

# **PROPOSAL FOR**



**TO HELP TACKLE SOME  
EYE-SORES & WASTE GROUND  
IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA OF  
BALLINACURRA WESTON**

Dear Dirty Old Towns Team,

On behalf of the Ballinacurra Weston Residents' Alliance (BWRA), I welcome the opportunity for our organisation to work with your hit TV show in improving our area.

On Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, a special meeting was called by the Community Service Group Ltd. to inform the various groups working in the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes of a number of projects proposed for the development and enhancement of the local area, which include the pitch development, the community centre redevelopment, the refurbishment of the grotto and works outside the Church. All of these projects have been planned for some time and are being funded by the Limerick Southside Regeneration Agency (SRA).

Also attending the meeting were Claire Feeney and Brendan Hayden of the SRA, and Ann Cahill of Limerick City Council. During the meeting we were informed that these works would be filmed for *Dirty Old Towns* and it was noted by the SRA that residents hadn't really participated in any of the work filmed to date.

It was suggested by the BWRA that perhaps if residents were asked to participate in works that would directly improve the residential area of Ballinacurra Weston, then they might be more likely to volunteer their time and energy. While all of the projects are to be welcomed, most of the current works will be carried out by paid professionals and weeding the ground prior to excavation by a JCB is just silly. It is our view that residents' need to take ownership of the process and be involved in the development of such projects.

The SRA agreed with this view and offered to fund any projects in the area that are proposed in relation to improving the appearance and environment of our area.

We have identified a number of sites that could do with a bit of attention. The rock armour at Weston Gardens / Clarina Avenue, near the site where 35 & 33 Clarina Avenue once stood, could be removed and replaced with bollards and concrete flowerpots. Residents could then plant flowers and paint a mural on the wall.

Last year, the BWRA was declared overall winner of the Limerick Community Challenge for our Garden of Hope, which is dedicated to the memory of residents who have died or left the area. The garden is unfinished and we would like Diarmuid Gavins help with ideas to finish it.

There are other areas which could also be worked on and some of these are pictured in this proposal, but these are the main two where we need practical assistance.

The BWRA is representative of the majority of residents in the designated regeneration area of Ballinacurra Weston and as such we are confident that, with favourable weather conditions, residents will come out in force to work with *Dirty Old Towns* on all of the proposed projects. We look forward to working with you.

Yours Sincerely,

Matt Collins  
Chairperson  
Ballinacurra Weston Residents' Alliance

25 January 2011



The rock armour was put in place to prevent “joy-riding”. However, residents of Weston Gardens and Clarina Avenue were promised, and still want, bollards to be put in place.

“Joyriders” have attempted to move the rock armour with stolen cars in the past and have been successful on a number of occasions. There were 9 stolen cars recovered from this area last year. The area is also used for drinking sessions as the rock armour provides ‘seating’ for those engaged in such activity.

Replacing the rock armour with combination of bollards and concrete flowerpots would be more successful in preventing “joyriding” as they would be fixed into the ground. This work is something we need assistance with as we don’t have the resources to do it ourselves. When we made enquiries about this last year we were offered the bollards for free by Smiths Demolition, however we needed support from the regeneration agency, which wasn’t forthcoming at the time.

Once this work was done, residents could then plant flowers and paint a mural on the wall, which currently is graffitied with the words “Weston Thugs” (thankfully in yellow, so it is not easily seen). We have a resident artist that is will to assist with the mural; she painted the mural of Our Lady of Hope in our garden and has worked with local children last year on the School Completion Programme murals in Clarina Park.

Once residents take ownership of the area it will be maintained and protected, we have already proved this is possible with our Garden of Hope.





The overgrown green area pictured above is owned by Limerick City Council. This could be weeded and cleaned up for Dirty Old Towns. This is something we don't need help with as such, but it would be complimentary to the removal of the rock armour and installation of bollards and concrete flower pots. This green area has great potential, perhaps Diarmuid Gavin would like to make some suggestions. Residents here are more than willing to get stuck in. We had intended to start work on this area in April, but we would be happy to start it earlier (weather pending) for the show.

Below, the other side of the fence and the result of efforts by residents from Weston Gardens during the summer of 2010. Unfortunately, unannounced works last year by the regeneration agency (CCTV camera) and Limerick City Council (spraying for weeds – first time ever) wrecked the garden and the weed killer meant that the soil could not be planted for 6-months. This community garden will be restored this spring. To see more visit <http://www.limerickregeneration.org/wgra04.html>







The fencing pictured above has extra palisade fencing with rusty uprights that were added in 2004 to some of the fencing overlooking Clarina Park in order to prevent youths from climbing over. This could now be removed, it looks awful and serves no purpose; it was never finished and never once prevented youths from climbing over, in fact it made it easier as it acted as a ladder. Once removed, the residents of Weston Gardens would be happy to paint the fence that remains.

In 2010, the residents of Weston Gardens converted the ugly fencing installed by Limerick City Council into a functional gate. Residents are happy to remove the surplus fencing, but would prefer the permission and assistance of the regeneration agency and Limerick City Council, as there is a lot more fencing to contend with and recycle this time.





Ideally, the BWRA would like to see this house in Lenihan Avenue, and others like it, refurbished and re-let. However, there is a lot that could be done at little cost to improve the appearance of such houses – in the interim, the gardens could be cleared out and the house could be painted.

And green sites, where there used to be homes, could be planted with flowerbeds and trees, the walls could be painted and murals or some other decoration added. There is great enthusiasm, in the community, especially from our children, to be involved in such works.

It is our hope that Dirty Old Towns will assist us in lobbying the necessary agencies in getting their support for such works.





# BALLINACURRA WESTON GARDEN OF HOPE



Our Garden of Hope scooped first prize in the Limerick Community Challenge and is clear evidence of our community's ability to organise and manage our own resources. We would like Diarmuid Gavin's help and advice on how to finish the garden. Limerick Civic Trust has also offered their assistance.



## Ballinacurra Weston Residents' Alliance

For Further Information Contact:

Matt Collins (Chair): 087 65 77 063

Cathal McCarthy (PRO): 087 784 50 70

E: [westonalliance@gmail.com](mailto:westonalliance@gmail.com)

W: [www.bwra.blogspot.com](http://www.bwra.blogspot.com)

The BWRA is affiliated to Limerick Regeneration Watch

[www.limerickregeneration.org](http://www.limerickregeneration.org)

