

***Director's Report to  
the City Development Board  
10<sup>th</sup> June 2011***



***I wish to bring the following matters to the attention of  
the Board:***

**1. Update on the Cork City RAPID Programme**

***Local Programme Update:***

**Community Safety**

- Community Safety Fora and Community Safety Units continue to meet and respond to local issues. Fora meetings were recently held in Mayfield/the Glen, Northwest city, Togher and Mahon.

For example at the recent forum in the North-West, it was reported that 18 issues had been identified by residents at the previous meeting. Of those, 2 issued had not been progressed, in 11 cases there had been significant progress and 5 issues had been resolved to the satisfaction of the residents concerned. This was welcomed by all in attendance and seen as reassurance that the forum is working. There continues to be good attendance at all forums from local people.

- District Policing Fora Management Committees have now been established in all Garda districts. These will liaise with and report to the Joint Policing Committee and are tied into the RAPID process.
- Concern has been expressed at numerous forums locally that funding for the Wardens Service is coming to an end. The service has made a significant impact on the local environment and has strengthened the relationship between the City Council and local communities.

## **Physical Environment**

- The City Council has developed a partnership with the probation service to remove graffiti in the RAPID areas and this has now been extended to cover the City Centre and a press launch is to be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011.
- Work is underway in conjunction with Cork City Council's Housing and Community Directorate to establish a community garden in Knocknaheeny in partnership with NICHE and the local community.
- Knocknaheeny Environmental partnership is continuing to address a range of local issues.
- Community Wardens are working with residents group and local communities to undertake regular estate-based clean-ups.
- Key housing regeneration schemes in the RAPID areas are vital to ensuring physical improvements in the area.

## **Education**

- A 'Sport in Your Community Course' has been developed through RAPID, the Local Sports Partnership, Cork City Council's Sports development Officer and the local education networks. The course provides a 10 week course for unemployed adults in the local area who want to get involved in sport at a community level. Running two days per week, the course provides a range of essential skills such as first aid, active leadership, code of ethics and also includes some coaching qualifications. The first course has been completed in Gurrabraher and all 18 participants completed the course. The next course will be run in Mayfield, followed by Knocknaheeny later in the year.
- RAPID has been working with Munster Rugby, Cork City Council, HAZ and Cork City Sports Partnership who have agreed to fund the development of domestic rugby across the north-side of the City.
- A partnership was formed in Knocknaheeny in 2009 to pilot the provision of rugby training and summer camps and a Community Rugby Officer was appointed. Whilst this has been a positive project, it is felt that in order to grow rugby further the project must expand its target areas and programmes.

- Investment of around €15,000 has been secured from partners to deliver a programme of community rugby across the north-side, linking in with schools, clubs and sporting bodies. It is also proposed to tie in closely with existing clubs (Old Christians and Cork Transport) and to look at the provision of training facilities in the north-side and summer provision.
- FAS have also supported this initiative and are delivering a FETAC Level 5 accredited Rugby course for the north-side RAPID areas. This has been extremely successful with all 20 participants completing the full-time, 40 week course. It will be vital that FAS continue to support this course in the long-term.
- Funding has been approved through the National Early Years Access Initiative for an early learning and language development project in the Mayfield/the Glen RAPID area. €400,000 has been secured over three years and job advertisements have now been issued with matching local philanthropic funding. The project is led by Cork City Partnership with a multi-agency steering group.

## **Youth**

- Youth Café's and youth networks continue to be supported through RAPID in each area.
- As well as providing a forum for networking and coordination of services, the youth networks are also developing joint projects. For example, in Knocknaheeny the group is undertaking an audit of youth provision in the area and in Farranree they group are developing a memorial garden for young people who have passed away in the area.
- Summer Fun days, sports camps and summer activities are now being developed in partnership with a range of sports clubs, community groups and youth groups.

## **Family Support**

- Two childcare facilities are being launched on June 16<sup>th</sup> in the Mayfield/the Glen/Blackpool RAPID area – the new premises for the Glen preschool and Baile Beag Crèche in Mayfield.

## **Employment & Training**

- The 2010 Project ReFocus groups are now completing their 1<sup>st</sup> year. A graduation ceremony for the Knocknaheeny and Farranree groups is to be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Hut. Graduation ceremonies for the Mayfield/the Glen and Togher/Mahon groups were held earlier in late May/ early June. The summer now provides the opportunity for the mentors to follow up with previous participants and to ensure this year's students make plans for further study or employment next year. It is proposed to recruit new Project Re-Focus groups in 2011.

## **Health**

- The Health Action Zones continue to operate at a local level with various initiatives such as health checks, walking groups etc. A new HAZ worker has been appointed to focus on the Farranree area.
- The worker for the 'Friendly Call' service has moved on to a new position and therefore the post of coordinator is now being advertised. It is still the intention to expand the service across the northside. To date, 30 of the 44 clients referred to the service have been signed up.

