

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2006

Questionnaire on Parks Department's proposed All Weather Court for Ballinlea Park

As most of you know Ballinlea Heights Residents Association (BHRA) fought for many years to rezone our central area in order to establish it as a recreational park. While this campaign began in 1993, we came under the severest of pressure in 2001 when Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council (DLRCoCo) put forward plans for 44 social houses. For the three ensuing years of the County Development Plan our Association and community waged a constant and fortunately successful political campaign to safeguard our established plans for a recreational park. **Rezoning to amenity/open space was achieved in April 2004.**

The land still remains in the ownership of DLRCoCo. While it cannot be developed for housing without re-zoning this situation can easily be overturned by a simple majority of Councillors present during meetings of the next Development Plan, which commences in 2007. With a new County Manager and many new Councillors elected after our re-zoning we believe our position could be vulnerable if progress has not been made by then for recreational facilities in the park. When re-zoning was achieved TDs and Councillors emphasised the necessity of gaining the cooperation of the DLRCoCo Parks Department (Parks) to implement our plan for recreational facilities in the park.

On 8th July 2004 we presented a Submission for the Development of Ballinlea Park (displayed on our website) to Parks. This outlined a variety of desired recreational and other facilities aired at previous AGMs and Council meetings. Parks viewed it as the most comprehensive submission ever received by them. Arising from this and following many meetings and discussions, Parks have proposed to carry out a series of improvements to Ballinlea Park during the next few years. These are detailed below:

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS BY PARKS 2006 (SEE ATTACHED DRAWING)

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|--------------------------|--|
| PATHS | Installation of a footpath within the park and alongside the two road frontages (northern and eastern sides). Links to the external footpaths at both ends of the front road boundary will be made and trunking will be laid underground to allow for lighting along the footpath at a future date. |
| PLANTING | To enhance the northern front road boundary, planting is scheduled for March 2006, along the lines of creeping flowers to cover the ground and brick wall, and low growing flowering shrubs which will be easily maintained. |
| ALL WEATHER COURT | Installation of a 20m x 30m asphalt court to enable the playing of either tennis or volleyball or basketball or junior football, alternately. This would be 40% the size of the dual tennis court in neighbouring Cluny Park and would be managed on a similar basis by BHRA regarding times of availability and would be locked at night. Parks have stated they will take no part in its operation or management. The All Weather Court would be surrounded by a high-grade 2.5m green mesh fence, with one lockable entrance. |

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS BY PARKS 2007 ONWARDS

Parks have proposed a series of developments over a phased period to include: Railings, Seating, Sculpture, Tree Stump Grinding, Drainage and Topsoil of the flat playing area, soft landscaping and upgrading of entrance.

All Weather Court

We believe that the ideal location for the All Weather Court is at the base of the large embankment, as shown on drawing attached. This flat area is 90m wide, which would leave a 50x40m grass playing area for other activities along with the All Weather Court. Please note that the 20 x 30m space is currently marked out by white lines on the grass for all to inspect.

Parks have applied for a Sports Grant of €75000 to finance this All Weather Court and require a public consultation to establish the views solely of Ballinlecka Heights (BH) residents. BHRA, as agreed at last years AGM, require a general meeting to permit members to accept or reject this proposed recreational facility. Because of its specific funding the €75000 cost cannot be diverted to any other purpose in our park.

To facilitate this consultation process it was agreed to circulate a Questionnaire, which would enable the members of each household to express their view and preference. We would appreciate your prompt cooperation in conveying the views of family members on this recreational facility and other developments.

These plans have evolved from proposals approved by residents at previous AGMs and will be a major step towards securing our park into the future. In particular we believe that the All Weather Court, if accepted, would copper fasten our position and would also resolve the thorny issue of insurance for use of the park. We feel that concerns expressed by some about misuse of this facility are unfounded, based on Cluny Park's good record. Parks view it purely as a local amenity and consequently only require a public consultation with BH residents.

Questionnaire

As part of the consultation process the BHRA committee requests that all family members complete the attached questionnaire. Please include your e-mail address to allow us to keep you updated on continuing developments. We believe that e-mail contact is essential in order to keep residents informed on a regular basis, something that cannot be easily achieved by printed newsletter.

A BHRA representative will collect completed forms by Tuesday 28th February 2006.

Ballinlecka Park Fund

Please take this opportunity to become a Patron of Ballinlecka Park. Over 80 residents have already contributed (see house numbers listed on our website). The standard contribution has been €100 but any donation is welcome towards the enhancement of our park.

**BHRA Questionnaire re DLRCoCo Parks proposal for an
All Weather Court in Ballinlea Park 2006**

Subject to funding and approval Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Parks Department has proposed to install a €75000 (20m x 30m) All Weather Court recreational facility in Ballinlea Park this year. This would accommodate either basketball, junior football, tennis or volleyball alternately. It would be locked before and during hours of darkness and organised locally on similar lines to Cluny Park's dual tennis courts. The funding involved is specific to this facility and cannot be applied elsewhere in the park. See attached drawing.

