

SANDYMOUNT & MERRION RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SAMRA)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date : 29th August 2019; 7:30 pm

Venue : Sandymount Hotel

Attendees :

Joan MacArthur (Chair)

Dave Turner (Secretary)

Paddy Dunne

Stephen Hurley

Liam Handy

Lorna Kelly

AGENDA :

1. APOLOGIES
2. PRIORITY/NEW ITEMS ARISING
3. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
4. ACTIONS Update – previous business
5. Adoption of Committee Meeting minutes
6. Website Posting Items
7. AOB

NOTES OF MEETING

APOLOGIES – Irene Lynch; Finian Loftus; Fergus Murray

1.0 New Items Arising

1.1 Media Invitations – ref the proposed Housing Project Development on Sandymount Beach

- Represented by Lorna on “NewsTalk” . The audio-file has been uploaded to the SAMRA website. 42 items of good feedback received.

1.2 Invitation to SAMRA by Grand Canal RA to share good practice

- *Agreed invitees for their next meeting at St Andrews, Pearse Street, 14th October 8pm : JMcA;LK;DT Action : Acceptance : DT*

1.3 Community Art – approach by SUBSET

Firstly, please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Hannah and I am contacting you from SUBSET, a Dublin based artist collective. I have attached our Art Portfolio and Grey Area Magazine which will provide insight into our activities.

Secondly, please see the attached case studies which chronicle our Herbert Park and Bushy Park projects, both of which were supported by the Dublin City Council. These formed the beginning of our Community Art Initiative, which seeks to improve the visual environment within our congregative spaces.

We are presenting these case studies in the hope that you might consider embarking on a collaboration with us for our Community Art Initiative. We welcome any suggestions of walls or spaces which would be suitable for an art project.

Finally, I would love the opportunity to chat through any thoughts or queries you might have in relation to my e-mail. Thank you for taking the time to read.

- **Action DT : to propose that SUBSET approaches DCC with the VICTORIA Baths as a potential site**



1.4 Article in Irish Times on (David Bradshaw) : Action Finian to reach out and make connection with SAMRA. **Action : Finian**

1.5 Councillors Meeting – Confirmed for **12th September 7:30-9pm, Sandymount Hotel.**

1.6 Invitation Letter :

- *“On behalf of the Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA), I would like to congratulate each of you on your recent election as Councillors for the Pembroke Ward on Dublin City Council. For many years SAMRA has worked closely and productively with Councillors and officials in order to preserve and enhance Sandymount and its surroundings. We would welcome the opportunity to continue to do so and would like to invite you to meet with members of the SAMRA*

committee after the summer break.

For those of you who may be less familiar with our association, SAMRA was formed in 1957 and its aims include the protection and improvement of the environs of Sandymount Strand, Sandymount Village and Dublin Bay. At present we have over 100 fulltime paid members and regularly receive queries and support from many other people in the community. Our website, which is updated regularly with minutes from our regular meetings as well as other information, is available at www.samra.ie

At a future meeting, we would welcome the opportunity to take you through our priorities, which include the following:

- 1. Environment: improving Sandymount Strand and Dublin Bay, including proper monitoring and accountability at the Covanta Waste to Energy incinerator and the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment plant. As you know, Dublin Bay is a unique UNESCO-designated biosphere and Special Protection Area. Recent events, such as the regular discharge of untreated wastewater into Dublin Bay, risk putting that status and the health of residents at risk.*
- 2. Heritage: preserving and enhancing the unique buildings, features and culture of Sandymount Village, the Green and its environs, which form a designated Architectural Conservation Area. While SAMRA recognises the pressing need nationally to build greater numbers of houses and apartments, this should not come at the expense of preserving our collective heritage when reasonable alternatives are available.*
- 3. Safety and Accessibility: improving the safety and accessibility of Sandymount Village, the Green and Sandymount Strand, including the proper management and enforcement of excessive volumes of transiting traffic and increasing numbers of large HGVs.*

In order to discuss these and other important matters in more detail, please could you let us know whether you would be free to meet with members of the SAMRA Committee in September as well as any particularly (in)convenient dates”

- **Detail Agenda items (more work and INPUT required):**
 - a. **Incinerator** – SAMRA ongoing concerns and actions regarding COVANTA level of Emergency Preparedness (**for Councillor Awareness**)

- b. **Sewage** – 12/14 outages per year onto Sandymount Beach, which is Blue Flag status – is a disgrace. The plant upgrade is not going to reduce this due to the increased input volumes which are also being planned. This is not acceptable, as the ongoing outages will be a result of under-sizing the capacity increase
- c. **Seafront Clean Up** –
- Rusting graffiti covered containers which we assert should not be stored there
 - Rusting and damaged car park steelwork
 - Damaged and weakened safety railings, some of which have been just broken off and never replaced - all from corrosion
 - Unkempt overgrown area around the car parks, suffering from a lack of attention
 - It has been raised by SAMRA residents numerous times and formally at the last AGM
 - We think that it would take little additional cost and effort to make a significant visual improvement
 - We suggest that if DCC agree too take lead on this, that we would promote this on the SAMRA website and invite offers of help for community clean-up.

Action 1 – DT to provide photos to example

Action 2 : SH to take lead on “Discussion/Presentation Pack”

Action 3 : J.McAConfirmation of arrangements, Hotel Booking etc

d. Environment

e. Heritage & Culture

- SAMRA seek more support to the line taken, as defined in SAMRA's AIMS (ref website)
- There is clear evidence that there is a need to protect this

f. Safety

- Increasing levels of Traffic is the primary concern running through Sandymount : it is already an overloaded dangerous mix of HGVs, cars, cyclists, pedestrians
- We have sought help on numerous occasions from DCC
- A root cause is the “evolved designation” of the Strand into an arterial road.

2.0 Membership/Website Update - DT

2.1 Exec Summary

- New Members - August +4
- New income - €47.25
- Total **Subscribed** Members – 104 – *plus 3 pending DGPR declaration*
- Total Membership Income 2019 €1,817
- Paypal Balance €14.42 following €300 transfer (29/08)
- 121 Computer Training Costs (Aug) €200+40 VAT

Media : Website/Newsletter/FaceBook

- Facebook post updates : 3
- Website post updates : 2
- Facebook Followers increased to 395 (Aug) 377 (June) / 389 (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**
- **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**

6.0 Website Posting Items

- **August** EC Minutes (following approval)

7.0AOB –

- **AVIVA funding** – Documentation has been gathered : Statement to be provided to support the claim for the Grant **Action Submission to Aviva (JMCA)**
-
- **SAMRA offer Congratulations to Sandymount Hotel** – Awarded “Europe’s Leading Green Hotel” – at the prestigious World Travel Awards Conference in Madeira. This is the 3rd Year Running, against world competition. Sandymount Hotel has supported SAMRA since almost Day 1 of the Residents Association and we are particularly pleased to see this award.
- **Sandymount Green Parking** - Local Traders : email representation of concern at the loss of 9 Parking Spaces as an integral part of the Sandymount pedestrianisation scheme. **Action 1 DT – future Agenda Item; Action 2 DT – holding response to email**
-

=====

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

DATE OF NEXT EC MEETING : Proposed **23rd September – ALL TO CONFIRM**

Councillors meeting 12th September 7:30-9pm ; Sandymount Hotel **Action : JMCA to confirm booking**

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