

Who was involved?

Una was the committee member mostly involved in the planning side of things. The various issues were then discussed with the rest of the committee. Barry Kilcline was occasionally involved in an advisory capacity.

What did we set out to do?

To keep an eye on planning issues in the area. In particular to ensure that any large scale building work being planned does not impact in a negative way on the community.

What did we do?

The IGB:

- A large scale site clearance took place in February this year. Over the course of a week the site was cleared of most of its trees and bushes. Some of the peripheral leylandii trees were left intact.
- We contacted Park Developments who informed us that they were carrying out the clearance on foot of a directive from the HSE, due to health and safety concerns, i.e. Rats.
- We contacted DLR Planning - The Planning Department in DLR did not appear to believe this work constituted development as per Section 3 of the Planning and Development Act, and as such would not constitute unauthorised development.
- We contacted DLR Parks Dept - DLR Parks Department visited the site, and confirmed vegetation clearance; laurel, birch, brambles and conifers had been cut. As the work done was outside the bird nesting season which commenced on 1st March, there did not appear to be a breach of the wildlife act. Work stopped on Feb 28th.

OLG The Grove:

- You may remember last year that we objected to plans to make the short-cut on Friarsland Ave restricted to school day-time hours, and key-pad entry. The planners agreed with us, and specified that the shortcut to the schools must remain open permanently, as a pedestrian access-way.
- After that decision was made we met with Liam Durkan on a couple of occasions to discuss getting this area cleaned up and landscaped. We suggested changes to the layout he proposed, to make it safer and more accessible. He was amenable to these changes, and the new short-cut route was opened in April.
- Work has begun on the 5 storey apartment block on the corner between the primary school and the new convent. This block will have underground parking.

OLG Phase 2, the latest land sale:

- In March the Religious of Jesus and Mary decided to sell the 5 acre site at the back of the school campus without planning permission, and the site went up for sale for €10 million. The final sale figure was €13 million and the highest bidder was Durkan Homes.
- In late May/early June, following on from a very well attended public meeting, a campaign was started by parents in the schools to see what could be done to stop the schools losing all the grassed area left. The Department of Education was approached, and asked to

intervene, but to no avail. Also, an attempt was made to get the land rezoned so residential development would not be possible. This was done in conjunction with Clonkeen College in Blackrock, where the Christian Brothers are selling off school lands. It was debated and voted on by all Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Councillors at the end of June, and a big majority were in favour of rezoning the land. However the Council executive felt they could not let this be passed as they would be leaving themselves open to legal action from the owners. Apparently legislation was passed a few years ago giving the executive this power. Although many of the Councillors disagreed with the legality of this, and the debate is still ongoing.

- However the Dundrum and Stillorgan Councillors withdrew their motions asking for the OLG land to be rezoned. This was done on condition that Durkan leave a useful sized grassed area that can be used by the schools. The land is currently zoned residential, with an “Institutional” condition. This means that 25% of the land must remain publicly accessible open space. However nowhere does it say this 25% must remain in one tranche. Durkan has also offered to give back the small strip of land on the far side of the primary school, to the school. This strip was also included in the sale.
- The After-School and Pre-School which is on this site is in negotiations with Durkan, and will be rehoused somewhere on the campus, exact location to be announced. The private Montessori which was also on this site, has now moved over to a premises in Trimbleston.
- It looks like we will not see plans for this new development until December at the very earliest. We have been given assurances by Liam Durkan that we will be shown plans before the planning notice goes up. Currently he is talking about a “medium” density development. We believe he is currently in the pre-planning stage with the council.
- Meanwhile there have been some safety concerns at the existing The Grove site. A teleporter toppled over a couple of weeks ago, and crashed down onto the access road to the schools, also knocking over some hoarding. No one was injured, but there was a lot of anger among the parents of the school children. The Council and the HSA have investigated this incident. And we believe the primary school has been in close contact with Durkan about it.
- A group of residents, mostly from Friarsland Road, have come together in preparation of the planning application going in. They have recently contacted the Council's Parks Dept to ask that special consideration be given the large trees on site. The Residents' Association supported this request.

Central Mental Hospital

There was an article published in the Independent earlier this year which included the Central Mental Hospital 20+ acre site as one that is to be fast tracked for housing. Clare Daly T.D. (of Dublin, Fingal constituency) recently raised a question about this in the Dáil. Most likely this question was asked on behalf of the newly formed “Dundrum Housing Action” group. The Minister for Housing, Eoghan Murphy replied that “The site referred to, the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum, which still operates as an active hospital, was not included in the initial mapping exercise, as published in April.”. So that would indicate that it is not going to be developed in the near future anyway.

You can find the links to the Dundrum Housing Action group, and to the Dail question etc. on the residents' association website.

Rosemount

Construction commenced on 30th January 2017 for 44 units consisting of a mixture of 1, 2, 3 & 4 bed houses and apartments. This site was formerly occupied by the Rosemount Court flat complex which was demolished in 2011. Construction is due for completion in August 2018.

Meeting with Nexus Consultants – July

Nexus Consultants were commissioned by DLRCoCo to carry out "a feasibility study to review the community facilities available within the area bounded by UCD, Milltown, Churchtown and Dundrum and undertake a gap analysis to determine current and future needs and make recommendations in relation to community facilities for the area." They were to look at community facilities for all age groups, from 'cradle to the grave'.

As part of this process, they consulted with residents' groups and associations in the area, as well as other community based organisations and service providers.

We met with an employee of Nexus, Paul Butler, in July to have a conversation about the community facilities, or lack of, in the area. It was quite a general conversation, and the sort of areas we touched on were things like playground facilities, MUGA and sports facilities, traffic and cycling, schools and child-care, bins, library improvements etc.

He said he would send on a copy of the report when finished, however we haven't received it yet. He did say though that it was plain to see that the area really suffers from a lack of community facilities, and he would be pointing this out in his report.