

CHILDREN IN DANGER

Playground built yards from paedo treatment centre



Anger John Bailey

TDs slam planning decision

By LISA O'CONNOR

THE siting of the kids' adventure playground sparked a furious row last night.

Fine Gael councillor John Bailey has vowed to open an internal investigation into why Council staff decided to put the playground so close to the paedo centre.

He plans to raise the matter at tomorrow night's Council meeting.

He said: "It wasn't very sensible of them, was it?"

"The first thing they should have done before picking a location was consult with the guards and the probation officers.

"Then they should have held consultations with the local community association, residents, health board and the councillors. There should have been a full consultation process.

"I didn't know about this centre, but this is what happens when there's no communication. Most problems can be solved when you keep everything in the open - then you don't make mistakes like this."

But Labour councillor Denis O'Callaghan defended the council. He said: "It could be argued that at least the men attending the Granada Institute have admitted that they have a sexual problem and they are attempting to do something about it and are seeking help for it."

He added: "Most sexual abuse is committed behind closed doors.

"Paedophiles usually befriend a child's parents and groom the child for a period of time before abusing them.

"And the playground is not exactly across the road from the institute. It's a short distance away.

"The Council would have picked that site with the protection of children in mind - that's why it's highly visible from the road.

"I would much prefer to see it there than down further in a secluded part of the park, by the sea, where no passers-by would see a child being abused.

"Notwithstanding that, I recognise the dangers in relation to children but the bottom line is it's irresponsible of parents to let their children go to the park unsupervised.

"While I'm not invalidating people's fears, I would argue that this could happen anywhere. Paedophiles are not only in the Granada Institute."

Meanwhile his party colleague, local TD Eamon Gilmore said he would not be commenting at all - because it might "stir things up".

He said: "It's not something I want to make a comment on. You're only going to stir up - it's something I won't be commenting on."

EXCLUSIVE

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

A CHILDREN'S playground has been built just YARDS from a treatment centre for some of Ireland's worst paedophiles.

Some of the worst child sex beasts in the country regularly attend the clinic - ordered there by the courts - passing the new adventure playground opposite the centre's grounds.

The 200 perverts who have been treated at the Granada Institute include pervert priests Harry Moore, Ronald Bennett and Patrick Maguire, cop Kieran O'Halloran, a former high-ranking social worker and an ex-teacher.

But the only protection for kids is an instruction by centre bosses that the sex offenders be driven there and NOT take the bus.

But in recent days locals claim they have spotted the pervs walking past Shanganagh Park, south Dublin - where the new fun playground was opened just last week.

And one woman says she saw a man ogling her grandchild on a bus - just before he got off outside the centre.

Residents in Shankill, south Dublin, were shocked to see a playground being built in full view of the main road.

And shortly after it was opened last week, children as young as two could be seen from bus stop just around the corner from the paedo centre, as they played on the slide and climbing frames.

The playground was built by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co Council just a short 400 yard walk from the Granada Institute, which specialises in counselling sex-offenders and their victims.

Since the centre opened just over 10 years go, 200 sex-



FURIOUS RESIDENTS DEMAND ANSWERS

monsters have been treated at the day centre.

The Granada Institute claims to contribute "to the safety, protection and well-being of children, adolescents and vulnerable adults".

It also provides treatment on the same site for the victims of sex abuse as well as the offenders.

Its clients - many of whom are ordered to attend by the courts - include some of the country's worst child sex offenders.

The centre's boss confirmed last night that sessions are held mainly in the afternoon, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

But he insisted that NONE of the men were permitted to walk around the neighbourhood.

Dr Pat Walsh, Director of the Granada Institute said the pervs are not allowed to travel to the centre alone.

He said: "They are all driven here, usually by family members - who attend the sessions with them."

Institute director Dr Pat Walsh

He pointed out that the centre kept in touch with former patients to ensure they did not re-offend.

"We have seen about 200 people here since the centre opened and not one of them has re-offended.

"I don't know if you could say they are cured, but at least they know the harm they could cause. They have faced up to it.

"These men abuse because they were victims of abuse themselves as children.

"They come from all walks of life. They don't conform to the stereotype of the priest or the farmer. A lot of them are well-educated, middle-class family men. You would never know they were abusers."

This is cold comfort to local people who bring their kids to the playground, which is separated from the centre's grounds by just a narrow road.

The woman whose three-year-old grandchild was leered at on the bus said: "He must have been one of the paedophiles - he was staring at my granddaughter."

And she claimed another woman had also seen a man looking at children on the same bus.

She shuddered: "I'll never forget the fear I felt when I saw that man looking at my granddaughter. He was ogling her. It was disgusting."

She said the council should have taken residents' fears into account when they decided to put the playground there.

A spokesman for Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Council said they chose the site precisely because it was open.

The spokesman said: "The open location for the playground was chosen because it is open and provides a greater degree of natural supervision by passers by, parents and gardai than elsewhere in the area."

The Granada Institute is not marked on a map and there is no name plaque at the gates of Crinken House, where the centre is based.

The centre in a Victorian house is behind St Joseph's Daycare Centre - a meeting place for elderly people and people with special needs, which is located in a modern building in the grounds of Crinken House.

A row of trees further protects the campus from prying eyes.

But the children in the playground are in full view of anyone passing by on the main road.

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