

Dun Laoghaire/Monkstown/Foxrock/Sallynoggin/Dalkey/Killiney

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DUBLIN'S NEWSPAPER

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Glasthule flats for elderly need £1.4m refurbishment

ELDERLY tenants of Dun Laoghaire Corporation are living in substandard flats and the Corporation hasn't the money to refurbish them. The Corporation is pressing the Department of the Environment for a £1.4 million grant to improve conditions at Glasthule Buildings, three blocks of Victorian flats. But the Department has allocated only £450,000 for the refurbishment of the borough's old housing stock this year.

Now the Corporation is hoping for a better grant next year for the scheme, which is one of several on the Corporation's priority list. "We could do with another million next year," said the borough housing officer,

By Geraldine Comiskey

John Byrne, told *Dublin Tribune*.

He said the tenants are mostly elderly people who want to stay in their homes. A lot of them had turned down the Corporation's offer to move into the modern Beaufort flats for the elderly, across the road from Glasthule Buildings, despite the excellent conditions there.

Glasthule Buildings, built around the time when Queen Victoria took a bath "once a year whether she needed it or not", have no bathrooms and do not comply with fire safety regulations.

The Corporation recently commissioned a survey on the flats, which showed they suffer from a wide range of problems, including damp, lack of hot water and heating and lack of basic kitchen and washing facilities. The fire regulations would require a protected escape route from each bedroom to the front door. The electrical installations do not comply with the ETCI or National Rules for Electrical Services, the report said.

Each flat consists of a living room, double bedroom and a corridor which acts as a kitchen, toilet and scullery. Heating is provided by an open fire in the living room. Access to the first and second floors is from concrete staircases at one end, up to con-

crete balconies, supported on steel beams.

About 80 people live in the flats. Two are used by the St Vincent de Paul society and the Meals on Wheels.

The report recommends that a bathroom and kitchen unit are installed in each flat, the walls should be damp-proofed and a new floor laid. While the roofs are structurally sound, the report recommends building new pitched roofs to make room for 60-gallon water storage tanks.

The estimated cost of £1.4 million refurbishment does not include VAT, consultants' fees or the temporary rehousing of the tenants.

INSIDE

Disaster for Dubs

Defeat in the Leinster final for the Dubs left the city remembering the glories of times past again. Match report on Page 22.



TV

Full listings for Friday and Saturday, highlights for Thursday and Sunday and the satellite schedules are on Pages 23 and 24.

Marie's perfect 10

Former Satzenbrau Model of the Year Marie Staunton talks frankly about life on the catwalk to Colette Sheridan on Page 11.

