

SANDYMOUNT & MERRION RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SAMRA)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: 22nd July 2019; 7:00 pm

Venue: Sandymount Hotel

Attendees:

Joan MacArthur (Chair)

Dave Turner (Secretary)

Paddy Dunne

Liam Handy

Fergus (p/t)

AGENDA:

1. APOLOGIES
2. PRIORITY/NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Seagrass Bed – Sandymount/Merrion Strand - DT
 - b. Dublin Inquirer approach to SAMRA - DT
 - c. Draft Agenda for forthcoming Local Councillors Meeting - ALL
3. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
4. ACTIONS Update – previous business
5. Adoption of Committee Meeting minutes
6. Website – items for posting
7. AOB

NOTES OF MEETING

1.0 APOLOGIES – Irene Lynch; Finian Loftus; Stephen Hurley

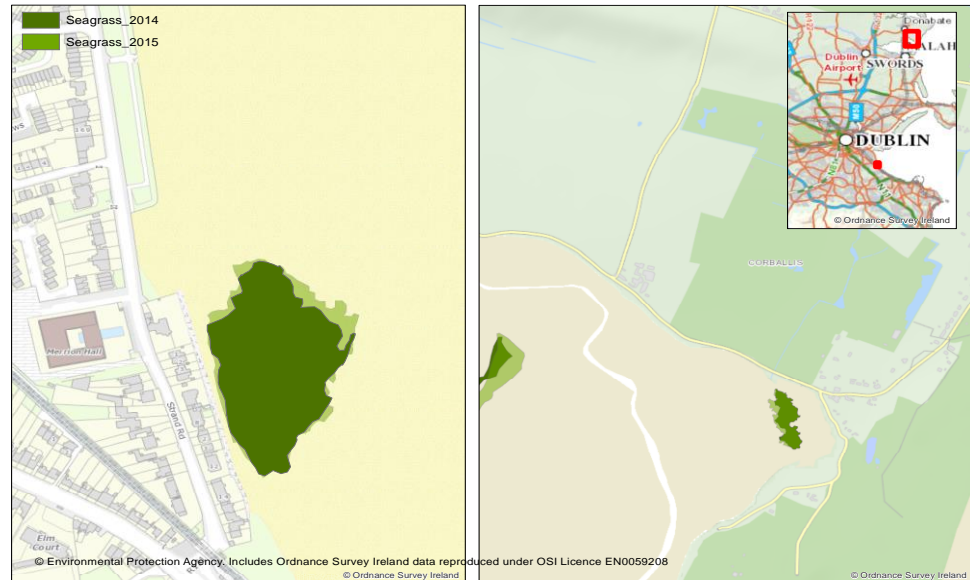
2.0 Priority/New Business

2.1 Seagrass Bed – Sandymount/Merrion Strand – DT

- A meeting of interested residents was held at beach site, with an overview of the significance of this grass bed, lead by Karin Dubvinski and Ritra. The following article was provided by Ray McGovern :

“Our sea-grass bed at Merrion/Sandymount Strand. Any September or October watch out for the stretch of sea beside the houses near Merrion Gates. Here you will see Brent geese upturned in the water. Why are they upturning? They’re feeding on the most important & the last surviving bed of sea-grass on the East Coast of Ireland. It measures about 1.35 hectares/3.3 acres. It’s the jewel in the crown of South Dublin Bay. The sea-grass has unique nutrients which the Brent need if they are to successfully breed the following spring in the High Canadian Arctic. 250 + Brent can feed every day on the sea-grass in September/October.

It's then exhausted but it will have done its work for the next generation of Brent. Everyone knows that South Dublin Bay is a Special Protected Area & is a Special Area of Conservation under EU legislation. It's illegal to disturb this habitat or the water birds that make it special. So, let us enjoy this jewel of South Dublin Bay washed up so close to our shore. Let us protect it while it lasts & above all, let us tread softly."



Ray McGovern; Strand Road; Sandymount.

Assistance is to be sought from SAMRA to protect this this unique area.

