



Ballinclea Heights Residents Association
55 Ballinclea Heights
Killiney
Co Dublin

☎ (01)2851326

8 March 2004

Ballinclea Park

Dear Councillor

We are aware that the Minister for the Environment has issued a directive to Council in relation to the Draft Development Plan to “ensure that sufficient and suitable land is zoned for residential use or for a mixture of residential and other uses, to meet the requirements of the Council’s housing strategy.” Whatever the ultimate legal status of this directive it is important to note that, in his accompanying letter to the Cathaoirleach, the Minister states “it is of course a matter for the members to determine on the lands to be zoned to meet the requirements of the Direction.”

In the Manager’s Report February 2004 he recommends rezoning part of Ballinclea Heights for residential use in spite of the fact that:

- No submission was made opposing its removal from housing list 6.1, even by the Housing Department of DLRCoCo.
- Rezoning was not at issue in the published amendments

The considerations which persuaded Council to zone this field Open Space/Recreation have not changed such as:

- It is the only flat, safe and overlooked playing area.
- It occupies a pivotal position in the centre of a long established community.
- It has been used recreationally for decades (35th annual sports day was held there September 2003)
- Its development by this community’s hard work and expenditure in planting over 20 mature trees, repairing the wall and fence, establishing a major floral design in 2000 which was partly funded by a DLRCoCo Millennium Grant of 3750IR punts,
- The installation of a seven circuit Labyrinth in 2003. This is a 40x40 ft. piece of landscape art.

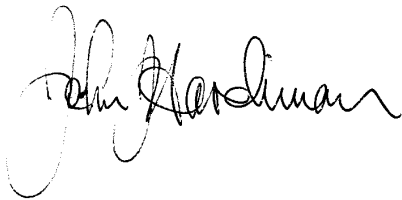
- The recent introduction of an innovative compost facility commissioned from Coillte for the disposal and reuse of this community's organic waste, thus reducing the volume to dumps.
- The purchase of two sets of goalposts

The importance of developing such recreational amenities is emphasised by a new (to be launched 8/3/2004) Government strategy on children's play, which is to be centrally funded, and by virtue of it being the first priority of the DLR Community Forum. It is our belief that addressing this deficit in relation to the many DLRCoCo owned spaces in the centre of estates would bring greater benefit to society. {See enclosures }

Our use of and campaign for this area long predates current issues and we have greatly appreciated the support and encouragement given by Council over the past 8 years. In any event the fraction of a hectare involved is not going to resolve any perceived deficit of land.. It is our intention to present our park development plans to our AGM on 10/5/2004 for which we have acquired the professional services of an architect with great experience in this field.

We wish to thank you for your consistent support and trust that you will defeat this attempt to overturn your previous decisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hardiman', written in a cursive style.

John Hardiman
Chairman
Ballinlea Heights Residents Association