

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DUNHILL COMMUNITY HALL

INTRODUCTION

Up until recent years Dunhill Hall has been a focal point in the social and cultural life of the village and surrounding area. Following a Health and Safety audit of all parish properties in 2008/09 the Hall was closed to the public until remedial works were completed. The building itself is structurally sound but it has become a derelict eyesore in the middle of the village.

As many people in the community want to see it become an attractive and welcoming community space once again a project to renovate it has begun. Dunhill Community Hall Committee has been set up under the umbrella of DFBA Community Enterprises Ltd to co-ordinate this work. A long-term lease on the building has been signed on behalf of the community with the Dioceses.



Hall building in 2011

WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?

To date €32,000 has been spent on replacing the flat roof at the back of the building, rewiring and installing safety lighting.

The next stage of the project will involve renovating the inside and outside of the building to provide comfortable and welcoming accommodation for the wide range of community activities we expect it to host.

The accommodation will remain as follows:

- Main hall and stage area
- Meeting room
- Kitchen area/meeting room
- Under stage storage area
- Toilets – male/female/disabled
- Office / Box office

Some of the activities planned include book clubs, retirement clubs, youth clubs and other community activities. In other counties similar buildings are used by families to host funeral and months mind refreshments. Once the building work is complete a Hall Management Committee will be put in place. They will organise the ongoing use, upkeep and maintenance of the Hall.

WHO WILL PAY FOR IT?

The work to date was funded by a grant from the County Council and donations from the Parish and Squash Club. We plan to raise the remaining funds through a combination of grants, donations and contributions from the community and fund-raising.

Every house in Dunhill and the surrounding area will be asked to make a minimum contribution of €5 a month or €60 a year for three years. This commitment from the community will strongly enhance our ability to secure further grant aid.

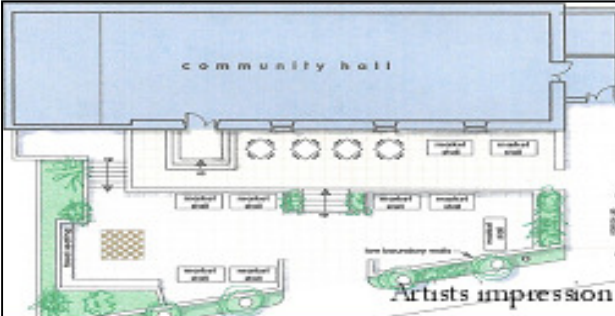
Help make your taxes work for your local community!

As a PAYE worker our charitable status means you can allow us reclaim tax on contributions of €250 or more a year.

As a self-employed person or business owner our charitable status means you can claim tax relief on your donation in your annual tax return.

HALLA POBAIL DÚN AILL DUNHILL COMMUNITY HALL

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**THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT CAN BE
ACHIEVED BY A COMMUNITY WORKING
TOGETHER**

A SNAP SHOT OF THE HALL AS A PRIMARY SCHOOL

The primary school was opened in February 1843. 62ft long, 26ft broad and 10ft high, it consisted of two rooms, one for boys and one for girls.

Built from stone and lime with a slate roof, the building works were financed from local funds. While its patron was Rev'd John Joy, records state it was not built on church lands.

In 1845 the two teachers in the school were John Naully (aged 20) and Ellen Grey (aged 24). The average daily attendance was 70 children although there were 102 on the roll. While most pupils had to pay fees to attend the school, 30 free places were available at the discretion of the patron.

In the early 1900's the phrase "An bhfuil cead agam dul amach" meant literally that. The school toilet was a small galvanised hut built over the stream that runs down the side of Ballynageeragh road. The timber seat had a circular hole and in the winter or when it rained a constant flush was provided by the stream. In the summer time the master would send the bigger boys to the village well for buckets of water.

The school moved to the existing school building in 1948.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Your help is essential to make the renovation of the Hall a reality. Based on current plans the renovation is expected to cost approximately €260,000.

In addition to help with fundraising and organising events, to get the best value for money we will be using voluntary labour when appropriate. We would be delighted to hear from people who have time and skills to offer.

Also by committing to a regular contribution of at least €5 a month or €60 a year you will be helping us show the strong community support that exists for this project. This will be invaluable when we are applying for grant aid.

Our volunteers will be calling to you in the coming weeks. They will be asking you to commit to making a regular contribution to the project. Let them know if you also want to help in other ways.

DFBA DUNHILL COMMUNITY HALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pat Crowley (Chair)
Sarah O'Brien (Secretary)
Denise Foley (Treasurer)
Donal Murphy (DFBA Board Member)
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