

## Volunteers sought for new No Name club in Maynooth

by Laura Mc Loughlin

VOLUNTEERS are being sought by the youth organisation No Name who are hoping to establish a new club in Maynooth.

The only No Name club that is currently in existence in Kildare is in Hollywood in Naas and the organisation is hoping to branch out into the north of the county.

Bryan Fennell, Programme Officer for Leinster, said he has been contacted by adults and young people who want to establish a club for Maynooth.

"A small group of adults came to us, about two to three, about setting up a club in Maynooth," said Bryan.

"We would like six or seven adults in an area willing to come on board.

"We had a club in Maynooth years ago and No Name has been running for the last 40 years in Ireland.

"No name is a place for young people to socialise and hang out with no pressure to take alcohol or drugs."

Bryan said they are in the early stages of setting up the Maynooth club but are looking for anyone over 18 who would be willing to come on board for two hours a week.

"We have over 30 clubs all over Ireland," said Bryan.

"It might be one midweek night the club would meet for two hours and you would supervise the young people.

"The young people generally decide on what they want to do, whether it's games or music.

"Any training will be given and we make sure all the adults are Garda vetted. "Our only club in Kildare is in Naas and it was established in September 2016."

Bryan said they are looking to get as many volunteers as possible to establish a committee.

"We have had young people that have got in contact that want it themselves," said Bryan.

"There is a demand there in Maynooth.

"We have 10 clubs in Leinster and I work with them offering different supports whether it's help with ideas for the club, fundraising or help with sourcing a venue.

"Some clubs use a GAA hall, a Scout's hall or they have their own venue.

"Some clubs are very proactive and don't need help."

Bryan said the No Name club is specifically designed for young people from the age of 15 to 18 years.

"It is for 15 to 18 years olds because we understand that that is a key transitioning period moving into adulthood," said Bryan.

"I have worked with a lot of youth organisations over the years and you see with groups for 11 to 18 year olds by the time someone gets to 15 they don't want to socialise with an 11 year old.

"This is somewhere where they can go and be themselves."

Anyone interested in volunteering for the new Club can contact Bryan by emailing bfennell@nonameclub.ie or call 085-8339317.

# Muslims in Lucan working to promote integration

By Kate Donoghue

THE Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Ireland (AMAI) hosted a new-year party last Saturday (28th January) as a way of getting to know members of the community.

The gathering took place at St Joseph's College in Lucan and local residents, media and public officials were invited to participate.

"These events are an effort to introduce ourselves to the local communities," said national president of the men's division, Dr Anwar Malik.

"We invite people from all walks of life to come and see what we do. We try to make it social and informal."

The party featured an extensive display of all the charitable work the various divisions of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community are doing across Ireland and internationally.

AMAI members take a positive approach to integration by organising blood drives, charity walks and donating to Irish charities such as Hospice and the Irish Cancer Society.

Members also pay regular visits to nursing homes and spend time with the elderly, especially at Christmas time.

The Ahmadiyya community are a branch of Muslims who believe the Messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) from Qadian, India.

Their motto is "love for all, hatred for none" and they aim to champion Islam's true, essential teachings of peace and tolerance.

On the Association's official website, it is stated, 'we categorically reject terrorism in any form' and an intellectual 'Jihad of the pen' is far mightier than the sword.

The AMAI also makes the point that they 'champion the empowerment and education of women'.

The national president of the women's division, Sajida Aleem, said this is an important point.

"People say that Muslim women are bound to their houses and they can't do anything or they are suppressed or something," she said.

"We do these kinds of things



(l-r) Dr Munim Janjua, Brendan Quinn (Liffey Sound FM), Ciarán Burke, Dr Anwar Malik (National President), Fazal Butt (Regional President) and Imaam Rabeeb Mirza. Pics: Kate Donoghue



(l-r) Sajida Aleem (National President), Nudrat Malik, Shamifa Zaheer (Regional President) and Tayyaba Mashud.

just to tell people and remove misconceptions about Islam."

One example of this is the publication, Maryam.

"We have our own publication, you could say this is what we are proudest of, because it's all by our ladies; nothing by the men. Writing, printing, publishing – our ladies do everything."

