

St Michael's Estate Masterplan Goes on Display in Local Communities

At the end of February the residents of St Michael's Estate got the first look at the new Masterplan for the development of the 14 acre site which will transform both the lives of people from St Michael's and the Inchicore area.

The plan provides for a total of 720 housing units, extensive community facilities and open public spaces.

CEO of St Michael's Regeneration Board, Eadaoin Ni Chleirigh, and the regeneration project leader Sean Smith from Dublin City Council have taken the plan on show to local communities during the month of March.

The developers, Michael McNamara & Co and Castlethorn Construction, who drew up the plan, were chosen by the community, DCC and the National Development Finance Authority after an open competition was held.

While the development of St Michael's Estate will be carried out as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project leader Sean Smith says that the project has been led by the community and DCC and that it was not "developer driven". He says that the "plan is the developers' interpretation of what DCC and the community want".

The housing aspect of the plan provides for 720 dwellings and they will be made up of 165 social units, 75



St Michael's Estate Masterplan which has been explained to local communities

affordable units and 480 private units on the 14 acres which make up the St Michael's Estate site. The housing is to be clustered in a way which will not distinguish between what is private and what is public and will consist of a mix of apartments and a smaller number of houses.

Construction

The construction will take place in two main phases. The first phase will be on a 4 acre site which will be made up of 68 social dwellings and 69 affordable dwellings. These 137 units will consist of 30 houses and 107 apartments and some of them will be used to re-house the remaining tenants of St Michael's Estate.

The empty flats will then be demolished to make way for the further development of a 10 acre site.

Alongside the construction of 720 housing units, 10% of which are fully accessible to disabled people, the Masterplan provides for an extensive mix of shops, social, leisure and recreational facilities.

Specifically the plan includes a new civic centre with a library, cafes, bars and restaurants, a new parish centre, 3 creches, a primary healthcare centre, a supermarket, a youth centre, family

resource centre and football pitches. There will also be 100% residential parking and additional retail parking, new public open spaces, play areas and a heritage, sculpture and art trail.

The public spaces will consist of a village green, a new urban square and a public square.

The new Civic Centre will face onto Emmet Road on the site of the existing Health Centre. This alone will have a very positive impact on Inchicore's streetscape as well as providing services to the community.

First Phase

Planning permission for the first phase of development of the 4 acre site was granted by Dublin City Council in July 2006. However, it is expected that the development of the site will not be signed off until this summer. If that's the case then work will begin on building of the first phase in the autumn of this year.

Last year the Christian Brothers announced the closure of Inchicore CBS which is adjacent to St Michael's Estate. The school's extensive grounds and playing fields are not part of the St Michael's Regeneration programme. However, Dublin City Council is currently in negotiations with the Christian Brothers with a view to buying the buildings and land from them.

It has taken many years for this Masterplan to materialise, hopefully it will have the positive impact envisioned by all those who have worked over the years to make it a reality.



Demolition continues in preparation for the new development Photo: Denis Geoghegan



Model of the St Michael's Estate Masterplan for the development for the area. Photo: Denis Geoghegan

New Citizens Information Centre for Inchicore



Mary Fanning will be there to give information and advice in the new Centre on Ring Terrace

A new Citizens Information Centre has just opened in Inchicore. The Inchicore and Bluebell Citizens Information Service is located in 1D Ring Terrace off Tyrconnell Road. For the moment the service will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30 and will be run by Mary Fanning who is also contactable by phone at (01) 454 4720.

The Citizens Information Centre will operate from the same premises as the Canal Intercultural Centre but the two services should not be confused. "The Citizens Information Centre isn't part of the Intercultural Centre. It just happens to share the same space. The Information Centre is there to provide a service to the whole community and we welcome everybody who needs what we have to offer," says Patrick Stagg, Development Manager for the Dublin 8 and Bluebell area.

"By May we hope to have the service running two full days a week"

The Centre will be staffed by Mary Fanning who began working for the Citizens Information Service (CIS) as a volunteer several years ago. Then, just over a year ago she became employed by the CIS while running the service for Inchicore from a temporary office on Tyrconnell Road.

What's on Offer?

