



# ERIN GO BRAGH GAA CLUB



## STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT 2006 - 2008



**September 2006.**

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## **Foreword**

The former GAA President Mr. Sean Kelly formally launched Erin Go Bragh GAA Club in Littlepace/Castaheany on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2005. The Club now has a very strong presence in the Littlepace/Castaheany area with over 100 juveniles training, playing football and or hurling /Camogie at any given time.

The Club is expected to grow rapidly over the next few years. To plan for this very welcome development in an organised and measured way we have sought to attract as many adults as possible to the club. To guide us we have also prepared this three strategic year plan that sets out our Mission Statement and the key aims and objectives to be achieved over the coming years.

Importantly we have also set out the principles and values, which will inform our approach. The club acknowledges the contributions from all stakeholders and sponsors in helping it with its development. In particular, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Dublin County Board for all its help and guidance and also Fingal County Council for providing us with necessary infrastructure. Without this help Erin Go Bragh would not be in a position to grow and further develop. The club looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with all its stakeholders over the life of this plan.

While helpful a strategic plan is just a statement of intent. Actioning the plan and achieving our challenging objectives will require hard work and dedication. While we will have an ongoing need for outside expertise and funding, it is vitally important that we take ownership and responsibility for our long-term development. The Strategy for Development 2006 – 2008 starts this process. I am in no doubt that with the commitment shown by all to date, we will achieve our shared objectives, no matter how challenging.

Finally, and on behalf of Erin Go Bragh I would like to express our gratitude to all the parents in Littlepace/Castaheany for their support. The numbers of children in attendance at training, football, hurling/Camogie and the Summer Camp is, I believe a reflection of the confidence they have placed in us. We will continuously keep them and all of our stakeholders informed of the progress being made in implementing the plan.

**Cecil Stephens**  
**Chairman**

### **1. MISSION STATEMENT**

- 1.1 The aim of Erin Go Bragh, GAA Club is to promote the Gaelic ethos within the community of Castaheany, Littlepace and Hunters Run through the provision of quality sports and related cultural activities for all irrespective of gender, ethnic background and religious beliefs.

## **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

2.1 The central aim and objective of Erin Go Bragh GAA club is to create a Safe and healthy environment for all juveniles participating in Gaelic activities. This will be achieved through the development and adoption of a Code of Practice for dealing with children and the training and vetting of all mentors and adult trainers. The other key aims and objectives are:

- To encourage wider spread participation in all Gaelic activities among all members of the community.
- To adhere to the GAA Constitution, adapted as appropriate to local circumstances.
- To provide all members of the community; including adults, teenagers and particularly children with an opportunity to engage actively in Gaelic sports (including football, hurling, and Camogie) at all levels.
- To ensure that Erin Go Bragh becomes fully sustainable through the ongoing and measured development of appropriate structures and club facilities.
- To develop a best practice approach through the development of clear policies and procedures.
- To develop a funding structure, which ensures that no individual is excluded.
- To develop a communications structure (electronic and media) that actively communicates our objectives and programme activities to all members of the community.

## **3. KEY PRINCIPLES AND VALUES INFORMING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

3.1 The Erin Go Bragh GAA Club will also be informed and operate by the following values:

- Encouraging local people to become involved in the Club, regardless of Race, Colour, Religion, Age, Social Background or Gender.
- Encouraging and promoting the integration of children and parents from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
- Ensuring the development and maintenance of strong and effective relationships with all stakeholders in the community, including in particular other sporting organisations.

- Ensuring that strong governance, financial and reporting framework is in place.

#### **4. CLUB HISTORY**

4.1 Erin Go Bragh was formed in 1986 and started a juvenile section in Dromheath with 3 teams represented at U10, U12 & U14. The Club was also represented at adult level with a junior football team in what was then Junior Division 2. In 1996 Erin Go Bragh relocated to Porterstown Park in Clonsilla and added to its representation at U16 juvenile level, and at minor level.



Adult (Junior) football team, Porterstown, October 2005 and Officers of the Club

4.2 In 2003 Erin Go Bragh identified the Littlepace/Castaheaney as a new area with a large and growing population but with no GAA presence. We now are coaching nearly 100 children between the ages of 6 to 11 years of age, every Saturday morning (10.00 a.m.). 14 Adults from the Littlepace/Castaheaney /Hunter Run area also joined the Club during 2004/2005 and all have successfully completed the foundation-training course arranged by the Dublin County Board.

4.3 The Juvenile Section of Erin Go Bragh was put on a formal footing with the election of a Juvenile Committee drawn from the Littlepace/Castaheaney area. In September 2005 Fingal County Council allocated football pitches in the Castaheaney / Littlepace area to cater for our juvenile members.



League game, September 2005.

- 4.4 In early September 2005 Erin Go Bragh also introduced hurling/Camogie to the Littlepace/Castaheaney area for the first time in its history. About 70-80 juveniles can be seen being put through their “hurling” paces every Tuesday evening.



- 4.5 Erin Go Bragh with financial support from the Dublin County Board has also teamed up with Mary Mother of Hope National School to provide coaching assistance to young boys and girls during school hours. This innovative collaboration is working very well and to the benefit of all concerned.



Erin Go Bragh U8 league game and the nursery being put through their “littlepaces”

## 5. Organisational Structure

5.1 An elected Executive Committee is in place and officers have been elected at the AGM by members of the club to serve for a term of one year. The AGM will take place before the end of January every year with members being given adequate notification and time to submit motions etc.

