Presentation of 2014 Michael O’Donnell
Students Learning with Communities Fellowship Project

An Urban Design Masterplan for Cabra

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Urban Design Masterplan

SSPL4024 Urban Design Masterplan

- Final year urban design project for the BSc Spatial Planning programme
- Students required to prepare an integrated urban design solution for a given area
- Brings together all of the planning, urban design and project management skills learned during programme
- Along with Dissertation, it is the last coursework assignment the students will undertake
- Good track record of professional standard urban design strategies
Final Year Integrated Studio

Three independent modules… :

- SSPL4013 Individual Spatial Plan  
  (module coordinator: Paul Lawlor)

- SSPL4009 Collaborative Planning  
  (module coordinator: Ciaran Cuffe)

- SSPL4011 Urban Design Masterplan module  
  (module coordinator: David O’Connor)

…but with a common case study  
(2013/14: Cabra)
Michael O’Donnell Fellowship

The DIT SLwC Michael O’ Donnell Fellowship supported the project with a grant which permitted: -

– Collaborative planning seminar (see image)

– Customised engagement component

– Dissemination and display

– (The MOD Fellowship supports Students Learning with Communities projects which facilitate active engagement)
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Benefits to student group:

- The Project was designed to immerse the students in a real-life community engagement scenario. It is the final group project in their degree programme and the aim is to ready them for real-world situations where they have to prepare bespoke solutions to deal with actual problems faced by communities.
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Benefits to student group: -

– The consultation exercise enabled the students to design and implement, to a professional standard, a community consultation as if it was a real-life area planning project.

– The aim of the Project was to encourage students to think holistically about an area and its problems and also to allow them to engage with the local community in seeking to address their issues.
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Benefits to community: -

- The local community benefit from being part of a true-to-life planning exercise where they were facilitated to articulate their views and issues. They also benefit from student creativity.

- The local authority, involved in the setting of briefs, also benefit from seeing how a community responds to an experimental and creative collaborative exercise designed by students.
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Benefits to DIT: -

- DIT are active in the area with the development of the Grangegorman campus and satellite sports facilities based in Cabra

- Links to other SLWC Projects (the Lifeline Project)

- Strong pedagogical exercise to involve the community in project critique
Outcomes

Resulting from 2013/14 Urban Design Masterplan / Final Year Integrated Studio / Michael O’Donnell Fund:

- Two local groups (The Tolka Valley Partnership & the Cabra Community Forum) have invited DIT to display the project in the community

- Consolidated final year studio component

- A good student project outcome…
Questions?

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Thanks!