

DLR Per Cent for Art Programme
Place and Identity 2008-2010

Supplementary Information pack

A summary of each of the 6 electoral areas

Ballybrack town is situated between Loughlinstown and Killiney. It marks a sharp divide between the newer working classes on one side and the well-off residential areas of Killiney on the other. The small cottage style houses such as those on Mountain View Road were the traditional homes of labourers and gardeners for the big land owning houses. A defining characteristic of Ballybrack could be the crossroads at Military Road and Church Rd, with the new road there. A landmark might be the Catholic Church of Saint Alphonsus and Columba standing on high ground.

Blackrock is a bustling commercial and leisure town situated on the coast four miles to the north of Dún Laoghaire. It is renowned for its rich history and beautiful park. In the last decades of the 20th century, it was subjected to many dramatic changes. In recent years religious institutions have sold-out their property resulting in many new schemes of houses and apartments, while the Blackrock bypass has transformed the village bringing in its wake two new shopping centres and many large office buildings. Defining landmarks are the Blackrock Cross, the railway at Blackrock shore, Deepwell House – the large grand Victorian house visible from the DART, the Punch Bowl, Booterstown Marsh and Deansgrange cemetery.

Dundrum is the second town of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County, Dundrum boasts the biggest shopping complex in Ireland, which when completed will be the largest in Europe. A rapidly growing business and commercial town, it offers a wide range of top quality shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs. Dominant characteristics include the new Dundrum shopping centre, the old village and old town centre, LUAS, the Calatrava Bridge, Airfield Trust, Carnegie Library, the Nine Arches viaduct at Milltown. The area of Dundrum also extends to Windy Arbour and Milltown on the edge of the county. Dundrum represents the newer, younger and rapidly growing side of the County, in contrast to Dún Laoghaire.

Dún Laoghaire, both a Victorian and modern town, is the capital of the County and a seat of local government. It gets its name from a High King of Ireland "Laoghaire" whose Sea fort or "Dun" was located here some 1500 years ago. The town, with its thriving commercial centre, shops, restaurants and cafes, pubs, two shopping centres, cinema complex and theatre, has the advantage of being beside the sea and offering magnificent coastal views such as the sea at Newtownsmith. The Victorian People's Park is also renowned. Dún Laoghaire is Ireland's premier sailing destination with a superb marina, four yacht clubs and the Irish National Sailing School located on the West pier. The harbour offers access, via Stena Line's high-speed ferry, to Holyhead, Wales (within 100 minutes). Dublin City Centre is only 20 minutes away by DART (suburban rail) and the mountains and countryside are within a short drive. The townscape is dominated by magnificent piers, Victorian terraces, church spires, the Town Hall (Venetian style) and clock tower. In recent years Dún

Laoghaire's Victorian identity has seen many challenges. Further afield lie the Forty Foot in Sandycove, the Martello Towers, Dalkey Island, Killiney Hill, Vico Road.

Glencullen

Spectacularly located on the mountainside at the southern end of the County on the Enniskerry Road, this area is home to several golf and pitch and putt courses, equestrian centres, hill walking and cycling. This is an area of immense natural beauty; all amenities are located within an hour of Dublin city centre. The landscape of the area is hilly with many twisty roads leading to the mountains. It is also a richly historic area with archaeological sites of interest such as stone circles and sites of ancient habitation – Carrickmines, Kiltiernan. The backdrop is of the Dublin mountains and pine forests. There is much unspoilt countryside although changes have taken place in recent years evidenced by Three Rock Mountain with its TV transmitters and communications masts and motorways.

Stillorgan

There are few traces left today of the old village of Stillorgan, which was located on the important main road between Dublin and Bray. Stillorgan is now a busy suburban district, which is noted for having the first shopping centre ever built in Ireland, a large indoor bowling alley and a cinema. Glenalbyn Community Sports and Leisure Centre has an indoor swimming pool and sauna and is open to the public. Many of the historic houses and properties, which have managed to survive in this area, have done so because they were taken over by religious orders and charitable institutions e.g. St John of God Hospital. An example of the old village of Stillorgan would be Galloping Green. Also identifiable with Stillorgan is UCD.

Per Cent for Art guidelines

What is public art?

'Public art creates a dialogue with a people, a time and a place. The Per Cent for Art Scheme gives the Irish public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art, borne out of capital construction projects, in their everyday life. In turn it provides a challenge and an opportunity to a wide range of artists to create work for public engagement and response'¹

Public art is the term used for any form of art, created by or with artists, which takes place in a space that is freely accessible to the public. Art includes architecture, dance, film, literature, music, multimedia, theatre and visual art. The work may include² sculpture sited in public spaces, artists working in residence with local communities, composers collaborating with locally based professional and community musicians, theatre performances, poetry and literature commissions, audio visual presentations in outdoor spaces, digital media projects, etc.

