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Taoiseach launches Castleknock GAA development

by Martin Ryan

Over 1,000 people turned up at Somerton in Castleknock to witness the turning of the sod for one of Dublin 15's biggest ever sport-

ing developments. Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, in one of his last public engagements, was on hand to formally launch the new 23 acre

Castleknock Community Park which will be home to Castleknock GAA Club.

Among the guests at the event, which culminated in an evening of celebration in the nearby Castleknock Hotel & Country Club, was GAA President, Nicky Brennan and Minister for Justice, Brian Lenihan TD.

The highly ambitious project which will be developed in three phases will provide the club with three pitches including an all-weather floodlit option and a clubhouse

Complimenting the club on the level of unity that was apparent in the evening's attendance the Taoiseach referred to the appropriateness of the club's motto "le chéile."

Speaking to *Community Voice*, he said that "it will be a wonderful addition to the local facilities for the young popula-

tion of the area and shows what can be achieved by concentrated local effort." He added that "it is the kind of project I am delighted to be asked to launch as it clearly is planned on a professional basis and is a tribute to the organisational skills of all involved."

The development is expected to cost in the region of €5 million and will be constructed on a 23 acre site at Somerton that the Castleknock club has acquired on a long-term lease. The club has received assistance from Fingal County Council in acquiring the site and has also received funding from the Government's Sports Capital Programme towards its plans.

It presents quite a challenge for the young club which will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its


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Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD and GAA President Nicky Brennan with young Castleknock GAA players at the turning of the sod in the Club's new Somerton HQ

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