5.2 The membership of the Executive Committee for the current term is as follows:

- Mr. George Burke, Secretary.
- Ms. Denise Carroll.
- Mr. Sean Flood.
- Mr. Tom Madigan, Treasurer.
- Mr. David Keyes.
- Mr. Pat Keenan, Juvenile coordinator
- Ms. Carol Kinsella.
- Mr. Joseph Manning.
- Ms. Therese Maxwell.
- Ms. Anke McElligott.
- Mr John McLeod.
- Ms Gillian O'Brien.
- Ms. Paula Redmond.
- Mr. Paul Ryan.
- Mr. Paul Carter, PRO.
- Mr Cecil Stephens, Chairman.

[Photo of Executive Committee to be inserted]

5.3 The Executive Committee will be supported by the following subcommittees:

- Finance.
- Development.
- Juvenile.
- Adult.

## **6. PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS**

6.1 The success of Erin Go Bragh is dependent upon its good relations and active collaboration with a wider network of stakeholders/organisations within the local and wider community. These include:

- The Membership of Erin Go Bragh.
- Parents of Juvenile Members.
- The Dublin County Board.
- Fingal County Council.
- Mary Mother of National School
- Club Sponsors.
- Castaheany Sports & Community Centre, and affiliate members, as appropriate.
- Garda Community Liaison.



Dublin Player Barry Cahill with Trainers/Mentors at the Erin Go Bragh Summer Camp

## 7. STRATEGY

7.1 The Executive Committee has identified the following strategic goals over the lifetime of this Plan:

- Securing playing facilities for both adults and juveniles with appropriate changing facilities.
- Securing indoor training facilities.
- Maximising the level of participation at nursery, juvenile and adult levels.
- Extending and strengthening the network of stakeholders.
- Working to attract additional funding to support the longer-term development of the club and its facilities.



The Dubs and Sam come to the Erin Go Bragh Summer Camp



## **8. BUSINESS PLAN**

### 8.1 Immediate priorities during 2006/2007 include:

- Securing adult and juvenile pitches in Hunters Run / Hazelbury.
- Following the achievement of the above increase the level of participation to include representation in competitive football, hurling and Camogie at the following levels:
  - Adult; junior, under 21 and minor levels.
  - Juvenile; U8s, U9s, U10s U11s, and nursery.
- Establish an adult ladies team.
- Fund (with the help of the Dublin County Board) the provision of a qualified trainer in Mary Mother of Hope National School to develop Gaelic sports (both football and hurling) at all levels.
- Help Mary of Hope National School develop a capacity to participate at competitive level in primary school leagues, through provision of mentors, sharing of equipment and provision of Juvenile playing pitches with the approval of Fingal County Council.
- Develop the GAA Summer Camp concept to support the inter-personal and skills development of all young children both within the club and wider local community.
- Increase the number of adult and juvenile mentors and ensure that all have the minimum foundation training qualifications.
- Draw up a Code of Practice in relation to Children, Procedures Manual for Mentors/Trainers. And a Health and Safety Statement.
- Develop and maintain a website to communicate effectively and efficiently within the club and to the wider community.

## **9. Performance Indicators**

### 9.1 Progress in achieving our objectives will be measured against the following key performance indicators:

- Availability and adequacy of pitches and changing facilities.
- Level of participation in the club at all levels, including from different ethnic backgrounds.

- Number of teams participating in leagues.
- Gender balance as appropriate.
- Number of qualified trainers and level of qualification.
- Level of collaboration and sharing of equipment and facilities with Mary Mother of Hope National School.
- Number of Parents actively participating in the club.
- Effectiveness of communications both within and outside the club.
- Effectiveness of relationships with stakeholders.
- Effectiveness of Systems, Procedures and Codes of Practice in place.
- Activities to facilitate the development of the wider local community.

## **10. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- 10.1 Progress in the achievement of our objectives against the above indicators will be monitored on a regular basis by the Executive committee and reported on in the annual report.
- 10.2 Stakeholders will be consulted on major developments and informed of progress, as appropriate.

## **CURRENT TEAM PROFILES**

### **FOOTBALL**

#### **Nursery (3 teams)**

Team A - Mentor: Sean Flood  
Team B Mentor: Paul Ryan  
Team C Mentor: Mark Haskins

#### **Under 8's (3 teams)**

Team A Mentor: George Burke  
Team B Mentor: John McLeod  
Team C Mentor: Therese Maxwell.

#### **Under 9's (2 teams)**

Team A Mentor: Pat Keenan  
Team B Mentor: Myles McDonnell  
Team C Mentor: Paula Redmond

**Under 10's (1 team)                    2006/2007**

**Under 11's (1 team)                    2006/2007**

**Minor (1 team)                         2006/2007**

**Under 21 (1 team)    Mentor: Owen Stephens**

**Junior (1 team)            Mentor: Cecil Stephens**

**Ladies (adult)            Mentor: Willie Redmond**

## **CURRENT TEAM PROFILES (Cont/d)**

### **HURLING/CAMOGIE**

#### **Nursery (2 teams)**

Team A - Mentor: Sean Flood

Team B Mentor: Paul Ryan

**Under 8's (1 team)** Mentor: John McLeod

**Under 9's (1 team)** Mentor: Joe Manning

**Under 10's (1 team)** 2006/2007

**Under 11's (1 team)** 2006/2007

**Minor (1 team)** 2006/2007

**Under 21 (1 team)** 2006/2007

**Junior (1 team)** 2006/2007

**Ladies (adult)** 2006/2007

