

THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Ongoing Partnership with Belfast Organisations

The Liberties and Greater Shankill share many common experiences. Regeneration in both areas has resulted in displacement, loss of community infrastructure and limited long-term benefit for local residents. It is time that communities themselves have greater agency within regeneration processes and are able to retain and benefit from investment in their areas through approaches grounded in community wealth building, community ownership and community asset management. The dialogue which took place on Wednesday 24th June and our ongoing conversation with Belfast partners is centred around four key objectives:

- *Exploring models of Community-Led Regeneration and Community Asset Management
- *Strengthening understanding of how communities can influence planning and development
- *Promoting co-production and cross-sector collaboration
- *Identifying opportunities for future community assets and strategic partnerships

Many thanks also to all contributors who presented on their own area of expertise including: [Neil Galway & Róisín McGuill](#), [Cian O' Callaghan & Kathleen Stokes](#), [Kieran rose](#), [Caoimhe Mc Mahon & Tom O'Dea](#), [Jamie Cassidy MCI0B](#) and [Tom Magee](#). Special thanks to [JILL MCCANN](#) and [Diageo Ireland](#) for facilitating a tour of the currently out of use section of the St James's Gate Health & Fitness Club- a site with significant potential for the future application of a Community Asset Management approach within The Liberties.

Many thanks also to [Frank Feighan](#) TD for the invitation to Dáil Éireann and for the discussion regarding procurement and social value. Procurement legislation that includes meaningful social clauses is a vital component of community wealth building, and we look forward to the introduction of new legislation in this area in the coming months.

Welcome from the CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of The Liberties Community Project newsletter. Over recent months we have seen powerful examples of what can be achieved when residents, community organisations and local partners work together to advocate for dignity, inclusion and meaningful change.

From the progress made in relation to Oliver Bond House regeneration to new partnerships supporting health, wellbeing, integration and community wealth building, this newsletter highlights the importance of ensuring that local voices remain at the centre of decision-making.

We are also delighted to celebrate the launch of this year's Liberties Festival programme – a week that showcases the creativity, history, diversity and spirit that make this community so unique.

At a time when many communities continue to experience inequality and uncertainty the work of building connection, solidarity and opportunity has never been more important. We remain deeply grateful to our participants, volunteers, staff, partners and supporters whose commitment makes this work possible every day.

We hope you enjoy this edition and thank you, as always, for your continued support of The Liberties Community Project

Austin Campbell

CEO, The Liberties Community Project

FREE SOCIAL ADULT BOXING CLASSES

FREE Social Boxing Classes

10-Week Adult Programme

- 2 classes per week
- Open to all fitness levels
- Fun & welcoming environment
- Improve fitness & wellbeing

St. Catherine's Boxing Club,
Marrowbone Lane



Register your interest before 20 May 2026
info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie
01 453 6098
Ronnie Byrne: 085 190 0825



Adult Boxing Classes

Many thanks to [Diageo Ireland](#) for funding [The Liberties Community Project](#) through their Guinness Dublin 8 Community Fund to deliver a Social Boxing Programme for Community Health, Wellbeing and Youth Engagement in partnership with St. Catherine's Boxing Club and to support St. Catherine's Boxing Club with the purchase of capital equipment. This programme will create inclusive opportunities for young people, adults, and individuals with additional needs across Dublin 8 through structured boxing fitness, mentoring, wellbeing supports, and positive community engagement.

Thank you also to [Diageo Ireland](#) for their wider commitment of €1m of funding to Dublin 8 community organisations over the next five year period and continuing the Guinness legacy of investment in their local community. To register your interest or to get involved please: email: info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie or phone: The Liberties Community Project: 01 453 6098 /St. Catherine's Boxing Club: 085 190 0823

Oliver Bond House Regeneration Forum

The last three months have felt like a lifetime for residents of Oliver Bond House and everyone involved in the regeneration campaign. The period began with the disappointing rejection by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of the Phase 1 regeneration plans for Oliver Bond House. What followed was an extraordinary period of advocacy, solidarity and collective action. The Oliver Bond House Regeneration Forum- a project hosted by The Liberties Community Project- together with residents and a wide range of forum stakeholders, intensified efforts to ensure residents' voices were heard. This included significant media coverage, a meeting with Minister for Housing James Browne at Custom House Quay, engagement with the Chairperson of the European Parliament Committee on the Housing Crisis, Irene Tinagli, a visit from Minister James Browne to Oliver Bond House, a visit from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Housing, and engagement with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). This sustained advocacy has had a positive outcome; Minister Browne has confirmed that the Phase 1 regeneration plans will now proceed, with funding approved subject to a small increase in the number of one-bedroom units. Importantly, timelines for construction have been brought forward, with the first completed units now expected from mid-2029. In addition, a master plan for the regeneration of the remainder of the complex is due to be available for consideration in July 2026. During her visit, Ms Tinagli offered words that resonate deeply and that can carry lessons far beyond Oliver Bond House; "Do not give up hope and continue to speak out. In politics, we do not hear enough of ordinary people's voices." The campaign for Oliver Bond House has shown what can happen when regular people organise, speak collectively and refuse to be ignored.



