

Work has begun on the County Development Plan 2011-2015. The public will be invited to make submissions as the process evolves – keep an eye on the Council’s web site www.dlrcoco.ie.

The County Manager has set up an internal working group to further examine what can be done to assist in the rejuvenation of Dun Laoghaire. In my own view this holistic view is required to revive what is meant to be the premier town of the County.

A number of information sessions have been held with local businesses, resident groups, school principals and educational institutions within the County with regard to the proposed new Central Library and Cultural Centre planned for Moran Park. Estimated completion date for the new centre is 2011.

The Council has run a number of successful events in Blackrock & Cabinteely Parks and in the Peoples Park Dun Laoghaire. These have ranged from “Books in the Park”, band recitals, “Movies in the Park” and Teddy Bear’s Picnic. Details of planned events can always be found at www.dlrevents.ie

BLACKROCK TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE



In my last newsletter I had mentioned that a number of local people, including myself, had come together to establish a Blackrock Tidy Towns Committee. More details can be found on our website www.blackrocktidytowns.googlepages.com

Cllr Marie Baker: Working hard-Keeping in touch

We have just submitted our 3 year plan which includes a programme of improvements for the town area in particular. These range from simple weed spraying and litter removal to footpath replacement and enhanced planting.

A team of volunteers has done some cleaning of some local car parks and Idrone Terrace. We would love to hear from local residents who would be interested in helping.

PLANNING

Unfortunately An Bord Pleanala granted permission for the development of the old Shell garage site on the Rock Road despite objections from local residents and myself. I believe the proposed 13 storey tower is inappropriate in this area. Unfortunately it may also set a precedent for any future development of the Tara Towers site.

**WANT TO SEE A CHANGE
OF GOVERNMENT?**

**THEN WHY NOT JOIN FINE GAEL
AND HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN?**

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR NEW MEMBERS.**

Cllr. Marie Baker
www.mariebaker.net
email: mbaker@cllr.dlrcoco.ie
phone: 086-818 6704 or 01-288 7713

*Marie is working closely with Sean Barrett TD,
Sen. Eugene Regan, Blackrock Area Rep Barry Ward
and Our voice in Europe Gay Mitchell MEP*

Cllr Marie Baker: Working hard-Keeping in touch

Cllr Marie

Baker

Newsletter Spring 08



Cllr. Marie Baker
Working hard - Keeping in touch

KEY CONTENTS:
Blackrock Town Hall
Dun Laoghaire & Blackrock Baths
Blackrock Tidy Towns
Blackrock/Booterstown Park

Phone: 086 818 6704 or 288 7713
Email: mbaker@cllr.dlrcoco.ie
Web: www.mariebaker.net

fine gael ★

LOCAL ISSUES

BLACKROCK TOWN HALL

It is hoped that work will begin soon on the refurbishment and redevelopment of the Blackrock Town Hall complex. In fact there are three distinct buildings – the Town Hall itself, the Carnegie Library and the VEC (Vocational Educational Committee) building.

The Town Hall itself dates from 1865 and has been in a poor state of repair for some time. Indeed there are fears that there could be further deterioration in the fabric of the building if work does not commence soon. All three buildings are protected structures and the work will involve retaining all significant features, including the facades. The Blackrock Town Council Chamber is to be carefully taken down and re-erected as part of the development, in order to preserve our local history and heritage.

The redeveloped complex will become the main location for the VEC. The VEC provides second chance 3rd level education to thousands of local people. It is currently in rented accommodation in Dun Laoghaire, which it must vacate. Blackrock will become the VEC's permanent home, which is a return to its original roots. This is a great vote of confidence in Blackrock.

The complex will house the new library, which will be extended to approx. twice its current size and have more modern facilities. The library and the new VEC building will remain in Council ownership and the Council will grant the VEC a long lease on its portion of the building.

In order to get work started on preserving the building, the Council have offered to loan the Dept. of Education the money to get over any short term financial constraints the Dept. may have. Planning permission was granted in 2003 but the buildings have only recently become vacant.

Cllr Marie Baker: Working hard-Keeping in touch

DUN LAOGHAIRE BATHS

You will recall that, following public consultation, a proposal from the previous County Manager for this site was rejected by the Councillors, including myself. We insisted that further plans for the site be put forward that did not involve high rise apartments.

Two proposals have now been put forward by consultants employed by the Council. These are on view as part of the public consultation exercise until 1st September at County Hall or visit the web www.dlrcoco.ie/eastpier2sandycove/index.htm.

Both proposals are ambitious, but could be rolled out in phrases. Please also bear in mind that a high proportion of the costs are sea defence works which need to be done in any case. The Council wants to hear your views at this stage. There will also be further public consultation later in the process

The position of Blackrock baths is quite different in that the site is owned by a private company but leased by the Council. This gives the Council a strong say in any changes at this site. However we must be careful about any proposals to spend public money on a privately owned site.

BLACKROCK/BOOTERSTOWN PARK

The Council received 82 submissions in response to the plans for Blackrock and Booterstown Parks which were put on public display, as part of the public consultation process. The overall response was very positive to these initial drawings. Some very good ideas for improvements came from the public and these will be incorporated into future thoughts and plans.

Some concern was expressed about some of the ideas for the Booterstown end of the park. The Council are committed to acting in consultation with local residents and have no desire to impose any specific plans. To that

Cllr Marie Baker: Working hard-Keeping in touch

end Council officials, including the County Manager, recently attended a meeting with representatives of local Resident Associations to hear their views at first hand. I would emphasize that the Council are in listening and consultation mode on this issue.

MONKSTOWN RING ROAD

Tenders for the Monkstown ring road are currently being examined at Govt. level. It is intended that work will begin before the end of the year.

COUNCIL SNIPPETS

The Council recently received a Taoiseach's award for Public Service Excellence for the annual Festival of World Cultures, which is usually held in Dun Laoghaire in August. The award was presented in Dublin Castle in April.

The Council has recently made a decision to source its electricity from renewable energy at all its non domestic sites. We are the first Council in the country to do so and this will save 4,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year.



Cllr Marie Baker: Working hard-Keeping in touch