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Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association

Annual General Meeting 2017

Sandymount Hotel

15th January 2018

8.00 pm

Agenda

- **Chairman's Address**
- **Financial Report**
- **2017 Activities - overview**
- **Key Areas of CURRENT Concern**
- **Discussion Q&A**

Present:

Joan Macarthur, Chairperson.

Dave Turner, Secretary

Liam Handy, Treasurer

Lorna Kelly

Dave Madden

Irene Kelly

Paddy Dunne

Finian Loftus

Apologies were received from ??

In attendance: Cllrs. D. Lacey, P. McCartan,

Chairman's Address

Introductory Remarks :

Thankyou's were recorded to :

- Dublin City Council South East Area Manager, Declan Hayden, for all the help they have given SAMRA during 2017.
- Members of the Tidy Towns for their help, especially for the Community Day in June

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- Congratulations to Tidy Towns for winning the Urban Village Award. A great deal of dedication and hard work was involved. which is much appreciated by the residents of Sandymount
- The two members of the SAMRA Committee who have retiring in 2016, Des Flynn, Solicitor, who has been a member for many years including Chairman, also James Cassidy, our secretary.
- To the three incoming new SAMRA Committee Members who were co-opted after the 2016 AGM : D Turner; D Madden; F Loftus – who have made a major contribution through 2017

Special Achievement Recognition : Lorna Kelly was presented with the inaugural Jack Torpey Award for Services to Sandymount AND who also received a Lifetime Recognition Award from Sandymount Tidy Towns Community Association.

SAMRA AIMS – were reviewed and reconfirmed

AGM Objectives – were as stated (reference to the presentation pack)

2017 – To be covered in detail by David Turner – but overall was considered to be a year of excellent progress for SAMRA on a number of activities. There is a particular mention for the development of a website www.samra.ie which now provides the platform for improved transparency and communication. It is intended that by early 2018 all significant documents related to SAMRA will be able to be found there.

2018 – We have developed a short list of Key Areas of Concern to enable more effective focus. These will be covered in more detail by David Turner through this AGM agenda and are referenced in detail in the presentation overview, with an update on current status. This effectively forms the basis for SAMRA's 2018 agenda. For clarity, they are :

- Poolbeg Incinerator Monitoring and “Abnormal Conditions Readiness” (Emergency Response)
- Poolbeg West Planning Appeal
- Merrion Road Traffic : Lack of Clarity on Planning Intentions
- Sewage and Water contamination levels on Merrion/Sandymount Beach areas

Other

- Lorna received a letter last week from Cluid Housing regarding the redevelopment Of Bethany. This will be on our web site shortly
- Subscriptions : Declan from The Hardware Store in Sandymount has agreed to put up a locked drop box for SAMRA on the premises

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Summary and Special Request – we are purely a voluntary organisation and entirely dependent on the support and goodwill of fellow residents. We need additional support for the Committee and in addition, areas where residents may have expertise in relation to ongoing activities. SAMRA have been spectacularly successful on a number of points of influence in the recent past, and there is no shortage of key challenges coming up where your contribution could have a similar major impact in the future.

Financial Report : Treasurer Liam Handy

- Liam to provide summary details
- Levels of Income, expenditure and Excess of Income over Expenditure were formally proposed and seconded – followed by Public signing by the Treasurer and Chairman.

2017 Activities – Key Points and Status : Secretary Dave Turner

- **Organisational upgrade** : *Website creation; monthly meetings; Pamphlet and Leaflet Drop. Increased Website utilisation will require further technical support.*
- **Sandymount/Merrion/Blackrock corridor study** – *SAMRA facilitated resident responses but to date no response from DCC NTA has been received*
- **Poolbeg Incinerator** : *Ongoing dialogue with EPA on Emissions monitoring programme. Main concern now centres on “Abnormal conditions readiness” (ie Emergency Response)*
- **Poolbeg West Draft Planning Scheme** : *After dialogue with DCC Objection has been lodged by SAMRA on the basis primarily that the proposal does not include any infrastructure upgrade and which will exacerbate current challenges in our residency areas.*
- **Coastal Defence** : *Support has been provided to DCC for Execution of Phase 1 BUT in parallel increased attention has been requested by DCC for increased maintenance attention to Onshore Gullies and Drains. This reinforces the DCC study of July 2015 citing this to be THE primary area of resident concern and cause of flooding, when land water from rainfall cannot be efficiently discharged.*
- **Other Things Arising** : *eg Thrashing Pylons, where DCC attention was brought to bring resolution to the noise caused by resonance of the Traffic pylons in strong winds.*

2018 Priorities : Secretary Dave Turner

1. **Poolbeg Incinerator Monitoring and “Abnormal Conditions Readiness” (Emergency Response)**
2. **Poolbeg West Planning Appeal**
3. **Merrion Road Traffic : Lack of Clarity on Planning Intentions**

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4. Sewage and Water contamination levels on Merrion/Sandymount Beach areas

Open Discussion : Facilitated/Recorded (Dave Turner)

The Chairman then invited members questions and open discussion, with the offer of designated Committee Member specific support for the key areas of forward focus. Specific energy and debate as follows :

- **Roslyn Park** – A proposal was made for the need for a Community Centre. A show of hands recorded a near unanimous level of support. *Live Planning Application ?????? Intention to open in September – I need more background to understand how to note this.....*
- **Incinerator** – Various views and opinions on the threat posed. There was specific discussion about the visual emission. There was also debate about treatment and export of the “Fly Ash” and “Bottom Ash” being generated, now that the plant is in full operation. There was wide support for the proposed action of requesting Covanta to hold a review meeting with SAMRA residents **NEW ACTION**
- **Local Property Tax** – general disquiet was voiced on the current process for setting LPT based on house value and not the “ability to pay”. Is this an action which SAMRA can take and does it fit with SAMRA AIMS ?????.....
- **Flood Insurance** – a show of hands evidenced an aprox 70/30 % split for flood Insurance made available to residents. Further research across members may be a valuable action to take for SAMRA residents ?????
- **Coastal Defence** – The recent Clontarf decision to reduce the height of the seawall raised the question about any impact on ongoing SANDYMOUNT works ?
- **Drain Cleaning** – Numerous representations were made about ineffectiveness in this are being the main cause for local flooding after heavy rainfall. With a show of hands it was widely supported to have follow-up to “What action has actually been taken since the SAMRA letter to DCC Lord Mayor.” What action is planned for 2018 ? **NEW ACTION**

Closing Address – Chairman Joan MacArthur

The 2017 AGM was closed with a thank you for the level and quality of debate throughout the meeting. It was considered that the AGM Objectives had certainly been achieved and a number of new actions identified. It also seemed that there was strong support expressed for the Forward Agenda proposed.

The meeting recorded it's thanks for the work carried out by the SAMRA Committee

The Chairman concluded by reiterating the request made in the opening address for offers of new Talent and Support to the Committee and specifically in areas of expertise which will support the 2018 agenda and action items.

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The notes of the AGM and Overview Presentation Package will be uploaded to the SAMRA website www.samra.ie

Meeting Closed 10:10 Hours

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