



**Working
together for
change for
the better**

**By coming together
and working together,
our community can
influence how things
can improve in the area.**

Organisations throughout the area have come together to form Darndale Together, and the website, darndaletogether.ie and the [#darndaletogether](https://twitter.com/darndaletogether) social media platforms will be at the heart of all that is happening in Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview.

These platforms also offer the chance for you to have your say, talk about what is important to you and suggest what can change in the area.

Issues affecting the Darndale area have been well documented over

many years. In 2019, Dublin City Council assumed a central leadership role in tackling these longstanding, complex and engrained issues.

The Darndale Together Community Representative Forum has been formed to influence improvements in the safety, health, happiness and wellbeing of each member of the Darndale community.

The forum meets regularly to influence a Darndale Together Action Plan which will be dedicated to the needs of local people. Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 6.00pm in the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre Conference Room.

Your views are important, so please contact Darndale Together through our online channels to help shape the future of the area.

Council Chief Executive reveals plans to end dumping at Belcamp Park

Dublin City Council Chief Executive, Owen Keegan, has said he plans to finally end the recurring problem of commercial scale illegal dumping of waste on lands owned by the authority at Belcamp Park.

The Council has made numerous efforts over the years to tackle the issue, including the removal of waste on a number of occasions.

Now, Mr Keegan says dumping at the site has effectively ceased, but it will cost €7m to clean up.

And he has requested the backing of councillors for a strategy which will potentially involve the redevelopment of the site for housing.

This follows the report of a high-level group made up of senior council management, formed on the back of representations from local elected representatives and residents.

The group has met regularly over the past 18 months.

Initially, security at the site is to be tightened.

And the Council plans to seek approval from councillors to remove the waste and construct a new boundary wall.

The group further recommends that expressions of interest be sought from Approved Housing Bodies to develop public housing on the site.

"I will be writing to the relevant government departments seeking funding towards the estimated €10m cost of the necessary works," said Mr Keegan.

"The North Central Area Committee of Dublin City Council and the Darndale Implementation Oversight Group will be kept updated on progress.

"I would welcome the support of elected members for the approach outlined."



Great fun was had at the 'Darndale Together After Dark' event at Halloween at the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre. It was presented by Darndale Together and supported by Creative Places Darndale



As part of its campaign to bring Gaelic games to Darndale, a place with no recent history of camogie, Gaelic football, hurling or ladies football, O'Tooles GAA Club has organised nurseries for four to seven year-olds

Moves to establish new sports community in Darndale



Local children attending the O'Tooles GAA Club nursery for four to seven year-olds at Darndale Community Centre



Megan McDonnell at the O'Tooles GAA nursery at Darndale Community Centre



Cillian McDermott at the O'Tooles GAA nursery at Darndale Community Centre



Sienna Salmon at the O'Tooles GAA nursery at Darndale Community Centre



Victoria Lesnic at the O'Tooles GAA Nursery at Darndale Community Centre

A bid to create a new sporting community in Darndale and Priorswood is well underway.

The programme is the brainchild of O'Tooles GAA Club, based a stone's throw from Darndale and Priorswood at Ayrfield's Blunden Drive, but which traditionally draws its membership from Coolock.

The club established a Gaelic football nursery for four to seven year-olds in Darndale on Saturdays between 11.00am and 12 noon, the first of its kind in the area.

Most of the children at the free weekly coaching sessions, initially held at the local community centre had never played GAA previously.

Now, the club is operating a monthly blitz at Darndale Park.

There is no recent history of camogie, Gaelic football, hurling or ladies football in Darndale or Priorswood.

According O'Tooles juvenile committee chairperson, Michael Cunningham, "you do not regularly see children wearing GAA tops in Darndale and Priorswood, as you would elsewhere in the city. We have a lot of work to do to change that, but it is slowly changing and it is a battle worth fighting. Slowly, we are starting to see kids from Darndale and Priorswood wearing O'Tooles tops."

