

Funding Call For Kilbogget Park

Councillor Eoin Costello (FG) is campaigning for Kilbogget Park to be prioritised in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's budget for next year.

As the council is currently preparing its estimated expenses for the Millennium year, Cllr Costello is urging for funds to be provided to develop the Park.

"In our county, we have a number of fantastic parks -

Marley and Cabinteely for example. These parks were developed by the Victorians and are now mature parklands. The main park that has been established since the founding of our state is Kilbogget Park. Its poor

condition reflects badly on the county," said Cllr Costello.

The park is used by a number of local sports clubs but there are large areas that are water-logged and unusable. Cllr Costello said that when he was campaigning for the local elections, every second resident was asking him about the plans for Kilbogget Park.

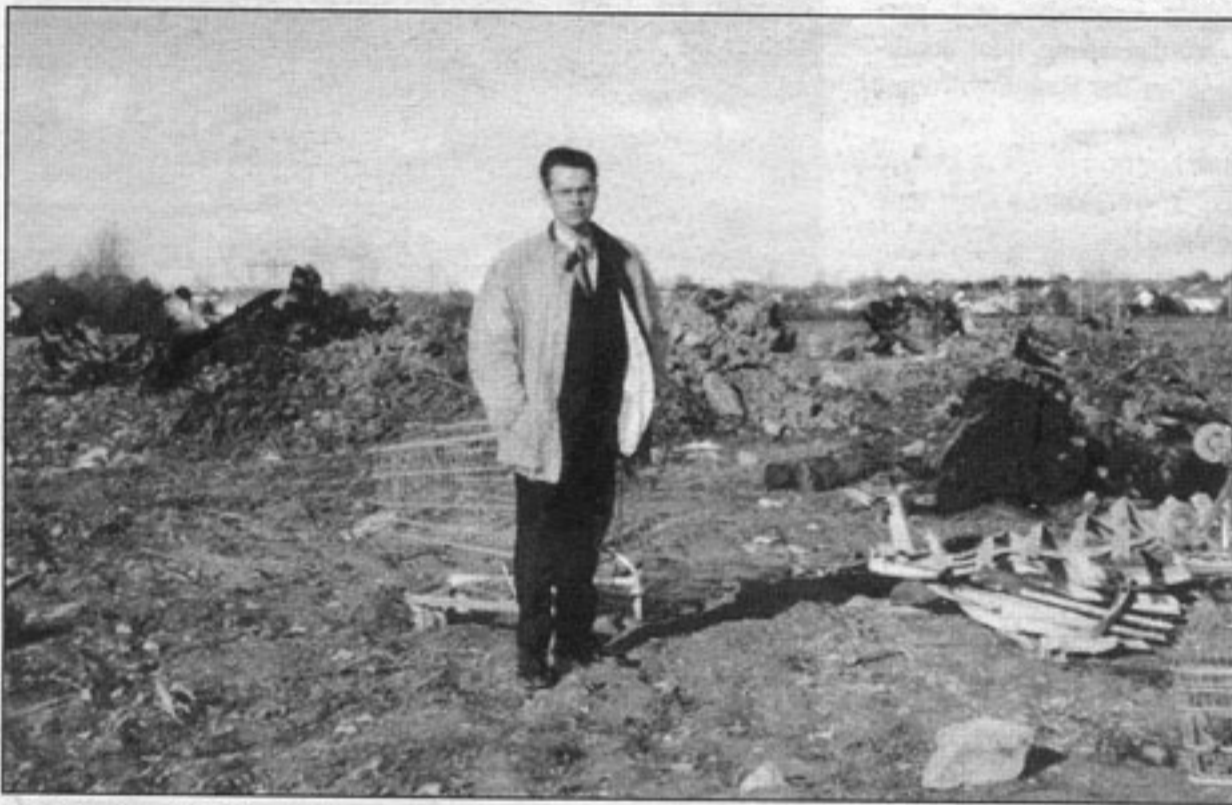
"Residents feel there is a

security problem with the park - they feel very vulnerable. Visually, it's not in good order. It's water-logged with burnt down trees and rubbish," he said.

Cllr Costello tabled a motion about the park at last month's Dun Laoghaire Area Committee meeting. He said he had been fobbed-off by the council which claims: "Development of the Park has been severely hampered by lack of finance ... the Park is the subject of an application for Millennium funding."

Cllr Costello circulated a letter to the 3,000 residents living beside the park. He urged locals to cut off the lower part of the letter and send it to the County Manager. The letter reads: "I am writing to ask that an adequate funding allowance be set aside in the current estimates of expenditure for improvement of Kilbogget Park."

It also asks the council to change the park's status from commonage to allow the Gardai to provide security there.



● Cllr. Costello in Kilbogget Park.

KILBOGGET PARK DISASTROUS

As Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council prepare their estimates for the coming year, Cllr Eoin Costello has called on the County Manager to make funding available for the development of Kilbogget Park.

"In our county we have a number of fantastic parks, Marley and Cabinteely for example. These parks were developed by the Victorians and are now mature parklands. The main park that has been established since the founding of our state is Kilbogget Park. Its poor condition reflects badly on our county. The residents living around Kilbogget Park are very unhappy" said the Fine Gael County Councillor who then went on to say "I am currently distributing leaflets urging people living in the vicinity of Kilbogget to contact the County Manager and request that he put the appropriate resources into our park. Now is the time to take action".

The estimates now being prepared cover all aspects of the Council's activities from housing and road maintenance to the care of the parks.

South Dublin Life + Leisure

'MESSIAH' FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Sir, — As a public representative with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, I was dismayed to read that the State Millennium Committee is contributing £700,000 to the pop opera *Messiah XXI*. Surely the purpose of the millennium funds is to help projects that will have a lasting social contribution into the next century, not to subsidise a two-night bash where ticket prices of £29 and £39 ensure that only the well-heeled can attend.

Our council submitted a number of worthy proposals (including help towards reclaiming Kilbogget Park, formerly a dump) that would permanently improve the quality of life for all

local citizens. To date, we have been turned down for all of them.

It's rather like the Lotto millions, which often seem to go to projects benefiting a limited number of people who are not in great need. It leaves you wondering if we didn't have the right connections, because we certainly had the right projects.

Surely the Millennium Funds Committee should stick to funding projects that will contribute to an inclusive society in the next century and leave pop operas to the privately secure and Andrew Lloyd Webber. — Yours, etc.,

EOIN COSTELLO,

Killiney, Co Dublin.

LETTERS
To The Editor
26/11/99

Irish Times