

Imagine Dundrum : May 2017 update

Since our last update in early March, the members of the Imagine Dundrum group have been working to strengthen the opportunities for influencing the future of our village. We have been further expanding the Imagine Dundrum network, looking for effective ways to bring our views to Hammerson, the developers, contacting local politicians to urge their support for our efforts, and a good deal more.

1. Date for your diaries: open meeting on Dundrum's future

Imagine Dundrum is planning an open/ public meeting for **Thursday June 15th, 7.30 – 9.30 pm in Taney Parish Centre**. There will be short presentations, including a fully-illustrated one on the history and importance of Dundrum over the years, but the main purpose will be to listen to and record the views and ideas of local citizens about the future of Dundrum.

All are welcome! We would love to see representatives of local residents groups, businesses and other bodies, and interested individuals at the meeting. Further information will be circulated, and public notices put up, before the end of May.

2. Meeting with Dundrum businesses and other bodies

At the end of March, Imagine Dundrum held a well-attended and lively meeting with representatives of long-established independent local businesses, churches and other bodies including An Taisce and Airfield Estate.

In three short presentations we (a) set out our aims, principles and actions to date, (b) local historian John Lennon illustrated the history and importance of Dundrum over the centuries and up to 2008, and (c) architect Eamon Regan showed and explained his drawings, which are intended to illustrate possible ways in which Imagine Dundrum's seven Fundamental Principles for development in Dundrum¹ might be realised in bricks and mortar.

The outcome was a useful building of relationships with this important group of local people, and the affirming of their support for Imagine Dundrum's initiative and aims.

3. Launch of Hammerson's sustainability strategy

Our group received an invitation to attend this breakfast-time event, at which Hammerson's London-based Director of Sustainability (whose team includes staff working on community links) outlined the company's ambitious strategy for environmental responsibility, *Becoming Net Positive: a Hammerson Positive Places objective*. Imagine Dundrum has spare copies of the short booklet outlining this strategy which can be provided on request (don't forget to give us a mailing address!)

¹ See Imagine Dundrum's 3-page *Vision Statement* document

Although the meeting was not specifically focused on Dundrum, Imagine Dundrum members present were able to make our presence felt in the question and answer session, and made contact with the overall business manager for Ireland, Simon Betty, the Development Manager for Dundrum, Ed Dobbs, and other members of the Hammerson team, which can facilitate further contact.

4. Forthcoming meeting with the Dundrum Ward Councillors

A meeting is scheduled for the last week in May with our seven local County Councillors. The purpose of the meeting is to secure their support for what Imagine Dundrum wants to achieve, and discuss with them how they can use their influence and role on the Council to promote Dundrum's interests. We also want to learn from them how best to use the planning laws and the current *Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022* to maximise the chances of preserving and enhancing the best features of the village and surrounding areas.

5. Our website will be live soon!

We have discovered that creating a website which will be as useful and informative as possible about Imagine Dundrum, what we are trying to achieve, and the background to our work, is not a speedy business! However, we have learned by doing, almost all the pieces are now in place, and we are aiming for its launch by the end of May.

Watch this space...

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Do please let us have your thoughts, ideas and questions on these matters and anything else relevant to the future of our village. By email if possible, to imaginedundrum2016@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS –
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!