In tandem with work by GAA Games Promotion Officer Tony Dunne in the local primary schools, the club launched a promotional campaign involving social media, printed flyers, and signage.

In the short-term, the club hopes to add camogie and hurling sessions and Easter and summer leagues in the locality, while its key

medium term aim is to secure an outdoor playing pitch in the area to ensure greater visibility for O'Tooles in the area.

O'Tooles has made its grounds at Ayrfield available for school matches and sports days for Darndale and Priorswood, as well as bussing in children for coaching sessions.

"Membership from Darndale and Priorswood is increasing. We had noticed that most of our primary school children attended St Paul's National School in Ayrfield, so in many ways it was a no brainer for us to go into Darndale and Priorswood," Mr Cunningham added.

"After months of talking to parents we have seen a huge increase in numbers from the Darndale nursery for our summer camps at O'Tooles. It is slowly coming around. We can see parents chatting about O'Tooles on social media. It is going to take a lot of work, but I think we will get there. The support and enthusiasm shown by parents has been inspiring."

Mr Dunne says he would like young people in Darndale and Priorswood to identify with the O'Tooles' ethos. "We want to lay the foundations of a culture which will develop. For children from Darndale and Priorswood to be part of O'Tooles, to identify with the club and enjoy the lifelong bonds that generates."

Dr Jack Nolan, chair of the Darndale Economic and Social Plan implementation group, said the work of all sports clubs in the area is critical to its ongoing social development.

"Sport celebrates the vitality of youth, community spirit and the bonds which tie us together," said Dr Nolan.

Further information is available on the O'Tooles GAA social media channels and from Tony Dunne at **087 762 9531**.

Communities recognised for working towards a cleaner, greener environment

There was wonderful success for Priorswood and Darndale at the Dublin City Council, North Central Area, City Neighbourhoods awards ceremony at Grange Woodbine Community Centre in Raheny.

St Francis of Assisi Church Garden, Priorswood, won second place in the Garden category for the fantastic work undertaken in the grounds of the church.

And the major effort undertaken through the Darndale Park Renewal Project was rewarded with third-place in the Community Environment Initiative category.

Founded by the people for the people, the Darndale Park Renewal Project is dedicated to the renewal and upkeep of the entire park.

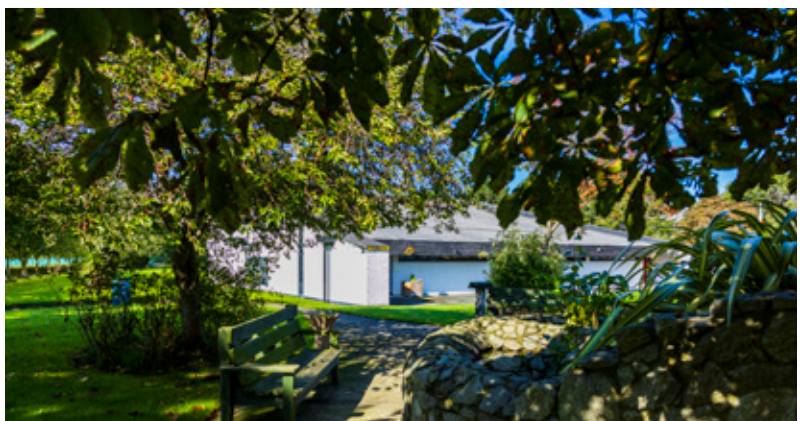
The prestigious awards recognise the efforts of communities, schools and businesses to bring about a cleaner, greener environment and make local areas more attractive for the benefit of all city residents and visitors.

Entries are managed through Dublin City Council's Public Domain and Community Development teams.

DARNDALE
Together 



Declan Bollard, Scratch Walsh, Christine Callaghan, Susan French and Edel Moran (Woodlawn Environmental Group) celebrating the Darndale Park Renewal Project success at the North Central Dublin City Neighbourhoods Competition



St Francis of Assisi Church Garden, Priorswood, won second place in the Garden category at the North Central Dublin City Neighbourhoods Competition for the fantastic work undertaken in the grounds of the church

Bringing colour to Darndale

Darndale area residents have been busy with various environmental projects.