Maryam is a collection of writings in Urdu and English by Ahmadiyya Muslim women from all over Ireland. It is produced biannually, entirely by their own efforts.

"There are essays about different moral things," said

Sajida.

"One theme was the training of kids, this one is on the Holy Prophet's life, another one is about modesty.

"There is also a part for the younger girls. They can write stories, recipes and be involved too."

The community of around 500 members works to promote the true, peaceful message of Islam through interfaith events and conferences each year.

The next big event for the AMAI is a peace summit which will be held in the Lucan Spa Hotel on 2nd April.

"We call the heads of every religion in the country and we make one topic for the event," said Sajida.

"Everybody gives their point of view from their own religion. It's all about promoting peace."

"This is a thing that needs to be spread, you know? Because there are so many negative things that other people are doing.

"But if one Muslim does one bad thing it is all over the news. There are so many Muslims doing good things, but they don't portray that."

In fact, on Friday (27th Jan-

uary) the group presented a cheque for €1,000 to the LauraLynn children's hospice.

Internationally, Ahmadiyya Muslims support disaster relief and development in poorer regions through their independent charity, Humanity First.

Humanity First has registered offices in 43 countries and six continents, providing assistance 'on the basis of need irrespective of race, religion or politics'.

Guests at Saturday's event were treated to an array of refreshments, open discussion and hospitality.

## Tuesday, 24th January

by Laura Mc Loughlin

■ AN UPDATE on requests for extra buses on the 25a and 25b bus route in Lucan was requested at the meeting by Cllr Ruth Nolan (PBP). Cllr Nolan was told that an update on the situation was requested in November 2016 but no reply has been received from Dublin Bus.

■ AN UPDATE on the planned Lucan Road surface water drainage scheme including provision of new gullies was requested by Cllr William Lavelle (FG) at the meeting. Cllr Lavelle was told that there has been delays in drawing up the

tender documents for the Old Lucan Road to Chapel Hill Surface Water Drainage Scheme but they are now almost complete. The documents are expected to be issued this week.

■ AN AUTOMATION of the entrance gate to Hayden's Lane car park at Griffen Valley Park will be undertaken this year. Cllr Ed O'Brien (FF) requested an update on the progress of the project at the meeting.

■ AN UNOFFICIAL gap between Hillcrest and The Paddocks will be closed following a request by Cllr Lina O'Toole (Ind). Cllr O'Toole was told that constructing a suitable link between these

## LUCAN AREA COMMITTEE NEWS IN BRIEF

two estates will require agreement from both estates. David Fennell, from The Council's Public Realm Section said: "Should a petition be received from each estate with an indicative route, the matter will be considered further. The petition would need to be comprehensive and consult with residents directly opposite any proposed link paths or access routes."

■ CLLR Nolan asked for the figures of the Council's housing stock that are currently empty

and was told the Council currently have 46 vacant dwellings on hand of which 18 are north of Naas Road.

■ REPAIRS to the utility chambers at the Lucan Road in the vicinity of St Andrew's National School will be carried out. Cllr Lavelle raised the problem of loose covers at the utility chambers and said there was ongoing noise pollution. The Area Engineer will contact the Utility Company in question and arrange for

appropriate repair to the covers.

■ A SIGN for Gaelscoil Naomh Padraig will be re-installed following a request put forward by Cllr Lavelle.

■ THE footpath over the bridge on Esker Road will be examined by Council engineers as well as the public lighting along the stretch of road. Cllr O'Toole said the road is frequently used by pedestrians and that the repairs needed to be carried out.

■ CHILDREN at play signs will be installed on both sides of the road at the new playspace in Sarsfield Park following a request by Cllr Danny O'Brien

(SF). Cllr O'Brien was told Sarsfield Park will be included in the 30kph Residential Speed Limit and because of this an appropriate "Slow Zone" sign will be erected at each vehicular entrance to Sarsfield Park. However Cllr O'Brien said it was for added safety for children and the motion was agreed.

■ CLLR Paul Gogarty (Ind) asked for an updated timescale on the next phase of the revised Clonburris SDZ plan. He was told that the preparation of the draft Planning Scheme for Clonburris SDZ is progressing. The draft Planning Scheme that will go on public display before the end of the first quarter in 2017.