

# Setting up a residents' association



Contact the community team on:

(01) 205 4893 and ask to talk to the community development officer.

## **What is a residents' association?**

Residents' associations are organisations formed by groups of people from a specific community who come together to help make their neighbourhood a better place to live. They act as a voice for their local community and try to find opportunities and solutions to improve where they live.

## **What does a residents' association do?**

A well-organised residents' association can:

- organise summer projects, family fun days, planting days and clean-up days;
- address local issues and find solutions;
- apply for grants from funding providers and from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (dlr);
- tell residents about local projects and initiatives; and
- work with dlr to address local issues such as littering, graffiti, parking and environmental issues.

## **Who can be a member of a residents' association?**

You can! A residents' association represents everyone in the estate or neighbourhood where you live. Everyone who lives there can join and share the work. It is also good way to get to know your neighbours and other residents.

## **How can we set up a residents' association if we don't have one?**

Try and organise something positive in your estate like a coffee morning or street party and invite people to get involved. Ask people if they see a need for a residents' association and if they would join one. If you are not sure how to do this, you can phone one of our community development officers. They will be more than happy to help.

## **Having your first meeting?**

To set up a residents' association, you will need to organise a public meeting and invite all the residents from your estate or neighbourhood to come along. At the meeting, you will:

- discuss common issues facing your area and ways of dealing with those issues;
- agree which issues the residents' association will (and will not) focus on; and
- get volunteers involved to help run the residents' association.

## **Specific things you will need to do for your first meeting**

- Set a date
- Arrange a venue (we (dlr) have 27 community centres that you can use to meet)
- Set the agenda (what the meeting will cover)
- Invite people from your estate or neighbourhood
- Invite your local dlr community development officer

## **After the first meeting**

Congratulations! By now, you will have sparked interest in a residents' association in your community and recruited some volunteers. Together, you will need to form a committee and assign roles (decide who will do what). Keep records as you go to help you set an agenda for your next meeting.

This is not as hard as it sounds. Our community development officers can help you every step of the way.