

Ballybeg Youth Resource Centre rises from the ashes



Kerry Anne Mylett cutting the ribbon at the re-located Ballybeg Youth Resource Centre at Clonard Park on Saturday last. |
Photo: Mick Wall

Just like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the Ballybeg Youth Resource (BYR) Centre is back in action at a new location in Waterford.

The much loved service was targeted in an arson attack in January along with Saint Saviour's GAA Boxing Clubs.

However, last Saturday, the centre moved to a new location at 61 Clonard Park, which previously operated as the local Neighbourhood Office.

Local children gathered at the new temporary location along with those involved in providing the valued services of Ballybeg Youth Resource.

"We would like to send a huge thank you to all who have helped and supported us in recent difficult times," said a BYR spokesperson.

"This includes local parents and children, local agencies, clubs and services, St Saviour's primary school and other schools in Waterford, the City Council, Waterford Area Partnership and businesses in and around Waterford City. We would not have been able to be up and running so quickly without all your help."

Two youth projects operate from the Youth Resource Centre: the Ballybeg Community Youth Project which runs services Monday to Friday with occasional weekend work and is staffed by Lil Quinn and Jen Hannon; and the Axis Community Youth Project which is specifically for weekend services and is staffed by Ciara Jacob and Pat Murphy.

All young people aged 10 to 21 years living in Ballybeg and the surrounding areas are welcome to join the Youth Resource Centre which offers activities and programmes to suit all ages and interests.

The centre is also actively seeking additional volunteers. Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Services (WSTCYS) has said it is committed to supporting the Youth Centre and all those who avail of its services.



Leah Moran with a message that roundly resonated around Ballybeg on Saturday last. | Photo: Mick Wall

In a statement, WSTCYS said: "The Board of the Youth Service is particularly concerned at what happened at the Ballybeg Youth Resource Centre and its impact on the young people, volunteers and staff who have used the centre.

"The incident has hurt the young people in terms of the loss of their space and facilities that meant so much to them and which they had worked so hard to build up over the years. The board, staff and volunteers are committed to continuing to deliver a worthwhile and valuable service for the young people of Ballybeg. The board acknowledges the support of the Ballybeg community and thanks them for their generosity."