Actions agreed:

- 1) **Post the article and map to the website: Action DT**
- 2) **Make contact with the researchers to understand how SAMRA can best support this: Action DT**
- 3) **Similar rare species "BeeOrchid" article to be researched: Action LK**

2.2 Dublin Inquirer approach to SAMRA - DT

- A meeting was held with DI reporter (Aura McMenamin) and DT and JMCA, when the following was discussed:

"AIMS of SAMRA - available on website for all to see

www.samra.ie

HOW SAMRA works

- *Has been inexistent since 1957*
- *Committee meets Monthly - proceedings are on website*

- Annual AGM - proceedings are on website

MEMBERSHIP BASE

- +100 fully subscribed and increasing

CURRENT PRIORITIES

1. *Incinerator*
2. *Infrastructure -*
 1. east of DART line - all roads generally now log-jammed
 2. Poolbeg West Development +8000 new residents
3. *Strand and Merrion Beach - continued sewage pollution (12-14 x per annum)*
4. *Environmental protection - continuous erosion of a very special area*
5. *Strand - facility protection, stranded graffiti covered containers, Martello Tower, beach amenities degrading etc*
6. *Sandymount Village centre*
 1. *Pedestrianisation*
 2. *Traffic calming*

2.3 POOLBEG INCINERATOR - Upset Readiness

- **What has been SAMRAs approach**
 - *SUPPORT Incinerator operations, recognising the benefits BUT ONLY IF WELL MANAGED and within limits prescribed by the licence*
 - *To speak to EPA (licenser) and not Covanta (Licensee) regarding concerns*
 - *Become comfortable with operations management*
 - *Monitor the enforcement of safety and quality standards as Incinerator start-up occurred over the last 2+ years*
 - *11 workers injured and hospitalised in Lime Leak incident*
 - *€1000 fine for breach of EPA regulations*
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- **What is SAMRAs Context**
 - *Upset Readiness or “Emergency Response” - does not adequately consider the outside plant environment - it focusses almost entirely on internal plant risks management*
 - *There is a large population base around the incinerator area and to the west most of Dublin! - with 8,000 more in the immediate Poolbeg West Development Plan*
 - *An Incinerator upgrade is being planned 90,000Te per annum which is 15% more than current max capacity of 600,000Te, with further expansion plans in the pipeline up to 800,000Te*
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- **What are SAMRAs BIGGEST SPECIFIC CONCERNS**
 - **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR**
 - *Environmental emissions outage, out with emissions limits and continued burn*
 - *Easterly winds*
 - *Cold air conditions causing lack of dispersion and local toxicity intensification*
 - *Communication of response actions*

- *Letter of objection has been lodged by SAMRA. “Door to door” engagement occurred and a Planning Consultant was employed. A Residents letter of Objection will now be lodged. The latest quoted position is that the planning application **has been suspended**. Status to be monitored: PD*

2.5 Proposed Councillors Meeting September: SH

- *The letter of invitation was sent and date options have being offered. The most appropriate date was agreed to be 12th September. The proposed agenda was:*
 - **Environment**
 - **Heritage**
 - **Safety and Accessibility**
 - **Incinerator (Emergency Preparedness)** – added at the meeting
 - **Sewage** - added at the meeting

2.5.1 Action 1: to formally propose the date 12th September (SH)

2.5.2 Action 2: to draw up more detail behind the agenda Action: SH Lead/DT/ALL

3.0 Membership/Website Update - DT

3.1 Exec Summary

- New Members - July +3
- New income - €66
- Total Subscribed Members – 101 – *plus 3 pending DGPR declaration*
- Total Membership Income €1,770
- Paypal Balance €267.17
- 121 Computer Training Costs (July) €165

Media : Website/Newsletter/FaceBook

- Facebook Followers 377 (June) / 389 (July)
- Facebook Likes : 349 (June) / 357 (July)

4.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

- **IRISH WATER – Strategic Infrastructure Upgrade Application: (Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project)**
- **Merrion Strand Traffic** – *Nothing received. AGREED previously that the road designation is the root cause of the problem. Email sent to Dermot and Claire Byrne.*
Follow-up ACTION FL (Post Council Elections)
- **PWP Scheme** – *as per above*