The art commissioned may be of any duration, temporary or permanent; situated in existing communities or be part of new ones; sited indoors, in theatres or other spaces; outdoors or in our imagination; and may also be commissioned in collaboration with architects, local communities, planners etc. The form and manner in which public art comes into being is as flexible and creative as the people who make and experience it.

The Per Cent for Art Scheme

The primary way in which many public art projects are funded is through the Per Cent for Arts Scheme. One per cent of capital construction projects (including construction, restoration, refurbishment and urban and renewal schemes)³ managed by government departments may be used to commission art. The finances are ring fenced and are not transferable to other areas of spending, therefore if no art is commissioned, the finances cannot be spent on another element of the capital development. The upper limit is €64,000 per project and finances from several projects may be pooled.

In 2004 the government published national guidelines⁴ for public art with the intention of establishing best practice principles and a common approach to commissioning and managing projects. These guidelines will

¹ Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, *Public Art Per Cent for Art Scheme, General National Guidelines*, 2004

² This is merely a suggestive and not exhaustive/predictive list of possibilities

³ Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, *Public Art Per Cent for Art Scheme, General National Guidelines*, 2004. http://www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie/arts/public_art.html

⁴ Ibid

be used in the management of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's public art projects.

Public art funded by the Per Cent for Art Scheme creates opportunities for people to experience art that is commissioned specifically for their own neighbourhoods. Opportunities are created to experience new art forms or new ways of encountering art. In many instances citizens are involved in a close working relationship as makers or contributors to that artistic practice. The range and amount of art available has grown exponentially throughout the country as local authorities become key agencies as Commissioners.

The scheme also provides important opportunities for artists to work and live in communities; to create new work that responds and is relevant to those communities. It ensures that artists live in our neighbourhoods and communities and that a career as an artist is a viable option for the many people who emerge from our education establishments each year. The impact of commissioning public art is multi-faceted.

Some examples of public art projects could include⁵:

- A photographer working with children from a primary school, whereby the participants are introduced to the basics of photography and use this knowledge to create images of their own environment.
- A company of actors, a director and a design team working in a local community context resulting in the production of a play inspired by the themes and concerns of those participating.
- A composer and an artist working collaboratively to create a video work with an original soundtrack.
- A choreographer and dancer working with a youth dance ensemble to devise and perform a new work.
- Filmmakers devising and making a short film in collaboration with a cast of people from the local community, in an area undergoing significant change and redevelopment.
- A sculptor creating a temporary piece of site-specific work for a public place, in response to the local context.
- A professional musical director working with a community choir.

⁵ This list is merely a suggestive and not exhaustive/predictive list of possibilities

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

The mission of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is:
"To foster an exemplary social, physical, economic and cultural environment for all the people living in, working in or visiting the County".

Local Authorities are multi-purpose bodies responsible for an extensive range of services. In Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown these are broken down into twelve departments:

- **Architects** (Housing Procurement & Improvement, Urban Design & Development, Conservation)
- **Community & Enterprise** (e.g. County Development Board, Social Inclusion, RAPID programme, Community Forum)
- **Corporate Services** (e.g. Register of Electors, Higher Education Grants, Freedom of Information)
- **Culture, Community Development & Amenities** (e.g. Arts, Heritage, Libraries, Parks, Sports)
- **Economic Planning & Development** (e.g. Planning Applications, Land Acquisition, Development Control)
- **Environment** (e.g. Water & Drainage Services, Waste Management, Recycling)
- **Finance** (e.g. Budgets, Rates, Payroll, Insurances)
- **Housing** (Construction, Allocations, Refurbishment, Rents, Shared Ownership, Homeless Persons)
- **Human Resources**
- **IT & Communications**
- **Legal Services**
- **Transportation** (e.g. Capital Schemes, Maintenance, Traffic)

(Further details will be available through the Arts Office)

In addition to the functions outlined above, a fundamental role of democratically elected local government is representation of local communities, voicing local concerns and responding to local needs.

There are **six electoral areas** in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and a total of twenty-eight elected representatives (Councillors).

In 1996, **Better Local Government - A Programme for Change** was published which charts an ambitious course for the reform of local government. It required a new focus on the local government service and provides for new structures to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. They include the **Strategic Policy Committees (SPC)**, which were proposed by Better Local Government and are enshrined in the Local Government Act 2000. These bring members involvement in policy making in association with sector representatives to the forefront of the local government agenda.

Each Strategic Policy Committee consists of ten councillors and five sectoral group members. The role of the SPC is to consider matters

connected with the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy, which relates to the functions of the County and it advises the County Council on these matters.

There are five Strategic Policy Committees:

- Culture, Community Development & Amenities (CCDA): please note that Arts falls under this service;
- Economic Planning & Development;
- Environment;
- Housing;
- Transport.