New York Times Coverage of In Our Shoes Walking Tours

"Depending on who's telling the story, Dublin's Liberties neighbourhood is either one of the coolest places in the city or one of the most marginalised." Realistically, it is probably both things at once- depending on how much money you have. It is positive for [The Liberties Community Project](#) that In Our Shoes Walking Tours, featured as part of a recent [The New York Times](#) piece on Dublin. Recognition for a community-led project that tells authentic local stories- stories shaped by lived experience, history and resilience- is always welcome. Our tours were created to provide accessible local employment and a different lens on The Liberties: one that places community voices and local perspectives at the centre. Less welcome is the framing of Dublin 8 as a destination for "cheap skates", supported by examples such as €4.20 lattes & €6 croissant-shaped muffins- costs that are not affordable to the majority of people that live in the area. Dublin is not just a city to be consumed- it is a city to be lived in and we are proud that In Our Shoes Walking Tours continues to create space for local voices and local perspectives. To book an In Our Shoes Walking Tour, learn more about the real Liberties, and support local employment opportunities, please visit the dedicated website: <https://lnkd.in/dxFkR6yt> To read the New York Times article, please see the link below. If it is behind a paywall, let us know and we will make a text version available <https://lnkd.in/dxDdMAPb>



The Liberties Festival

This year's Liberties Festival will feature more than 70 events — the vast majority free of charge — taking place across seven days in the heart of the Liberties starting on July 20th 2026. Festival highlights include:

- The acclaimed group Says She opening the Festival in St. Catherine's Church with a very special Guest of Honour, President Catherine Connolly.
- The much-anticipated Guinness O.O Bartenders' Race from John Byrne to The Liberty Belle.
- A community Céilí in Michael Mallin Park.
- The Tailors' Hall Sessions, running from Wednesday July 22nd to Friday July 24th in Tailors' Hall, featuring an exciting line-up of musicians, singers, dancers, broadcasters, writers, makers, thinkers and talkers.
- Where Do We All Belong?, a socially engaged visual arts project exploring experiences of loneliness, connection and belonging, opening on Thursday July 23rd in The Bank at The Digital Hub.
- Smock Alley Theatre, established in 1662, hosting community performances by D'Girls Theatre, Mini Girlos, Liberties Lasses and Kids Rock on Saturday July 25th.

The Festival is proudly brought to you by The Liberties Community Project and kindly supported by our core funders Dublin City Council and Diageo, alongside numerous local businesses, organisations, partners and supporters.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all participants, artists, performers, contributors and volunteers whose energy, creativity and commitment make the Festival possible each year.

Melting Pot Radio Documentary

Sharing food is also one of the simplest and most powerful ways of bringing people together, building relationships, and developing understanding across cultures and communities.

[The Liberties Community Project](#) is delighted to have collaborated with [Patricia Baker](#) and Curious Broadcasts on 'Melting Pot', an audio documentary exploring how food connects cultures, communities, and generations.

From Ukraine and Moldova to Nigeria, Lebanon, Zimbabwe and The Liberties Melting Pot captures stories of food, memory, migration, belonging, and identity through the voices of people sharing family recipes and personal histories.

Many thanks to [Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht / Pobal](#) for supporting [The Liberties Community Project](#) integration work through SICAP Plus, to [Coimisiún na Meán](#) for funding the development of 'Melting Pot', and to [Newstalk](#) for broadcasting it. A big thank you to [Patricia Baker](#) and Curious Broadcasts for creating such a thoughtful and human piece of work — and the biggest thanks of all to everyone who shared their stories so openly. Enjoy listening.

Appointment of a New Chairperson

The Liberties Community Project would like to extend our gratitude to [Denis Murphy DProf](#) as he steps down from his role as our Chairperson.

Denis showed unwavering commitment and passion throughout his time as Chair. His dedication helped shape and strengthen our organisation, leaving a lasting impact on the community we serve and included the amalgamation of SICCD and Robert Emmet CDP to form [The Liberties Community Project](#). We are deeply grateful for everything achieved and the strong foundation he leaves behind from his Chairmanship.

As we look to the future, we are delighted to welcome Celine Kennedy as our new Chairperson. Celine brings fresh energy, vision, and a deep commitment to the values of the [The Liberties Community Project](#) Community Project. We look forward to a new chapter under her leadership.

Thank you Denis for your contribution and, Celine, best of luck in your new role!