## **2. CORK CITY LEARNING FORUM**

The **Cork Lifelong Learning Festival** ran this year from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> April. It was the eighth year of the festival, which continues to expand and to achieve its aim of celebrating and showcasing learning opportunities across all ages, interests and abilities.

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, officially opened the festival at Ringmahon House on Monday April 11. The venue was chosen because it's owned by Cork City Council & leased by City of Cork VEC, the two main organisations behind the festival. Ringmahon House is home to a Youthreach project, and residents in sheltered housing in its grounds use the house for recreation, interacting with the young people – a great example of lifelong learning.

This year's programme included almost 400 events – all free – which took place across the city, with satellite events in Youghal, Ballincollig, Carrigaline. As usual 18,000 copies of the printed version were distributed

and the complete programme could also be downloaded from [www.corkcity.ie](http://www.corkcity.ie) and [www.corkvec.ie](http://www.corkvec.ie)

The Evening Echo & 96FM were media sponsors again.

€13,000 of the €25,000 additional sponsorship needed after contributions from CCVEC was secured from FETAC, CIT and new funders the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the National Association of Principals and Deputies (NAPD) & Blacknight Solutions before the festival began. Sponsorship from O'Callaghan Properties of €5000 was also received.

The Lifelong Learning Festival has a growing relationship with Belfast's Féile an Phobail, which runs three festivals annually. Their Féile an Earraigh (3-6<sup>th</sup> February) hosted three events from Cork, and visitors from Belfast took part in this year's Lifelong Learning Festival – with mural artists working with the Mahon Men's Art Group. They jointly created a mural on the steps leading from the car park next to Blackrock Castle during this year's festival. The Mahon group will make a presentation at Féile an Phobail in August.

A group of young people, drawn from both communities in Belfast, will start to build currachs with Meitheal Mara in July and complete their work in Belfast during Féile an Phobail in August, when their boats will be launched by the Lord Mayor. The project, due to commence during the Cork festival, was delayed due to a bereavement.

The Cork Lifelong Learning Festival has also twinned with the Hume Global Learning Village in Melbourne, Australia – where the Co-ordinator gave a presentation earlier this year. As a result the festival was invited to join a new worldwide initiative, PASCAL International Exchanges (PIE), linking Cities of Learning. As part of this project Cork is now one of nine cities across the globe sharing ideas and best practice on initiatives for learning in their areas. (Other members include Vancouver, Glasgow, Bari, Hong Kong).

An EU project is also under consideration, which would use the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival as a prototype – recognising the festival is unique in Europe – the only event of its kind catering for all ages and which, since its inception has been inclusive.

Closer to home, the festival co-ordinator was approached by the St Paul Partnership in Limerick for advice about organising a lifelong learning event this summer which they hope to develop into a festival.

50% of the required funding is in place for the **Discovery** Science Festival 2011. Appeals to previous and new sponsors are in progress. Links have been made to Business In The Community, who have agreed

to liaise with their member companies re securing participation in the event.

Cork schools won both Senior and junior group categories in the BT Young Scientist competition this year – both groups will participate in the Discovery Festival launch.

The International Year of Chemistry project, launched at Discovery last year, has only now secured funding to proceed to phase 2. 4 Transition Year groups will be sourced Sept – Nov to trial the learning materials developed in phase 1, and public display locations will be reconfirmed.

The 2011 Engineers Ireland STEM communication conference will be held in Cork on June 23. Collaboration among Cork science communication groups, particularly with respect to Discovery, will be the focus of the Best Practice presentation at the event.

The Discovery planning group, and others involved in science communication in Cork, are responding to the call for projects for Dublin City of Science 2012 – an international conference run by the European Science Open Forum, who wish to encourage events across Ireland in Summer 2012. The groups hopes to hold a Science Picnic in June 2012, in association with the Midsummer Festival and Christchurch (Triskel) Arts Centre

As member (and current chair) of the Cork Festivals Forum on behalf of Discovery, Cork Festivals were represented at the Rennes Fair, via the Corporate Affairs Directorate. The Festivals group is also investigating promoting Cork as a festival city to cruise ship markets.

### **3. Cork City Inter Agency Services Plan for Travellers**

A reply from the Minister for Education and skills has been tabled for todays meeting.

The Education sub group is hoping to run the student mentoring programme in four schools in the city. The mentors this year will be supported by the School Completion Programme in the schools instead of the visiting Teacher Service which will not exist in the new school term.

The Traveller Youth Needs Working group is preparing an audit of Traveller youth participation in City wide youth services to be sent out in the autumn and the youth work training manual/ toolkit “Progressing Traveller

inclusion in Youth work” is currently being distributed. The group is considering organizing training around the use of this manual.

## **4. Service Needs of New Communities**

### **Going Forward**

Following its review of the Cork City Integration Strategy the CCIS Monitoring Group believes that it is now time to develop new actions in the City to further promote integration to include in a new Cork City Integration Strategy for 2012 – 2014. It is expected that the Group will have developed the new Strategy between now and the first quarter 2012.

The new Strategy will be informed by the information gained from the mid-term review processes. It is intended to develop a number of areas requiring action going forward and to meet with service providers and other organizations in Cork City to develop these into definite actions for the next Strategy.