So, what does a Citizens information Centre do? The answer to that is, a CIC provides information on practically everything from Social Welfare and Health Service Executive entitlements to where the local children's football team is based – free of charge. Staff at the Centre will also act on behalf of people who are having problems with any Government agency or other organisation.

This means they will talk for, or write letters on behalf of, a person who calls into the Centre. A typical example would be someone who has bought faulty goods in a shop and is having a problem getting their money back. Staff will talk to the shop on behalf of the customer to try to resolve the issue. However, the most common calls made by CIC staff are in relation to Social Welfare on behalf of people who are having problems with their payments.

The staff will also refer people to other organisations that may be able to help, like FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centres) or a counselling service. They will often ring to make appointments for people as well as helping people to fill out forms.

Who is it for and is it Confidential?

The Service is for anybody from anywhere. All you need to do is walk in and ask for the help you need. The Service is totally confidential. People sometimes worry that what they say might get passed on to Government agencies, or that their neighbours might get to hear about their personal situations. Be assured that the service is not connected to any Government agency or to any other organisation. Anything you say to staff of the CIC goes no further than that.

The Centre

So, whether you need to find out if you're entitled to a Social Welfare Pension, a Medical Card, a Free Travel Pass or Tax Rebate, the Citizens Information Centre will be there to help you find out.

If you're looking for information on your rights as a citizen or looking for a specialist voluntary organisation – the Citizens Information Centre can help you make the connection. All you have to do is call in – or telephone – and ask.

The Centre stocks a full range of information leaflets and application forms on public services. Staff at the Centre will also be able to use the Citizens Information Files/Database, provided by the Citizens Information Board (previously known as Comhairle) to access the latest updated information available.

While the current service operates on two mornings a week it is hoped that opening hours will be extended "By May we hope to have the service running for two full days a week," says Patrick Stagg. "And over time we hope to extend the opening times further."

For more information you can contact Mary Fanning, 1D Ring Terrace, Inchicore. Tel: 454 4720.

Fatima Launches Three Year Plan

Following on the successes of the regeneration of Fatima Mansions which resulted in the flats being demolished and new private and local authority housing being built on the site, Fatima Groups United (FGU) has now turned its attention to the future.

Last February FGU launched its three year plan for 2007 – 2009. The plan aims to continue the momentum created over the last number of years around the total regeneration of the area which was once Fatima Mansions.

It is almost a year since the last person moved out of Fatima. While all of the tenants of Fatima have now been re-housed, FGU itself is still located in temporary accommodation in Portakabins on Reuben Street, but the work must go on.

The new plan outlines some of the challenges that FGU hopes to tackle in the coming years, such as support for people who have been relocated. For example, during the move it became clear that there are older men living alone in isolation, some living with alcoholism and / or family breakdown.

The ongoing challenges of estate management and anti-social behaviour will still have to be addressed. And there is also work to be done on monitoring local labour clauses to maximise the number of jobs for locals.

Ensuring that local residents get maximum benefits in relation to the Social Development Plan will continue to be on the agenda as will the drawing up of a social integration plan promoting integration of the old Fatima, surrounding areas and people who come to live in the new development.

Existing levels of support to local groups will still be needed into the future and given the increase in demand, the Children's Daycare Centre will need to be expanded.

There is also a need to continue to communicate with local residents in the area who will be directly affected by the ongoing construction work.

The plan aims to address all of these issues and others in the coming years.

For further information and copies of the *Fatima Groups United Three Year Plan 2007 – 2009* contact:

Fatima Groups United
Community Buildings, Reuben Street,
Rialto, Dublin 8. Tel: (01) 453 4722

Start College Planning Now

Are you a young person doing your Leaving Cert this June and want to go to college? Or are you a mature student interested in returning to education? Or maybe you're already doing a course and want to go to the next level.

If you can say yes to any of these, then it's time to get planning!

First Step: think about what course you would like to do.

Second Step: Find out which colleges are offering the course that most suits you.

Having trouble working out what you want to do? Finding it hard to wade through all the college brochures to find where the best course is? Then contact your career/education guidance officer.

If you're still in school, your school should have a Career Guidance Teacher.