- **Poolbeg Incinerator:**

- (1) Monitoring (Emergency Procedures): PREVIOUS**

- *ACTION SAMRA DT to visit EPA offices and review the Notifiable Incident reports NO PROGRESS. (Fellow SAMRA attendees to include SH/LK/FL)*
 - *FOCUS AREA 2 : ASH TRANSPORTATION*
 - *UPDATE : DCC has acknowledged the letter and will reply under the provisions of the "Freedom of Information" ACT. – LETTER RECEIVED from DCC ETD 03/12/18 and will be attached to the email distributing these minutes*
 - *FOCUS AREAS 3/4/5 – specifics to be as per formal answers to the pre-tabled questions*
 - *MEETING TO BE REQUESTED WITH EPA ACTION DT*
 - **Bus Route Changes** – SH revised letter SAMRA taking Committee inputs to be submitted. Status update: The plan is being re-jigged and new route will be made available mid-August, after which there will be further consultation.
 - **Proposal to synchronise SAMRA updates with NEWS4 release** – now possible given live website status *Action Irene*
 - **Sandymount Traffic Calming**
 - Follow-up to the SAMRA letter sent to DCC : **NO UPDATE**
 - **Community & Family Fun Day (23rd June) – Organiser JMca**
 - Event re-set for 7th July – excellent community occasion
 - Photographs posted to website
 - Financial benefit: €xxx
 - **Planning Item – Preservation Order St John’s Church Hall – supported by SAMRA (Action: Lead Stephen)**
 - **Martello Tower** – **ACTION Lead Stephen Hurley (Draft Letter Required)**
 - **Container Removal** – **ACTION Lead Dave Turner (Draft Letter Required)**
 - **Signage on the Prom** – **ACTION Lead Dave Turner (Draft Letter required)**
 - **Timelapse Video Link – Sandymount Green:** key points in our season as it changes eg Christmas/New Year; Easter; Summer Fun Day; Halloween. The idea would be to take the video from a strategic vantage point, ideally the same one and then stitch them together - and place as a link on the above website. Purpose a link for anyone who wants to see how the Green has become the focus of our community. UPDATE: REPEATED ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL AND NO PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MADE. **Action Dave T: To re-think alternative**

5.0 Adoption of Committee Meeting minutes (24th June '19) - Accepted

6.0 Website Posting Items

- Eel Grass note and picture
- July EC Minutes (following approval)
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7.0 A.O.B. –

- AVIVA funding – Documentation has been gathered: Statement to be provided to support the claim for the Grant **Action (1) DT; (2) Submission to Aviva (JMCA)**
- **Non-Subscribed Membership Listing** – is currently categorised A-Z by 1st name:
REQUEST: Further Breakdown and categorisation of non-subscribed Membership list:
 - A-Z by 1st Family Name

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STATEMENT 18/02/19: RE-STATEMENT OF KEY PRIORITIES

	ISSUE	STATUS
1	Sandymount Traffic Calming	Lobbying with DCC Traffic Department
2	Merrion Road Traffic: Lack of Clarity on Planning Direction	Ongoing response and representation of local issues
3	Poolbeg Incinerator Monitoring and Abnormal Conditions Readiness	EPA Response awaited 30/11 to SAMRA questions
4	Poolbeg West Planning Appeal	ABP Rejection – DCC resubmission December 2018
5	Sewage and Water contamination levels on Merrion/Sandymount Beach areas	Continued dialogue with DCC on drainage issues throughout 2018

AGREED DATE OF NEXT EC MEETING: Monday^{tba} July

SAMRA WEBSITE LINK: www.samra.ie

LOCAL COUNCILLORS – PEMBORKE WARD (full list [here](#)) (updated 24/06/19)

Paddy McCartan	Fine Gael	paddy.mccartan@dublincity.ie
Dermot Lacey	Labour	dermot.lacey@labour.ie
Claire O Connor	Fianna Fail	Claire.Oconnor@Dublincity.ie
James Geoghegan	Fine Gael	James.Geoghegan@dublincity.ie
Hazel Chu	Green Party	Hazel.Chu@dublincity.ie