**In summary there are definite themes emerging from our review.**

### **These include:**

- The need for more activities to promote integration and to combat racism in Cork City, such as parades, celebrations, local community activities and inter-faith events.
- That local media needs to be more culturally inclusive plus there needs to be a commitment in the City to challenge racist and negative media coverage.
- The need to commit to intercultural awareness in Cork City, such as good practice on anti-racism and diversity. These good practices need to become the norm in organizations.
- The continued demand for English language classes.
- The need for improved reporting of racist incidents.
- The need to raise awareness about Ireland’s equality laws.
- The need to safeguard equal access of employment for ethnic minority and immigrant groups.

## **5. Cork City Marathon 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

The BGE Cork City Marathon 2011 has been an outstanding success. 1700 marathon runners, 1,200 half marathoners and 900 teams of up to five people took part in this year's race

Feedback has been extremely positive. The Local Control centre at the Central Fire Station was used for the first time and was very successful having centralised communication and CCTV coverage of parts of the course available.

## **6. Cork Commonground Project**

The board of Cork Commonground Ltd. is currently carrying out a survey to ascertain the level of interest by community groups in the commonground concept of providing a civic space with shared accommodation and resources.

This information is important at this point as Commonground has the offer of premises in the North Monastery and there is a need to understand the level of demand for quality accommodation in the community sector so that a business plan for the project can be prepared.

## **7. Report on Work of the Gay & Lesbian Steering Group**

“The gay, lesbian and bisexual communities will be enabled to fully participate in the social, cultural and economic life of Cork City”  
(Objective 86 of Imagine Our Future).

The interagency LGB steering group arranged an LGB awareness week in conjunction with the International Day Against Homophobia. This week entailed a low key campaign in public sector premises using posters and flyers, rainbow ribbons and a bus stop campaign.

The steering group is planning to hold a seminar that will be aimed at employers in the public sector nationally and local private sectors organisations.

## **8. Project ReFocus**

A further phase of Project ReFocus is underway. The local task groups are continuing to meet and to support the participants and the mentors. The membership of the city wide group has been changed and the group has met to consider its priorities. Ongoing support will be provided by Denis Barrett of the city of cork VEC.

## **9. The Conversation on Democracy in Ireland**

A draft final report dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 on the Conversation on Democracy in Ireland Project was drafted by Edmond Grace, SJ. Following Edmond Grace's presentation to the Cork City Development Board on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010, he advised us that he is currently working on developing a marketing strategy with a view to a public launch for the Conversation on Democracy. In doing this we will be responding to the sentiment of the Final Plenary Review of the Local Democracy Project which took place last March in Dublin City Library, Pearse St. At that meeting there was general agreement that the process of the Conversation on Democracy was timely and needed to be developed in a manner which reached as wide a network of citizens as possible.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Edmond Grace attended a meeting in Cork to discuss the future development of the project. Plans are underway to progress same under the new name called "**People Talk**". We are currently awaiting further information on these developments.

## **10. Cork City Joint Policing Committee**

The joint Policing Committee met in committee on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011 to consider and agree its workplan for 2011 Arrangements for setting up the

District Local Policing Fora management committees have been completed and first meetings have been held.

## **11. Comhairle na nÓg**

The Comhairle group is carrying out research among young people as to what makes a good youth space. It is intended that this research will be submitted to those responsible for providing youth spaces and funders to seek a commitment that the research will be used in consideration of the development of youth spaces in the future.

The results of their research will be showcased in their end of year event on June 29. An invitation for all board members has been tabled. Your attendance at this event would give evidence that there is a commitment from public and private agencies to the work of Comhairle na nÓg as the forum providing the voice of young people in the City.

## **12. Healthy Cities**

An application for Healthy City status for Cork has been submitted to the World Health Organisation on behalf of the City Development Board. This status will include Cork in a network of cities working to develop three core health themes, as follows:

- Caring and Supportive Environments
- Healthy Living
- Healthy Urban Development and Design

## **13. Music as a Tool for Social Inclusion**

The process of establishing a Music Education Partnership has progressed. A task group has been working since December 2010 on developing the application for the U2 and Ireland funds National Music Education Programme. An extensive programme of research and planning has been finished and the application for funding was submitted to the national Music Network and a decision has been issued.

## **14. Community Participation (Making it work in Cork)**

A number of different initiatives are under consideration to make more inclusive community participation.

**Community Website** - This is to be launched during the summer. This site will provide a space where groups will be enabled to post news items and blogs in a central website available to all community groups.

**Supports to Community Associations** - The Community & Enterprise Directorate is currently considering ways in which its staff can be made available to support community associations.

## **15. LAPSIS and Social Inclusion Strategy**

The European Anti Poverty network (EAPN) research project on social exclusion is progressing and it is hoped to present draft documents to an early meeting of the City monitoring group.

***Jim O'Donovan***

*Director  
City Development Board*

*10<sup>th</sup> June 2011*