Joanne O'Sullivan, Acting Environmental Liaison Officer for Dublin City Council, has established a number of small environmental groups in locations including Buttercup, Belcamp and Moatview, to name but a few.

It has been wonderful to see community spirit around these projects, with many children also becoming involved in improving their areas.

Joanne supplies new groups with litter picking equipment to get them started.

Groups can also be provided with hoes, spades and shovels, if needed.

Hard work is rewarded by planter boxes and plants which bring colour to the streets.

A large improvement project is underway at Primrose Grove.

A beautiful bespoke railing has been installed around the green space and a horticulturalist engaged to work with residents to create an area of biodiversity planting.

It is hoped that this space can become a haven for people to enjoy.



Getting the message out that there is another way

Get the Message Out (GTMO) is a group of community organisations which has a youth/addiction focus.

It is working to let people who may be involved in drug related activity know there is another way and that there are supports available in the community by phoning **085 132 9821**.

GTMO is seeking Ambassadors. These are people who share its values and vision to support those seeking help, whilst also empowering local youth to engage in positive community activity.

GTMO supports anyone who is concerned about their own drug or alcohol use and would like help and is also there to support family members or friends who are worried about a loved one's drug or alcohol use.

It is encouraging people from the community to get involved by promoting the message there is another way through becoming a GTMO Ambassador.

- › If you are someone who at some point, met someone or knows someone who could use this service.
- › If you believe that everyone deserves a chance, and a second, third or fourth chance to change.
- › If you want to help create a world where people who get themselves into trouble can find a way out of it.
- › If you want to help get the message out that there is another way.
- › Then you might consider becoming a GTMO Ambassador.

GTMO wants to ensure its services are known to as many people as possible.

Many find services through word-of-mouth contact. The Ambassador's role in knowing that there is another way and sharing contact details could make all the difference to someone.

If you are interested in becoming a GTMO Ambassador, please contact sarah@dnetaskforce.ie, cathy.reinhardt@nspartnership.ie or adrienne.hayes@pacificinstituteireland.com

Sphere 17 – supporting young people

Sphere 17 Regional Youth Service provides many different services to young people based on their needs, issues and interests.

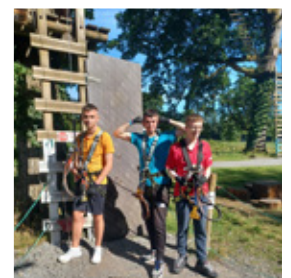
Catering for those aged 10-24, it runs a regional youth facility in Darndale and also operates at Priorswood Youth Centre.

The Darndale team worked with a total of 340 young people during June, July and August.

In June, young people participated in local and regional events such as a mural collaboration with Creative Places (a Darndale-based Arts Council initiative) and Dublin City Council, Dublin Pride, a 'Hell and Back' challenge, the Made in Darndale Festival and the 'Get The Message Out' 5K fun run.

In July, Sphere 17 provided 67 different activities including in-house workshops, and barbeques. Highlights included trips to Tayto Park.

In August the service focused on projects such as climate justice, culture, cooking and camping.



**CULTURE
NIGHT**

**Colour, music and
song in Darndale
for Culture Night**

Culture Night in Darndale brought colour, music, song, stories and wonderful events to the area.

Artist Immanuel Godson
with Lexi Murphy at
Culture Night in Darndale



Now in its seventeenth year, Culture Night is an annual national public happening, celebrating culture, creativity and the arts.

Events in Darndale included dance, music and drama workshops and performances at the Bell Square with Lara Fitzsimons.

And artist Immanuel Godson conducted an art workshop at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre.

All the events, which were organised by Creative Places, Darndale, were free of charge.

According to Dr Jack Nolan, chair of the Darndale Economic and Social Plan implementation group, events such as Culture Night promote the area in a wonderfully positive light, as well as bringing great fun and colour.

