

BALLINTOTAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

News Update Autumn 2006

Dear Neighbour

After three years, this week marks the conclusion of the present term of office for the elected members of Ballintotas Community Council. In this three year period whilst doing our utmost not to sound like a political machine the elected council members have done their utmost to represent the views of the people of their respective areas.

It has been a busy few years. The initial months were very much taken up with administrative duties as a Community Council got off the ground for the first time in the Ballintotas area under the chairmanship of Mr Frank Hayes. From the outset it was clear that the vast majority of local residents recognised the great need for a community facility in the locality. As a group, whilst not neglecting other matters, Ballintotas Community Council set about exploring the various options available in relation to this project. This year thanks to the generosity of Dean Goold a site was given to the Community Council and thus the process was further accelerated. As many of you may know by now, a planning application has been submitted to Cork County Council for the construction of a single storey Community Centre. It is an ambitious project, which will need an abundance of local help and guidance. The dedication of the hard working sub committee which has advanced this matter to its current juncture is proof of what can be achieved. It is up to all of us to help take the next step. It is proposed that all member of the community will be invited to a general meeting to view the final plans as soon as the newly elected Community Council will be put in place.

Reflecting back on the past three years in the life time of Ballintotas Community Council, there were several other matters which featured prominently. Ongoing concerns on local issues were regularly aired at monthly meetings, with appropriate action being taken in relation to road safety matters etc. Council members also played a very active part in the completion of the local section in the Imokilly Place Names Survey, whilst the Family Mass and Lap of the Lake at Christmas time, the Open Air Mass in summer and the annual Loughaderra Lake Clean Up were other new community gatherings. The entry of Ballintotas in the Tidy Towns Competition this year got a favourable result and hopefully will help to improve the local environment in the future. Fund raising events also featured prominently with events ranging from a Halloween Weekend Dance to the summer Car Boot Sales and this year s Golf Classic which was superbly organised by an industrious sub committee. Sporting successes such as the Ballintotas Soccer Club Cup final triumph and the Sciath na Scol wins were also greatly supported by Council members.

At the recent AGM of the Community Council, a motion was passed to extend the representation from two to three elected people in each station district. This should help to strengthen the Council as a body and further assist in dealing with all relevant local matters in the various areas. We would also like to extend an invitation to members of our Community to participate actively in our activities by making themselves available where possible, to serve on one of our sub-committees involved in an activity in which they might be interested in.

Now is the time to fill in the attached voting papers. For the first time we bid a warm welcome to the residents of the Killeagh/Westpark and Bilberry townlands who are now also included in the Ballintotas Community Council district. We are a growing area with new houses, new faces and new neighbours. Lets all work together to enhance our lifestyles and the Ballintotas region. - There is so much to enjoy on our doorsteps.

Please play you part by filling in the attached voting papers as soon as possible as a member of the outgoing council will return to collect same within the next few days.

John Cashman

PRO Ballintotas Community Council