Please complete this questionnaire by 28th February 2006. Completed questionnaires will be collected. Your e-mail address would be of enormous benefit to the BHRA Committee for communication of each development proposed for the Park.

House No.: _____ E-mail address: _____

Name: _____ Occupant **1** Teenager **1** Over19 **1** Under13 **1**

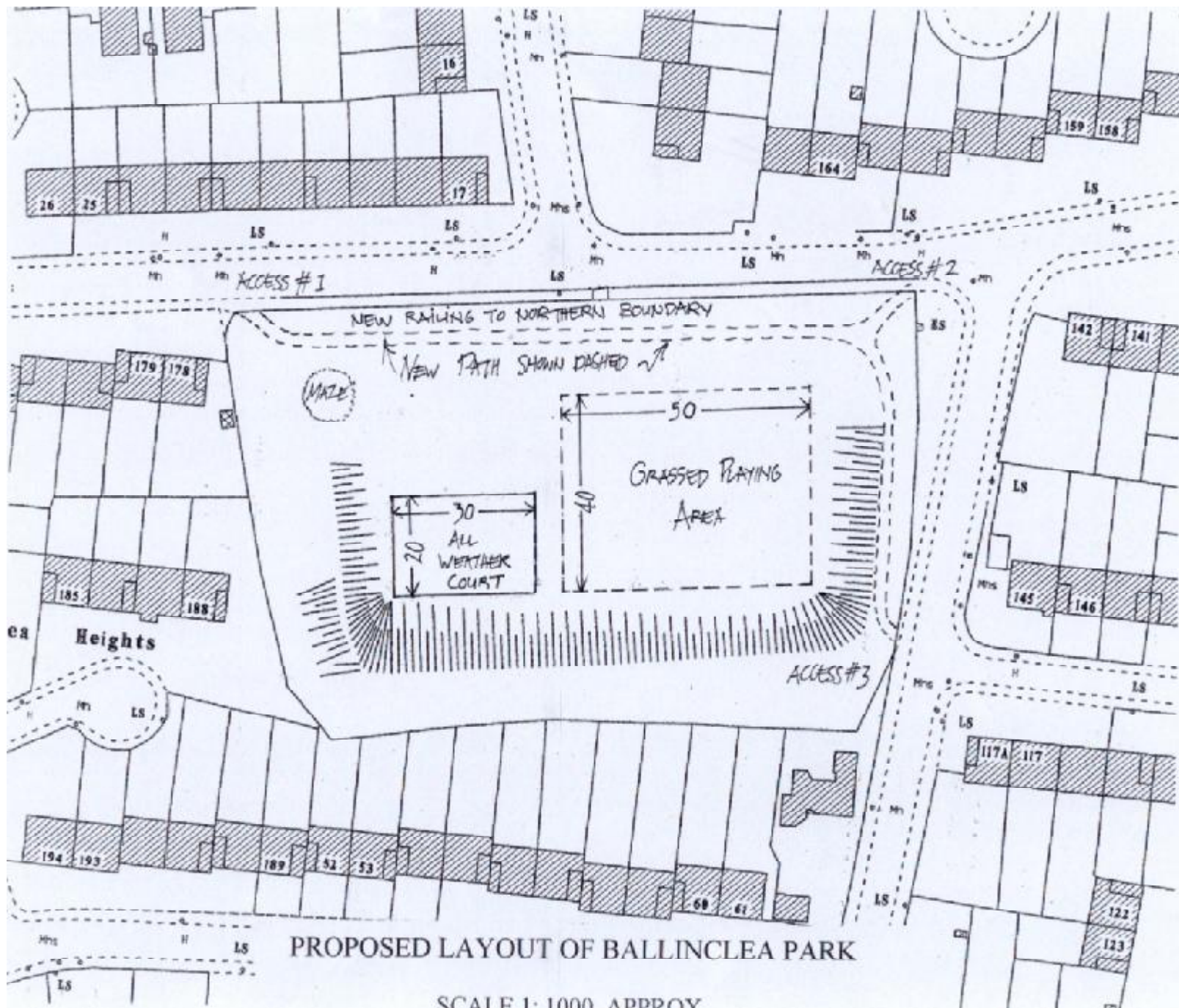
Do you favour the proposed All Weather Court for...	Basketball	1
	Junior football	1
	Tennis	1
	Volleyball	1

Comments re All Weather Court: _____

Comments on path: _____

Comments on planting: _____

Comments on future proposals: _____



PROPOSED LAYOUT OF BALLINCLEA PARK

SCALE 1:1000 APPROX