

#### Inside this Month's E-Zine

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– As year finishes, participants wonder what's next and we call on the Minister?

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#### Welcome to the June edition of our monthly E-Zine

"So, when exactly does this place start to quiet down for the summer?" I asked the Programme Management Team at our end of May meeting. The response was bemused silence! June and July are

always busy because the summer Programme kicks in and the various initiatives we are involved in seem to be packed with deadlines for various policy documents, reports and planning sessions for after the summer. Here in the centre, we are in the process of finalising the Autumn programme, organising our first foray into the Dun Laoghaire Festival of World Cultures and our 25th anniversary celebration. Oh, and the women on the Health and Well-Being Programme have decided to make a commemorative quilt!

In the midst of all this, our lobbying to maintain LTI training allowances continues, with no formal response as yet from Government and RTE – in our view – throws away a real opportunity to bring people from both the Traveller and settled communities together to have a discussion around the issues facing Travellers in Ireland. We were also part of two crucial working groups at regional and national level, both of which developed responses to the Local and Community Development Programme which were designed to ensure that work with the Traveller community – regionally and nationally – was sustained and enhanced.

We have completed stage one of the recruitment process for our *Get Vocal* programme and we will, hopefully, be in a position to introduce our new Programme Facilitator in the next issue. Also, check inside for details of a new Accommodation Worker Post through our Community Employment Scheme which has been successfully renewed until August 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. Training continues in earnest with some really interesting programmes for our resource centre team – provided through our Community Employment Programme - now in place for July and September. At our AGM on July 1<sup>st</sup>, we were presented with a picture of our organisation, its programmes and finances that really does bode well for *Building for the Future*.

Catherine Morley  
(Director)

## Southside Travellers calls on Minister O’Cuiv to secure LTI allowances for participants who are half-way through their Fetac accredited programme.

Southside Travellers employs 38 people, 80% of whom are members of the Traveller community who have progressed into employment from our Local Training Initiative. Southside Travellers, Southside Partnership (DLR), FAS, Dun Laoghaire VEC and Co. Dublin VEC urge the Department of Social Protection to work with FAS and the VEC’s to ensure that participants currently only half way through their Fetac accredited programme have their eligibility for allowances ringfenced .



Senator Ivana Bacik

### Movie Morning at the Resource Centre

On the morning of June 11<sup>th</sup>, the team transformed the Board room of the Resource Centre into a movie theatre, complete with big screen and even popcorn.

Over sixty people

representing our funders, board, partners and programme staff and participants gathered for the event, hosted by Senator Ivana Bacik (above), to watch two new Southside Travellers' movies - **How to Make a Submission: A Step by Step Guide** and **Southside Travellers in Action**. Both movies were produced, directed (and even acted in) by programme participants - with guest appearances from partners.

The event marked the end of term for our Education Programme which is currently under threat from government decisions around eligibility



criteria for allowances in the Local Training Initiative. Speaking at the event, Senator Bacik made a commitment to actively pursue a response to our campaign to allow our participants to complete the programme. Presentations were also made to programme participants and staff.

Closing the event, Catherine Morley thanked our funders and partners for their continued support. Afterwards, guests were treated to a tasty lunch and some of the biggest cakes our younger guests had ever seen. *Southside Travellers in Action* will be showcased at the Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown Inclusion Fusion Event during Social Inclusion Week in October. It will be available soon for download from our site [www.southsidetravellers.ie](http://www.southsidetravellers.ie).

### New Inter-Agency Traveller Plan for DLR “could have real impact”



Members at launch of previous plan

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Southside Travellers joined with colleagues on the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Inter-Agency Steering Group (IASG) for the Co-Ordination

of Services for Travellers to work on their new plan (2010 – 2012). The focus of the session was to identify ways in which enhanced co-ordination could add value to each organisation’s core service provision.

Following a pre-planning session, the IASG agreed to focus the efforts of the new plan on the key gaps identified by Southside Travellers *Building for the Future* process and to ensure that their new plan brought additional benefits to the core areas of work of the organisation.

The new plan, now in the draft stage, includes specific initiatives around Older People, Children and Young People and Traveller Boys and Men – the key target groups where significant service and support gaps were identified in the *Building for the Future* process.

Speaking at the close of the planning session, Mr. Gerry Haydn (Chairperson), thanked Southside Travellers for the significant amount of preparation work in defining core areas of work for the new plan.

Work to finalise the draft is now underway and it is envisaged that following a consultation process with Travellers across the county – which will be facilitated by Southside Travellers – the final plan should be ready for submission to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government by the end of September.



From left – Mooney Doyle, Damien Walsh, Damien Peelo, Sally Connors and Michelle Murphy at the AGM

### Irish Traveller Movement Conference and AGM (June 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, Morrison Hotel, Dublin)

Southside Travellers selected four delegates (Catherine Morley, Sally Connors, Mooney Doyle and Michelle Murphy) to participate in the Irish Traveller Movement Conference and Annual General Meeting in the Morrison Hotel in Dublin this year.

