

Dun Laoghaire Area Committee

I have had the honour during the past year of serving as Chairperson of the Dun Laoghaire Area Committee. This committee is designed to deal with local issues in an area stretching from Booterstown to Shankill and over as far as the Leopardstown race course/N11. This allows the full Council to deal with more strategic County wide issues.

During the past year we:

- held two meetings with the Garda Chief Superintendent to improve the links between the Gardai and local councillors. Community Gardai are available to meet with local residents associations at their AGMs.
- approved the conservation, extension and upgrading of the tea rooms and gate lodge at the People's Park in Dun Laoghaire.
- agreed that the bandstand and shelter on the East Pier would be taken down, restored and replaced. Once replaced, ownership will then pass to the Harbour Board.

Blackrock Library

The Blackrock Library will have to move in order to facilitate the re-development of the town hall. The Council have found alternative accommodation for the library in the centre of Blackrock. Alternative accommodation has also been found for the Blackrock Community Playgroup.

Sports facilities

Construction has been approved for new changing rooms at Newtownparklands, adjacent to the existing tennis courts opposite Brookfield. This will be for the local tennis and footballs clubs.

New changing rooms will also be provided at Hollypark for Granada football club.

Traffic issues

I have made representations to the Council to have the left turn filter re-instated at the bottom of Booterstown Avenue.

The Council have agreed to install a mini roundabout in order to aid safety at the "Lazy Days Café" junction at Avoca Avenue, Convent Road, Sydney Terrace.

Frascati Shopping Centre

I welcome the refusal by the Council for the proposed re-development of the Frascati Shopping Centre site. A subsequent appeal by the developers to an Bord Pleanála was withdrawn at the end of May.



TGI Newtownpark Avenue

TGI's have lost their appeal to retain the lighting and signage erected without planning permission. The Council are currently seeking to enforce their removal.

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Join Fine Gael?

In the recent general election Fine Gael gained an unprecedented additional 20 seats, including one in Dun Laoghaire. We are always looking for new members – I would be delighted to hear from you!

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Cllr Marie Baker: Working hard-Keeping in touch

Cllr Marie

Baker

Newsletter 2007



Cllr. Marie Baker
Working hard - Keeping in touch

Key Contents

Blackrock Park, Frascati Shopping Centre,
Stillorgan Local Area Plan, Footpath Restoration

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LOCAL ISSUES

Blackrock Park

Blackrock Park, stretching from Blackrock town centre as far as Williamstown at Booterstown DART station, was created in the 1870's. Improvements were made in the 1960's but little has been done since. It has great potential, particularly because of its position overlooking Dublin Bay.



However it is under utilised, partly through a lack of facilities and also because of access issues. The Council are currently drawing up a master plan for the improvement of the park, which will go out for public consultation during 2007. It is hoped that work will begin in 2008 and be completed in phases over the following five years.

The draft proposal deals with Blackrock park itself, the Williamstown Civic space often used by the Circus and the large green space near Booterstown DART station.

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The current proposals for public consultation include the following concepts:

- A new plaza opposite Blackrock Shopping Centre to connect the park, both visually and physically, with the adjacent town centre.
- The revamping of the existing tea rooms, including new toilet facilities. The existing toilet block is to be demolished.
- It is proposed to re-locate the bandstand to the proposed plaza opposite Blackrock S.C.
- A new larger playground will replace the existing playground, including new equipment, safety surfacing and planting.
- The existing amphitheatre is too steep for comfort. It is proposed to install curved seating into the grassed slope for concerts or other performances.
- The lake is currently filled with sea water which limits planting possibilities. It is proposed to fill the lake via the Priory Stream and provide attractive planting.
- New planting and seating areas in that part of the park behind Seafort Parade.
- The upgrading of the area around the Martello Tower.
- A small car park for park users only at the current Circus site at Williamstown. This is designed to improve access to both Blackrock and Booterstown parks.
- Two additional playgrounds to be installed at Booterstown Park (between Carroll and Kinsella's and Booterstown DART station)
- It is proposed to construct two board walks near Booterstown DART station to improve access along Williamstown lagoon.
- A new civic space near Booterstown DART station car park for the visiting Circus, for a farmers market and a small area for young skateboarders.

Overall the aim is to improve access, provide more facilities and introduce more colour by planting more flowers. It is also designed so that it complements the planned Sutton to Sandycove cycleway.

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Footpaths

One of the priorities of the Fine Gael and Labour groups on the Council has been the footpath restoration programme. Included in the 2007 programme (already completed or to be completed) are path replacements at Waltham Terrace, part of Woodlands Park, one side of Newtownpark Avenue from Newtownpark to White's Cross, Springhill Park, Farmleigh Avenue/Park/Close, Foxrock Avenue, Park Avenue, Dargle Road, Newpark Road.

Let me know if your paths are in a poor condition and I will try and get them included in a subsequent restoration programme.

Roads

Included in the roads restoration programme for 2007 is Albany Avenue, Belgrave Road/Square/ Place, Brookfield Avenue/Terrace/ Place, Eaton Place/ Square, South Hill Park, Sweetman's Avenue and Holly Park Avenue.

Stillorgan Local Area Plan

The Council have renewed work on the Stillorgan Local Area Plan. I believe the success of the Plan will be dependant on solving the traffic issue. Only if this is solved will Stillorgan acquire a pedestrian friendly village atmosphere.



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