"It was wonderful to see another event which celebrated the superb community spirit of the people of Darndale," he said.

Newslines

Darndale FC

Darndale FC is always on the look-out for coaches, volunteers and new players. For adults, the benefits of joining up can include an FAI coaching education, a fantastic reference opportunity, the satisfaction of contributing to the community and running your own team. If you are interested in taking part or have a child that would like to play, please contact the club through its Facebook page.

'Out N About'

'Out N About' is a street-based service that supports the work of the Sphere 17 youth service. It works with young people on their terms and on their turf, learning from youth about themselves. Stop and say hello if you see them in their distinctive blue jackets or grey hoodies.

D17

D17 is a new drug and alcohol support service, working with all ages from 14 upwards. Their work is primarily conducted in outreach in the community and you may see workers in their bright red jackets. Referrals can be made by contacting **083 010 8277** or linking with staff.

Preparing for Life at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre

To celebrate National Breastfeeding Week in October, Preparing for Life, Darndale, which supports parents to nurture their children so the child, family and community can thrive, invited mothers and babies from its Breastfeeding Support Group to a special coffee morning in the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre.

This is one of many services provided at Darndale Belcamp Village Centre, which offers a range of projects and services which have been developed to support the needs of the local community.



Social prescribing

Social prescribing is a free service now available in Darndale. The aim of social prescribing is to help people's mental, physical and social health by connecting them to non-medical services within their community.

Similar to the way a GP prescribes medicine, social prescribing prescribes non-medical supports such as a walking or knitting group, or a men's shed, to support and improve overall health and wellbeing.

You can self-refer or be referred through your GP or any healthcare professional. Anyone over-18 can avail of the service. If you feel you would benefit, contact Karen O'Neill, Social Prescribing Link Worker at **087 065 0134**.

Social prescribing is delivered by Northside Partnership and funded via Sláintecare Healthy Communities.

Take #TheLastStop no smoking challenge

As part of the #TheLastStop no smoking challenge, Lisa Kelly, HSE Stop Smoking Advisor and Paul Kirwan, HSE Health Promotion and Improvement Officer (both pictured below) staffed an information stand at the Bell Centre.

They carried out free breath carbon monoxide (BCO) monitoring. This test enables you to measure the amount of carbon monoxide in your lungs. They also provided information about the HSE Stop Smoking clinic in Darndale.

To date the clinic has supported over 40 people in the local community to set a quit date. For more information on the supports available please contact **01 897 6124**, or email hwb.dncc@hse.ie



Culture Night in Darndale brought music, song and stories



Alanna Brennan at Culture Night in Darndale



Beau Duffy at Culture Night in Darndale

Photos by Fintan Clarke

'Made in Darndale' Festival filled the area with colour, music, song and stories

The first 'Made in Darndale' Festival filled the area with colour, music, song, stories and wonderful events.

The community joined together with local and visiting artists and performers for the biggest celebration Darndale has ever seen.

The Made in Darndale Festival was the culmination of six months of community engagement, workshops and training aimed at showcasing the talents, skills, hard work and determination of hundreds of members of the local community.

All events were free of charge and suitable for all ages. Events included a street parade by pupils at Our Lady Immaculate School, circus performances, an art exhibition, a festival village, walking tour, history and story-telling, painting and a cabaret and dog show.

Made in Darndale was part of the Creative Places Darndale Initiative, a three-year project to weave the arts into the everyday life of Darndale, and was supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Council and the Archways Child and Family Programme.

Dr Jack Nolan, chair of the Darndale Economic and Social Plan implementation group, said the festival promoted the area in a wonderfully positive light, as well as bringing great fun and colour.

"Following the success of the Get The Message Out 5K fun run, it was wonderful to see another event which celebrated the superb community spirit of the people of Darndale," he said.

"The Darndale Economic and Social Plan implementation group was delighted with a festival programme which celebrated the area's history and future. Most importantly of all, it showcased the bonds which tie the community together and make it such a special place."



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

DARNDALE
Together