



Press Releases - Kilbogget Park starved of resources - 03/06/01

Kilbogget Park starved of resources

According to Councillor Costello (FG) Kilbogget remains starved of resources and is a source of embarrassment in a county which can justifiably proud of its excellent parks. The considerable works being done on other parks in the county has highlighted the poor condition of Kilbogget. Councillor Costello is demanding that Kilbogget be brought up to the same standard as parks in the north of the County such as Marley and Blackrock.

Kilbogget serves a densely populated residential area made up of several schools, churches and two shopping centers within a short distance. It is also home to a number of sports clubs including rugby, GAA and soccer. Kilbogget Park was used as a landfill in the 1970's. A minimal amount of topsoil capping of the landfill together with subsequent subsidence has made it particularly difficult for the Council to construct the sports facilities envisaged in a plan for the park adopted by the Council in 1996.

A council report in November 1999 stated that the development of the park has been severely hampered by lack of finance. The works completed to date have been mainly funded from outside sources. The main work being carried out in the park at the moment is the development of two football pitches in the central area of the park by the Council's Parks Department, in conjunction with Cabinteely Boys football club. This work was made possible through an allocation of money from the National Lottery, which is being matched by the council.

According to Councillor Costello it is essential that the County Manager provide the financial resources to the Parks staff so they can start addressing the serious problems facing the park. Councillor Costello lists these problems as;

- Galvanized steel railings, which surround the park, are ineffective and unsightly. In many places these railing have

- been kicked through particularly at the southern end near Ballybrack football club's ground.
- Numerous informal entrances to the park allow motorbikes to use the athletics track for racing.
 - Wilderness beside proposed football pitches: much of the central area of the park needs complete landscaping.
 - Parking facilities inadequate (spaces for approximately 20 cars) and, due to the restricted entrance, are dangerous.
 - Laneway along the back wall of Cabinteely school: at the western side of the park a laneway runs along the wall at the back of Cabinteely School which is enclosed by trees. Drinking parties take place here frequently.
 - Power cables and large pylons run across the center of the park
 - Campfires being lit in the vicinity of the former Athletics Club changing rooms by groups drinking there during daylight.
 - No tennis courts: In the plan for the park tennis courts were envisaged but have not been developed.

Councillor Costello stated that many of the non-infrastructure related problems are due to the fact that there is no permanent Council staff presence in the Park. In answer to a question from Councillor Costello the council stated that the Parks Department are in favour of assigning full staff resources to the park however owing to constraints on the use of these resources in other areas it has not been possible to make such an assignment.

Most of the parks in the county have been the subject of a study of users perceptions commissioned by the council and carried out by the Rural Development Unit of UCD's Faculty of Agriculture. The purpose of these studies has been to obtain and examine users perceptions regarding current facilities and their suggestions as to improvements that could be made to enhance the attractiveness of the parks. Councillor Costello is requesting that the council carry out a similar study of Kilbogget as a matter of urgency.

Through a council report Councillor Costello was informed that over the period 1995 to 1999 £2.14 million was spent on Marley Park on implementing park development plans while £405,000 was spent on Kilbogget in the same period.

Councillor Costello stated that so many parts of the county have recently benefited from positive improvements in their surroundings. While Council officials may argue that finances are limited, the Council has invested in a new theatre at a cost of over £3 million, £300,000 has been spent on the promenade in Sandycove, Longford Gardens in Monkstown will see over £700,000 spent on its improvement while Dundrum and Dun Laoghaire town

centers are having large amounts of money and council resources invested in them for the benefit of the community.

He believes that it is now time for the council to turn its attention to the south of the county and is requesting that significant budget be allocated to the improvements to Kilbogget Park in this year's estimates. A failure to include a significant allocation to the park will force him to consider whether it is appropriate for him to support the estimates or not.

As well as the council estimates Councillor Costello says there are other sources of money available. Huge amounts of development have taken place across the road from Kilbogget which has generated substantial planning levies/contributions for the Council. Some of these funds should be used for Kilbogget. He stated that he would be totally against any development of the linear park in Druids Glen until Kilbogget Park is fully completed