

Press Releases - Ballybrack Needs Urgent Attention - 17/03/00

March 1, 2000 A unique opportunity now exists to upgrade the whole Ballybrack village and deal with its chronic problems of congestion and litter. The residents of the Firgrove Estate in the village have offered a section of land at the worst part of the bottleneck to the council to provide parking. A major report will be launched this week (March 6th) by the Ballybrack Tidy Towns Committee unveiling their proposals for the village.

Residents of Ballybrack look enviously at how Shankill Village was dramatically improved by the Village Renewal Scheme and ask why not here? According to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, funding for the Shankill Village improvement Scheme (which cost in the region of £390,000), came from a number of sources including the local Urban and Village Renewal Scheme (under the 1994-99 Operational Programme for Local Urban and Rural Development), planning contributions, local contributions and from the County Council's own resources.

The chronic congestion problem in Ballybrack will get worse when the council installs its proposed recycling centre in the car park beside Killiney Station. It will be one of the first centres for the area and will therefore attract a high level of traffic through Ballybrack village.

The residents of the area have held numerous meetings to discuss the escalating problems but to no avail. In October of last year the Ballybrack Tidy Towns committee held a meeting at which over 100 local residents attended. The main item on the agenda was the congested and dangerous nature of Military road, which runs through Ballybrack Village and then crosses a very dangerous junction with Killiney Hill Road.

According to Councillor Costello "Because of the high walls at each corner of this junction, crossing it is like playing Russian Roulette. You just close your eyes, put your foot on the accelerator and hope you reach the other side unscathed!"

The village has participated in the Tidy Towns competition with increasing success, in 1990 the village scored 114 points and in 1998 it scored 178. The petrol station in the village has reopened

and the owners have made its appearance as attractive as possible through using high quality stone on its walls.

According to Councillor Costello "It is hard to understand why the council is so slow to take advantage of the enormous commitment of local residents and the offers made by residents' groups? Last year's Tidy Town's report stated

"It was good to see so much community involvement and your ongoing communications with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will hopefully bring about good results

I am forced to say that sadly this has not been the experience to date

As testament to the hard work of the local residents it is no coincidence that an estate barely 50 meters from Ballybrack village won first prize as the best-presented estate in the 1999 Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County competition. The area around Ballybrack village has fantastic amenities. There is a 4,500 year old dolmen 200 meters from Ballybrack village. Ironically the attraction of the area contributes to a lot of the congestion as gigantic tour busses from Germany and France try to pass through Ballybrack village after viewing Bono and Enya's front gate!

Pavements are being damaged as trucks and busses mount them to get down the narrow Military road that goes through the heart of the village. There are almost 20 businesses in the village area with only 4 public parking spaces. Litter is also a major problem. The residents have offered to sponsor bins but there has been little movement from the council on the litter problem.

"It is essential that Ballybrack is put at the top of the list for Town & Village Renewal Scheme when the next funding is announced by the Department of the Environment. The residents are doing their very best but it is not their role to carry out the structural works needed in the village area. It is up to the council to deliver on this and repay all the efforts of the residents." According to Councillor Costello.