

Press Pass Gazette

Disadvantaged Area cries out for Help!

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Chloe Coughlan

Jesus & Mary College, Goatstown

The local Rosemount community are still driving on with their campaign for a community centre. The campaign started in 2015 by two local residents, Gary Roberts and Gerry Coughlan. They approached Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) with a view to securing a commitment to build a community centre. The local duo have done extensive research on the nearest community centres. They published three newsletters to both the residents and the council highlighting both the existing facilities available to other areas and the total inadequacy of facilities currently available to their area. Spokesperson for the community campaign Gary Roberts said 'The only community facilities currently available to the residents of Rosemount are the resource centre based in Dundrum'.

The resource centre is currently housed in a dilapidated three storey building in Main Street Dundrum and is totally unsuitable for its purpose. The lease on the resource centre has less than twelve months left and it now looks impossible for them to find a suitable premise in which to relocate. In this event, the area would be left with absolutely no community facilities. The council committed to commission an independent report on the existing facilities within the area and also to identify any shortfall in facilities within the area. All the local stakeholders and providers of community services were contacted and had an input into the

report. The report was very extensive and wide ranging. The council committed to paid €30,000 for the completion of the report and agreed to act on any evidence it provided. The committee have met with the community department for the council on numerous occasions over the last two years pushing for publication. The report was eventually released in November 2018 over sixteen months after it was due to be published. The results of the report were it had mapped out all community services currently available to the residents of the area. It also clearly stated that a new community facilities that would offer all services needs to be constructed by the council. The new community facility aims to provide services to newborns right up to old age. It is proposed to be in the heart of the community and be specifically aimed at the needs of the local community. Gerry Coughlan says, 'it is proposed to be locally run and self sustaining'.

The community campaign have met with the senior management of DLRCC including the chief executive in recent weeks to push forward the need for the community centre. DLRCC spokesperson says, 'while we accept the evidence points to the need for a new community facility the budget does not allow for a facility to be build at this time. We will continue to monitor the situation going forward. We have offered the community a short term meeting place until the budget situation allows us to construct a

new facility.' A community spokesperson says 'we are currently reviewing the councils offer of a short term facility and while we welcome the offer, it will not detract us from our long term aim of an all inclusive community facility based in the heart of the community.'