Population

Figures from the 2006 census show that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County recorded a relatively low increase in population (1%) during the period 2002-2006. Contributing factors to this include a relatively low level of new housing and an ageing population. However, during the same period, the Glencullen electoral area (which includes the areas of Sandyford and Ballinteer) actually experienced a population increase of 35.8%.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown was one of six out of the thirty-four administrative counties that experienced net outward migration during this period.

Socio-economic

In the 2002 census, just over one quarter of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown population (26.3 per cent) were categorised at Segment A - Employers & Managers - and a further quarter of the population (25.6 per cent) were classed as Professional - either higher or lower. In total therefore, in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown over one half of the population fell into the top three socio-economic groupings compared with 30.5 per cent of the national population. This correlates with a lower proportion of persons in the lower socio-economic groups compared with the State.

The ESRI in its report on the Spatial Distribution of Poverty in Ireland (ESRI, 2004) shows that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown scores well below the National average on income poverty, meaning that Income Poverty Risk is relatively low in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as a whole. The figures are not, however, broken down to Enumerator Area or even to Electoral Division level and consequently, the relative affluence of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as a whole masks the situation of low income households in the area, which are particularly at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has a far higher proportion of population (68 per cent) at 1 or 2 on the Index, indicating relative affluence, compared with 23.6 per cent nationally. While Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown compares favourably overall with the State, it can also be seen that within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, there is a far wider gap between the proportion of those considered relatively affluent and those considered relatively deprived. Between 1996 and 2002, the elderly population in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown increased by almost double the proportion of the State elderly population. As a proportion of the overall DLR population, the elderly increased by 1.1 per cent.

DLR ARTS

Over the past twelve years Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has presided over a vibrant arts programme, which has developed organically, and fluidly to include:

- the development of the Pavilion as the Municipal Theatre for the whole county
 - leading festivals and events of national and international repute; the Festival of World Cultures; the Poetry Now Festival; the Youth Dance Festival; Féile Filíochta; Civic Celebration Concerts at Marlay Park
 - a unique Contemporary Art Installation programme which provides a platform for emerging and established Visual Artists
 - a series of County House Concerts in Marlay and Cabinteely Houses
 - an Artist's Residency programme developed in collaboration with partner organisations (including the Institute for Art, Design and Technology (IADT); the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Board; UCD School of English and Drama; Centre Culturel Irlandais (Paris); Airfield Trust)
 - an Artists-in-Primary-Schools programme
- a Public Art programme supported through the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

Arts Organisations

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is home to a number of professional arts organisations including:

- The Pavilion Municipal Theatre, Dún Laoghaire
- The Mill Theatre, Dundrum
- The Lambert Puppet Theatre, Monkstown
- Dance Theatre of Ireland

Heritage

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown motto *Ó Chuan go Sliabh* – from the harbour to the mountains – defines the county in terms of its heritage. Although Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is Ireland's smallest county it has an outstanding built heritage, both archaeological and architectural, with the highest concentration of protected structures outside of the Dublin City area. This diverse range of structures includes Dolmens, early Christian churches, tower houses, sites of industrial archaeology, maritime structures including the harbours and Martello towers, Georgian houses, Victorian terraces and villas and early 20th C. International style houses.

Parks

There are approximately 2000 acres of open space lands in the area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, which have been developed and are maintained for the enjoyment of the general public.

The lands provide for a range of recreational activities both passive and active and include the landscaped path networks, scenic views, football pitches, tennis courts, playgrounds etc. The open spaces continue to be

developed on an ongoing basis and the facilities in the existing parks are being augmented.

The Regional Parks are at the following locations:

- Killiney Hill Park
- Marlay Park, Rathfarnham
- Cabinteely House/Demesne, Cabinteely
- Kilbogget Park, Ballybrack
- Shanganagh Park

Community Services

DLR CoCo through its Community Development Division supports a range of services to communities. The County Council sees its role within communities as long term. Working with the various groups to develop the neighbourhood by developing facilities, identifying funding opportunities, being part of local management committees providing staff support through community employment, offering training and on-going support as projects develop.

Community Development provides a comprehensive support and advisory service to voluntary community based organisations in partnership with relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations throughout the County Council's administrative area. A multi-disciplinary team who work within communities provides this service, and constantly monitor and attempt to meet the needs expressed.

Within the division, there are several core-funded programmes:

- **SWAN** (Southside Womens Action Network)
- **STAG** (Southside Travellers Action Group)
- **SAVE** (a group tackling the issues of Domestic Violence)
- **Community Addiction Team** (they provide support to those for whom addiction is a problem: counselling, holistic treatments, advocacy etc.)

Community Development also acts in conjunction with agencies working with youth, older persons and communities.