

DP CROSSROADS

Working for a dedicated Cultural and Youth Center in Donabate/Portrane

WHO ARE WE?



Established in November 2023, we are a non-party, diverse group of residents working together on behalf of the community to campaign for and work towards developing a purpose-built arts, cultural, heritage and youth center for current and future residents of the peninsula.

Did you know?

€4.7M

Has been included in the 2024-26 Capital Program for the relocation of the Library from the leisure center to Ballisk House.

Really? What are we getting for this?

Ballisk House will get a single story extension which will provide **an enhanced library facility** not an arts/cultural/youth space.

When the library moves, the reallocated space in the community leisure center will be giving us back what we had in 2001 – In effect we are getting **NO ADDITIONAL SPACE** for community use.

Crosscare youth services have the budget and staff to provide proper youth services in Donabate but they are unable to find a space for their work! We have the need, we have the funding but **no facilities!**

Once a housing development exceeds 50 units there must be a Community & Social Infrastructure Audit of the area to ensure adequate community facilities are provided **IN TANDEM** with housing development. Why isn't this enforced?

31%

Of our population is under 19 years of age but apart from the library, we have no non-sporting youth facilities.

20,000+

Our Population by 2029.

We will be bigger than Malahide

4,000+

Additional homes are being built on the peninsula. Where is the supporting community infrastructure?

There is a lack of other much needed community facilities – creches, health clinics, schools etc. It is not an 'either/or'. We support the campaigns for these facilities too.

In January we successfully lobbied Fingal County Councilors to adopt our motion that a site within Donabate and in the ownership of FCC be identified and designated as the site for a Cultural/Arts/Youth/Multifunctional Community Facility in conjunction with an affordable housing scheme.

This means the Council must take action on this! This is an important step for the project so we must continue to campaign to ensure that FCC meet their strategic objectives as promised since 2016.

So what else have DP Crossroads Committee been up to?



L to R: Committee Members Corina Johson (Lab local area rep), Cecile Davis, Emmett Daly (Crosscare), non members: Minister Joe O'Brien, Committee Member Ann Hogan, non member Suzanne Young (GP local area rep), Committee Members: Eimear Whitfield, Andrew Mawdsley

Members of the Committee recently met **Minister Joe O'Brien (Green Party)** to discuss our campaign and to ask for his support.

Joe is the Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and at the Department of Social Protection and at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Joe is supportive of our project has offered assistance and has undertaken to contact FCC and other relevant bodies to encourage engagement with us.

We have scheduled upcoming meetings with all our local TDs including Duncan Smyth (Lab), Darragh O'Brien (FF) Louise O'Brien (SF) and Alan Farrell (FG) to highlight the community requirements and garner each politician's support for providing critical social infrastructure on the peninsula.

SURVEY: WE ASKED - YOU ANSWERED!

In February we launched our residents survey looking to get a deeper understanding of what's important for residents when it comes to arts, culture, heritage and youth facilities.

We got over 800 responses and we are delighted that 52% of total survey responses were from our teen population. This is the first time they've been asked what they want for a culture and youth space. Special thanks to TY students Maeve Leeson and Faye Hannigan who promoted the survey in DPCC and ensured the students opinions were heard.

Full survey findings are being used to inform our business case and will be released in the coming weeks but for the moment, here are a few highlights:

86%

want more opportunities to engage in art/culture activities.

68%

of teens feel there are not enough non-sporting activities for them.

83%

of adults say there is a lack of safe spaces for teens

84%

want a dedicated youth center with organized events and activities.



L to R: Committee Members Gemma Roche and James Mitchell

We were invited to attend the launch of the new LEADER program for Fingal. Our project will qualify for funding so we will apply to LEADER for grant assistance when it opens for applications in April.



In January, committee members met with Senior FCC officials in County Hall to outline our proposals. While their initial response was disappointing they are willing to discuss the project further. We will meet them again in April.