If you're over 18, contact the Adult Education Guidance service in Crumlin College. The number is (01) 454 0662, extension 119. They're friendly, they're helpful and they're free.

Other things you can do: Ask different colleges for information booklets, attend college open days, do some internet research. www.qualifax.ie and www.careerdirections.ie are two good websites.

How to Apply

You have to apply for most University or Institute of Technology courses through the Central Applications Office (CAO). The closing date was February 1st, however there is a late closing date of May 1st for most courses. Check that the course you have chosen has a late application date.

The late application fee is €90 for paper applications and €70 for online applications. Check online at www.cao.ie for more information.

If you want to do a Post Leaving Certificate course in one of the VEC colleges, you apply directly to the college. Contact your chosen college now to get an application form.

Diversity and Equality



Some of the people that took part in the session on Diversity & Equality

Last month Canal Communities Partnership Childcare Network ran an introductory session on a course Diversity and Equality in Childcare.

The session was organised because the Network is interested in running a FETAC accredited level 5 course in Diversity & Equality. Eleven people attended the session which was used to get an outline for the course, listen to expectations of potential students and agree a time frame for course delivery.

It is expected that learners will develop an awareness of the concepts of Diversity and Equality and how to be more inclusive and respectful of all children in services. The course will also provide students with an opportunity to become more aware of equality legislation and the importance of ensuring policies and procedures are developed in line with best practice that is meaningful to service users.

As part of the assessment learners will have to undertake a project in their service and to utilise their learning from the course. Colette Murray, Childcare Co-ordinator with Pavee Point will deliver the training which will begin after Easter.

Money Matters

It's not easy to make ends meet when you're a student, but you can do it. There are lots of grants available.

The most important ones are the Back to Education Allowance, Post Leaving Certificate Grants and Local Authority (Higher Education) Grants.

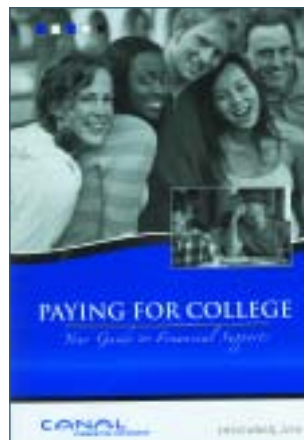
These cover fees and give a maintenance allowance for students who meet the eligibility requirements.

You may also be able to keep your social welfare benefits, medical card, rent allowance and other supports.

Then there are lots of other smaller grants available such as the Partnership Millennium Funds and the Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust which come around once a year.

Take a look at the Canal Communities Partnership booklet

Paying for College where you will find all the details you need to apply for a wide range of financial supports.



The above booklet is free. Just phone Fiona at (01) 456 4220 between 9 am and 1 pm Monday to Friday for a copy.

Socialising in Bluebell

Are you over 55, living in Bluebell and fancy taking up Tai Chi or doing a class on Fall Prevention? Perhaps you'd just like to have a good healthy lunch among friends. If so, the Bluebell Community Development Project may have just the thing for you.

The Tai Chi and Fall Prevention Programmes are on every Monday from 11.00am to 12 noon in the ABC Community Centre. These activities keep you fit, strengthen bones and fight arthritis.

Once a month there is a healthy lunch provided in the ABC centre for older people and these occasions are also used to provide useful information on things like welfare rights. The lunches and other activities are open to people from Bluebell who are over 55 years of age.



If you want to attend any of the activities you can just drop in or contact Doreen Carpenter at (01) 460 1366 or call in to the project office at 1 Bernard Curtis House anytime.

Survey on Disability

Are you a person with a disability or do you know of people with disabilities living in Islandbridge, Kilmainham, Inchicore, Bluebell or Rialto?

If so, you may be able to help. The Partnership will be carrying out a survey in these areas on the needs of people with disabilities during the months of April and May. Watch out for posters and leaflets with more information.

If you would like to find out more about the survey or would like to receive a Questionnaire contact Maureen at (01) 458 4853 or Ijeoma at (01) 456 4220.

Local Employment at your Service

Canal Local Employment Service has a range of services for long-term unemployed people from the canal area (Bluebell, Inchicore, Rialto, Islandbridge and Kilmainham) that want to get jobs or get training to help them get back to work.

