

**CLONSILLA HALL, CLONSILLA ROAD, CLONSILLA, DUBLIN 15**

**E-mail: [d15comcoun@eircom.net](mailto:d15comcoun@eircom.net)**

**Web site: [www.dublin15cc.com](http://www.dublin15cc.com)**

**Representing: Blanchardstown-Castleknock-Clonsilla-Mulhuddart**

---

On line submission [Economic.Development@fingal.ie](mailto:Economic.Development@fingal.ie)

Local Economic and Community Plan Submissions,  
Economic Development Services,  
Fingal County Council,  
County Hall, Main Street,  
Swords,  
Co. Dublin.

21 April 2015

A Chara

On behalf of DUBLIN 15 COMMUNITY COUNCIL I wish to make the following observation as part of the public consultation on the Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan

The Dublin 15 Community Council was formed 15 years ago (merging the Castleknock & Blanchardstown community councils which date from the early 1970's) to provide an umbrella organisation for the many residents and voluntary community groups in the Dublin 15 area.

Residents Associations and Community groups focus on their own specific areas but often feel powerless to influence the big issues like economic development, transport, educational, recreational & sporting infrastructure or crime prevention. The Community Council provides a forum to discuss these issues and potential solutions.

Blanchardstown was earmarked from the early seventies as one of County Dublin's' three new towns. It has been anticipated for the past twenty years that this area would eventually accommodate a population of circa 100,000 persons. The 2011 census showed the population of the Dublin 15 area in excess of the 100,000 target with a very diverse population. It is likely that over time the population will greatly exceed this figure, given the extensive amount of land zoned for additional residential use within Dublin 15.

Dublin 15 also has a large quantity of zoned land for a variety of commercial purposes, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> level college (ITB) located in the area, with significant economic potential.

Our submission is that the Local Economic and Community Plan need to address and include the objectives in blue bold text:

Goal	Goal title	Objectives the Goal should achieve
Goal C1	Stimulate Active Citizenship and Improvement of Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ensure all communities have a say to what happens in Fingal by <b>engaging regularly with county organisations like Fingal Community Network, Fingal Environmental Network, area organisations like Community Councils and local organisations such as those constituent members of Fingal Community Network.</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Facilitate the well-being of all people living in Fingal regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, gender, location etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>Support the structures which allow for active community participation</i></li> <li>• <i>What does 'quality of life' mean for our citizens?</i></li> </ul>
Goal C2	Empower Local Leadership and Build Social Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Encourage better community networking by <b>supporting county organisations like Fingal Community Network, Fingal Environmental Network, area organisations like Community Councils. Provide funding to enable organisations to develop and maintain contact via grants for expenses and networking events.</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage local leadership by <b>sponsoring 2 events per year in each electoral area.</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Improve social cohesion by <b>sponsoring events that will enable Social Inclusion, Community &amp; Voluntary and Environmental groups interact. Particular focus on interaction between “new Irish” and “native Irish” communities.</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Create a sense of belonging – use events like <b>St Patrick’s Day parade, Strawberry Bed festival, local festivals or summer projects based around community centres etc. to develop a sense of place.</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Address marginalisation use events like <b>St Patrick’s Day parade to promote an inclusive community.</b></i></li> </ul>



Goal	Goal title	Objectives the Goal should achieve
Goal C3	Strengthen Capacity to Reduce Social Exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Help service providers to address the real needs of communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure that communities of interest and communities of location are included in targeted actions</i></li> <li>• <i>Maximise the resources of existing state funded programmes to meeting the needs of disadvantaged people and measure effectiveness of individual programs.</i></li> </ul>
Goal C4	Develop a Skilled Workforce by Supporting Life-Long Learning and Addressing the Skills Needs of Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide opportunities for 'Life-Long Learning' in Fingal by seeking the establishment of a Solas training centre in Dublin 15.</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure the availability of a skilled workforce to match employers needs by working with training agencies within the county (Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB, ITB Blanchardstown and others) to ensure the needs of current employers and industries that Fingal County Council, IDA and Enterprise Ireland are attempting to attract to the county.</i></li> <li>• <i>Define the role for Fingal county council the LCDC, Fingal Community Network and other agencies in interacting with 3rd Level Education Institutions and colleges of further education.</i></li> <li>• <i>Include long-term unemployed people in active initiatives</i></li> </ul>
Goal C5	Activate Local Communities Supporting Employment and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Develop employment paths and stimulate entrepreneurial opportunities for people</i></li> <li>• <i>Promote an entrepreneurial culture within schools and community settings</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage a support environment for innovation and enterprise start-up</i></li> <li>• <i>Optimise labour-market activation schemes to improve employment prospects</i></li> <li>• <b>People have come to live in Fingal (and Dublin 15 in particular) from all over the world, bringing diverse language skills as native speakers and a cultural awareness of both Ireland and their country of origin. These skills needs to be harnessed in an export driven economy by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Surveying the skills base in local communities</b></li> <li>○ <b>Interact with IDA &amp; Enterprise Ireland to match these skills with new &amp; existing companies.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# Dublin 15

Community Council

Goal	Goal title	Objectives the Goal should achieve
Goal C6	Strengthen Growth and Development of Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Work with local communities, agencies and organisations to create opportunities for young people – <b>There is a lack of facilities for young people, teenagers feel unwelcome in many places. Teenagers tend to drop out of organised sports and activities as they get older, also very aware of age of peers (requires age differentiation to avoid older teenagers dropping out)</b></i></li><li>• <i>Improve the well-being of all our young people by working with local organisations to provide:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Facilities (youth café)</b></li><li>○ <b>Youth clubs</b></li><li>○ <b>Promote mental health</b></li><li>○ <b>Diversion from anti-social activities</b></li></ul></li></ul>
Goal C7	Target and Coordinate Fingal County Council Powers and Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Create synergies, joined-up thinking and action to ensure that Local Authority powers and functions actively support economic development <b>and sustainable transport access to places of employment.</b></i></li></ul>
Goal C8	Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment through Resource Efficiency, Green Economy, and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Promote and create awareness of biodiversity and the associated health and wellbeing for ourselves, the environment and a place to live- <b>take Dublin 15 our greatest Natural Environment asset is our waterways; rivers and canals. Need measures to prevent dumping, promote a sense of security when visiting through active &amp; passive supervision. Consider balance of 1 side of waterway with well-maintained pathways for people and the other side secure from dumping &amp; anti social activity where Biodiversity can be promoted. Consider access by second level students as part of environmental education (with particular emphasis on Transition year &amp; young scientist projects)</b></i></li><li>• <i>Contribute to resource efficiency and energy conservation</i></li></ul>

Yours sincerely,

Kieran O'Neill  
Public Relations Officer



**Dublin 15**  
Community Council

Dublin 15 Community Council