrator John Connelly is set to retire from his post in January 2011. John has been with the partnership for 11 years and not only has he been a key worker in the organisation he has also been a valued colleague not least for his good humour, wit and friendship. We all wish him and his wife Eileen many happy years of retirement.



New Partnership Administrator

Although we are saying goodbye to John we are also giving a warm welcome to Una Lowry (pictured on the left) who has now taken up the position of Partnership Administrator.



Tony McCartaigh (centre) with his wife Lillian and Tony May

Tony McCartaigh has headed up the Rialto Community Drug Team for many years now is set to retire at the end of 2010. Tony has tirelessly worked with the community in the Rialto area for more than 30 years and was instrumental in setting up the Rialto Development Association in St Andrews. The Partnership wishes Tony well in this new phase of his life and we are sure that he will continue to be a great friend to the community in Rialto.

More Parent Child Support

The Partnership's Parent Child Home Programme is now in its second year with nine families taking part in the programme. The programme has four Home Visitors who are available to call to families twice a week in their homes to support parents with children aged 18 months to 2 years with play activities and book reading.

The books and toys used in the programme are kept by the families and the books help to build a literacy library in the home.

If you would like more information or would like to take part in the programme contact Barbara or Claudia at (01) 473 2196 ■

2011 Courses For Women

During the last three months of 2010 the Inchicore Area Women's Group with support from the Partnership has been running a variety of short courses for women from the area.

A further series of courses will run in 2011 including a 10 week Modern Line Dancing course beginning Monday 17 January 7pm to 9pm in St. Michael's Parish Centre, Emmet Road, Inchicore and will cost €5 per night.



Jewellery Making has proved to be a very popular course choice

A new jewellery making course begins on 20 January running for 8 weeks in Oblate View, Tyrconnell Road, Thursday's 10am to 12 noon and will cost €5 per session.

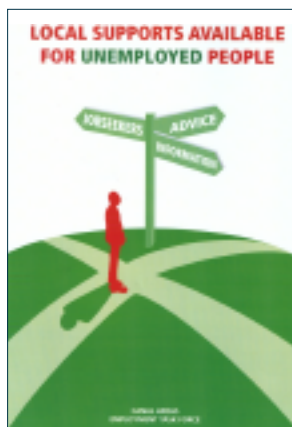
For further details contact Maureen at (01) 473 2196.

Courses will also be advertised on the Partnership's website www.canalpartnership.com ■

Employment Task Force Update

In the spring of 2010 the Partnership set up an Employment Task Force for the canal area with the aim of finding realistic ways of improving opportunities, introducing new services and improving existing services for people who are out of work.

A number of working groups have focussed on areas like information for the unemployed, enterprise and supports to employers and basic training needs of local unemployed people.



To improve information available to people out of work the Partnership teamed up with the Citizens Information Service and the Local Employment Service to provide information training to local service providers, community and voluntary groups.

Local Information

All information on local supports for the unemployed was compiled and produced in leaflet and poster formats and these are currently being used as guides for people taking part in the training programme.

When the training programme is completed all those who took part will effectively provide a one stop shop for anyone seeking information on supports and services for people out of work.

Efforts are currently underway to engage with local employers by highlighting some of the benefits associated with taking on more staff.

A pilot programme based in Rialto is being set up with the

aim of informing local employers of the benefits and supports available for employing new people. The possibility of setting up an enterprise centre in the Partnership area is also under consideration.

In an attempt to support people who are long term unemployed, locally based training in personal development and computers has been set up in conjunction with Bluebell CDP and a second programme is being developed in Dolphin House.

The Task Force has now carried out a review its work of the last six months and plans are being made to continue its efforts to achieve realistic, practical results in 2011.

For further information on the Employment Task Force contact Denis at (01) 473 2196 ■

Training for Childcare Workers

Diversity & Equality Training

Six early years workers from the Partnership area received their FETAC level 5 awards in Diversity & Equality training last October in the Inchicore Sports Centre. Childcare workers from Eala Óg, Fatima Children's Day Care Centre, Dolphin Creche and Menni services joined together with other workers from Ballyfermot and Clondalkin to attend this course which was funded by Eala Óg Childcare centre and Canal Communities Partnership and delivered by Pavee Point trainer, Colette Murray. Participants found the course content very informative and useful in their work with children and families.

Managing Positive Behaviour

Eleven childcare workers attended in-service training on Managing Positive Behaviour in early November. Maria Ruane from Barnardos facilitated this training and the approach was very interactive, practical and involved role play. The importance of observation and understanding challenging behaviour was highlighted and strategies for supporting appropriate behaviour discussed. Workers were encouraged to be reflective and seek support with difficult issues when needed.

The feedback from the workshops was very positive.