Keynote speakers at the conference discussed the history of the movement, the current economic downturn and its impact on the work of member organisations and the issue of ethnicity. RoseMarie Maughan stood out in her very clear and heartfelt analysis of the potential impact of the acknowledgement of Irish Travellers as an

Ethnic Group. These inputs were followed by workshops on the issue of youth, conflict, education, mental health and accommodation. One of the highlights of the conference was the opening night of Blanchardstown Development Group's enactment of *The Trailer of Bridget Dinneen* at the Project Arts Centre – we won't ruin the plot, but if you get a chance to see it, we couldn't recommend it highly enough.

Issues such as the role of central group members and linkages with the Irish Traveller Movement in Great Britain were debated at the AGM with input from the Southside Travellers team. Oh, apparently there was a party on the first night, with singing and dancing...but the editor couldn't possibly comment.

### Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown Community Forum – Celebrating 10 years



An Cathaoirleach and John Nolan

Southside Travellers joined Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Community Forum for its AGM and 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the Stillorgan Park Hotel on June 10<sup>th</sup>. As a member of the Executive, which provides overall direction and support to

the Forum – which is open to all community and voluntary groups in the county – Catherine Morley spoke afterwards of the importance of the Forum, particularly to Travellers, in facilitating greater understanding of the shared issues facing all communities across the county.

The event was one of the last events in the tenure of the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Marie Baker, who praised the work of community and voluntary people throughout the county.

### Children and Young People's Sub-Group Established

Following the ratification by the Board of the key recommendations of *It's the Bestest*, our Youth Service Evaluation, a specific sub-group to focus on Children and Young People held its inaugural meeting in the resource centre on June 23<sup>rd</sup> last.



The sub-group brings together all of the expertise available in the county around the provision of high quality youth services and comprises representatives from our funders and partners. The sub-group will elect a chair at their next meeting who will take a seat at Board level in the organisation. This is an exciting development as it allows us to bring significant expertise to our thinking on the development of the Children and Young People's Programme.

### Accommodation Worker Position Available (CE, 19.5 hrs)

Southside Travellers currently has a vacancy in our Accommodation team for an Accommodation Outreach Worker. The successful applicant will be working with our team and on the job training will be provided. Applicants must be eligible for Community Employment. The **closing date for receipt of CV's and letters of application is July 16<sup>th</sup> 2010**, for further information or help with submitting a CV, contact Geraldine McDonagh at the resource centre.



### Travellers on the *Frontline* (RTE, Monday June 28<sup>th</sup>)

"I had to stop watching it, it was a set up from the start!" This was one Southside Traveller's response to the programme. Representatives of the Irish Traveller Movement, Pavee Point and Minceirs

Whiden participated in a discussion on RTE's Frontline Programme, chaired by Pat Kenny, last Monday. Since then, the ITM's Facebook page has been flooded with community members commenting on the seeming bias of the chair, as well as the ways in which the debate was framed within the context of conflict. From our perspective, the entire scenario established by Pat Kenny was designed to sensationalise the challenging issues facing the community and ensure that no real discussion of the impact of Irish government policy. Martin Collins, Barney Joyce, Catherine Collins and RoseMarie Maughan are to be congratulated on their capacity to stay calm in such a distinctly hostile environment.

### Employment and Training at Southside Travellers – A New Approach

Our Community Employment Programme participants – who take roles in our children and young people's programme, accommodation and advocacy and resource centre teams – begin their core skills training programme today. From now until Christmas, they will participate in a series of innovative and creative training programmes in Public Speaking, Leadership, Communications, Personal Development, Community Development and Life Coaching. On completion of these programmes, participants will be given an opportunity to work with a Career Guidance Counsellor who will support them to actively seek employment. As an organisation committed to providing real pathways into employment for our Community Employment participants, we are delighted to put this programme in place and acknowledge FAS and our Resource Centre Manager for their vision and foresight.



### Dublin Pride: First Ever Official Traveller Presence

On Saturday June 26th, the streets of Dublin were transformed into a carnival of colour and dance with over 22,000 people marching in the Annual LGBTQ Pride Parade. This year's theme was **We Are Family Too** and this was marked with a significant turnout of the families, friends and supporters of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer people from all over Ireland. For the first time this year, Gay Travellers were represented by Southside Travellers, community members, the Irish Traveller Movement, Minceirs Whiden and Pavee Point. The word on the street was that the Traveller banners made it onto CNN. Whether or not this is the case, on the day, Travellers were visible in one of the most important days in the LGBTQ calendar.



## Our Vision

Southside Travellers Action Group envisions an Ireland where the human and civil rights, hopes and distinct cultural identity of Travellers are acknowledged and respected

### E-Zine Team

Editor

**Catherine Morley**

Assistant Editor /Community Link

**Geraldine Dunne**

With assistance from Alison Corr, Trevor Stewart, Carol Connors, Sally Connors, Geraldine McDonagh and Trisha Cranny

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