These services include:

Mediation: This is a one to one service, provided by trained mediators, which looks at the individual needs of the person and tries to ensure that they take the best route to getting a job.

Outreach: The outreach service aims to encourage and support people to come along and take up the services on offer. This is done through local advertising, contact with local Community Employment Schemes and community groups to highlight the services available.

The Job Club: The Club offers a practical programme which supports people to develop a range of work place, personal and social skills.

Trasnan: This project is run to help ex-prisoners re-integrate back into the work force.

Training Initiative: The Local Employment Service has set up a number of skills training courses to provide people with both technical skills and personal development; (See article on the right about training courses)

LES Goldenbridge Complex Offers Free skills training



LES Co-ordinator Evelyn Lane presents course participant Pascal Dijon with a certificate of competence in Computers for Improvers

The Canal Local Employment Service Network offers a selection of work-related training programmes free of charge for clients in the Canal Communities Partnership area. The aim is to give people the skills to assist them gain employment.

A waiting list may apply in certain circumstances. All courses are held in the Goldenbridge Integrated Complex, St Vincent Street West, Inchicore. For further information call Janet Shanks at (01) 453 7229.

Courses are run on an ongoing basis subject to demand. Courses available in the Complex are as follows:

Computer Literacy: 12 places
Duration: 6 weeks x 3 mornings
Next Course: 10th April

Computers Improvers: 12 places
Duration: 8 weeks x 2 mornings

Office Skills: 15 places
Duration: 2 x half days
Next Course: 26th March

Manual Book-keeping: 15 places
Duration: 5 weeks x 1 afternoon per week

Occupational First Aid: 15 places
Duration: 8 weeks x 2 mornings

Keyboard skills: 12 places
Duration: 5 weeks x 4 afternoon
Next Course: 16th April

Manual Handling: 15 places
Duration: half day

Safe Pass: 20 places
Duration: Full day 8am to 5pm

TAS Books: 12 places
Duration: 4 weeks x 2 mornings

Paediatric Emergencies: 15 places
Duration: Full day 8am to 5pm

Enterprise: For people who want to set up their own businesses (usually one person businesses such as taxi services etc,) there is an Enterprise co-ordinator available to help with all aspects of getting a business off the ground.

For information on any of the above services or if you want to make an appointment you can ring or call into the office in your local area. Below are the locations and details of the Local Employment Service offices.

Bluebell Area
Canal Local Employment Service
La Touche Road
Bluebell
Tel: (01) 409 7850

Inchicore Area
Canal Local Employment Service
103 Tyrconnell Road
Inchicore
Tel: (01) 473 1881

Rialto Area
Canal Local Employment Service
398 South Circular Road
Rialto
Tel: (01) 454 0935

Job Club
If you wish to get full details on the what the Job Club has to offer to help you get a job contact Jackie Colgan at Tel: (01) 453 7324

Training
For information and other details on the Local Employment Service training programme and courses contact Janet Shanks at Tel: (01) 453 7229

Enterprise
If you are interested in setting up your own business or need advice on how to make a business idea become a reality contact Liz Byrne at Tel: (01) 453 7229

Recruitment Open Days in the Hilton Hotel Kilmainham

The New Hilton Hotel in Kilmainham has a number of exciting employment opportunities and invites you to come along to the open days on

Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th March 10am to 4pm
in the
Hilton Hotel
Inchicore Road
Kilmainham

Contacting Partnership Staff

Direct Phone Numbers for Partnership Staff in Canal Communities Partnership Bluebell Office, 12A & 12B Bluebell Business Park, Old Naas Road, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

Community Development Co-ordinator, Marja Almqvist (01) 458 4849
Education Co-ordinator, Lucy Harrington (01) 458 4842
Childcare Co-ordinator, Barbara Coates (01) 458 4843

Adult Education Co-ordinator, Catherine Dowling (01) 458 4844
Community Development Link Workers, Sharon Wallace (01) 458 4850
Maureen McGovern (01) 458 4853
Reception (01) 456 4220

This News Bulletin is available in other formats including PDF on our website www.canalpartnership.com. If you require other formats please contact Denis at (01) 473 2196.

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