Relaxation

Over thirty early years workers attended Relaxation Evenings during November. The evenings consisted of providing opportunities for workers to try out different therapies - Indian head massage, back massage and yoga. Some beauty treatments were offered as well! Essentially the aim was to provide an important relaxed space for workers to meet each other and liaise on issues that are important to them in their work ■

New Café Togo in F2 Centre



The F2 Centre in Rialto has recently opened a café next door to the centre. This is a joint venture between F2 and the Café Togo chain. The café, which is located in Reuben Plaza, provides a wide selection of food, drinks and snacks and will cater for private functions too. It will also act as caterer to groups using the F2 Centre for facilitated meetings, seminars, and other events.

As well as being a welcome addition to options for eating out in the Rialto area the café is a key element of F2's five year enterprise strategy. While providing local employment, profits from the café will be reinvested back into the F2 Centre to support its social programmes and activities.

For further information contact Michelle at 087 230 3202 or email cafetogo@f2c.ie ■

Men Working Together

This year has proved to be a good year for groups from the Partnership area who are working to support men who want to



Men from the Hey Da! programme

engage in various social and communal activities.

There are now several groups operating in Bluebell, Inchicore, Dolphin House and Rialto (St Andrew's Centre and F2 Centre) all providing a variety of supports and activities for local men.

For many years now the Partnership has been involved in providing supports to men's groups across the area with the aim of developing all types of work with men and also bringing both workers and men together to share activities and resources.

In order to sustain work with men in the canal area the Partnership, in conjunction with the Men's Development Network, has created and is running a training and support programme for people from all the organisations who are working with men.

Earlier this year the Partnership also ran a successful parenting programme for men from the area. A measure of the success of this programme was that the participants requested a follow-up programme and this has now been put in place.

While 2011 will be a challenging year for everyone, the Partnership will continue to foster relations between the individuals and groups across the area who are working with men and will attempt to be creative in getting the maximum benefit from all of the resources available.

For more information on activities for men and working with men in the canal area contact Denis at (01) 473 2196 ■

Partnership Info

If you would like to know more about the Partnership or what's going on in the Canal Area log on to www.canalpartnership.com

Employment and Other Options

Lost your job? Need support? Log on to

www.losingyourjob.ie

Sourcing work and Training

If you are out of work and you live in Bluebell, Inchicore, Kilmainham, Rialto or Islandbridge you should make an appointment with Canal Local Employment Service where you will get help finding either work or other suitable options.

All current vacancies on the FAS jobs database are accessible as well as information on other job opportunities. You will also get support in setting a realistic approach to getting a job or taking up further training or education.

Once you have become a client of the LES you will be able to get support with:

- Looking for a job
- Getting training to suit your needs
- Writing a CV
- Preparing for job interviews
- Getting information on further education
- Exploring the self-employment route
- Getting a place on a local Job Club
- Accessing both FAS and local training opportunities

To become a client of the LES and avail of these services, all you have to do is make an appointment to meet with a mediator. You can do this by telephoning or calling in to one of the LES offices in Bluebell, Inchicore or Rialto.

(See the panel opposite for addresses and telephone numbers of LES offices)

Business Start Up Support

If you want to set up your own business call our Enterprise Co-ordinator Liz Byrne at (01) 453 7229, Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

Canal LES Work Related Training

Canal Local Employment Service offers a selection of work-related training courses to their clients. Most of the courses are FETAC level 4 or 5 accredited and the duration times for the courses range from 1 day to 8 weeks. Below is a sample of the courses that will be run in 2011. For further information on times, dates and other details about courses contact:

Janet Shanks at (01) 453 7229 or email her at janets@canallesn.ie.

Administration Courses	Health & Safety Courses	Other Courses
TAS Computerised Accounts	Safe Pass	Bookkeeping
Computer Beginners	Manual Handling Fetac 4	Payroll
Keyboard Skills	Occupational First Aid	Executive Networking
Reception Skills	Paediatric First Aid	Customer Service & Sales
Computer Improvers	HACCP Fetac 5	
Office Skills		

First Job Club 2011

If you are out of work the Job Club service in the Goldenbridge Integrated Complex in Inchicore can offer you the opportunity to learn what you need to know in order to focus clearly on getting a job.

You will not only receive coaching in how to do that, but you will also be given free access to resources such as stationery, stamps and the use of telephones, photocopiers and computers. You will also learn how to do interviews and develop a plan of action to get back to work.

The Job Club is open to anyone who is ready to work between the ages of 16 to 64 years. The service is free and if you are on social welfare you keep your payments while you are on a Job Club Programme.

The first Job Club of 2011 will begin on

17th January

For further information or to get a place on the Job Club course contact Jackie Colgan at (01) 453 7324 or email her at: jackiec@canallesn.ie

Register with the LES

Inchicore, Kilmainham, Islandbridge

Canal LESN Inchicore
103 Tyrconnell Road
Inchicore
Tel: (01) 473 1881
Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm
2pm to 5pm

Rialto

Canal LESN Rialto
398 South Circular Road
Rialto
Tel: (01) 454 0935
Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm
(open through lunch)

Bluebell

Canal LESN Bluebell
La Touche Road
Bluebell
Tel: (01) 409 7850
Monday & Tuesday 8am to 5pm –
Wednesday & Thursday 9.30 to 1pm

If any of the offices above are not available ring the Goldenbridge office (01) 453 7229