

SANDYMOUNT & MERRION RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SAMRA)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date : Monday 21st October 2019; 7:30 pm

Venue : Sandymount Hotel

Attendees :

Joan MacArthur (Chair)

Dave Turner (Secretary)

Lorna Kelly

Irene Lynch

Paddy Dunne

Liam Handy

AGENDA :

1. APOLOGIES
2. PRIORITY/NEW DEVELOPMENTS 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 – Finian Loftus; Stephen Hurley, Fergus Murray

1.0 New Items Arising

1.1 Ectocarpus on Sandymount Strand – proposal presented by new member *Roisin NI Cheallaigh*

An excellent presentation was delivered, followed by a comprehensive discussion on the options to deal with Ectocarpus, in harmony with the environmental sensitivities, the Zostera seagrass protection **and the desire to also maintain the Strand as a valuable amenity**, available for use by the many other beach users also.

Following discussion and Q and A's SAMRA endorsed the described approach which is described below in the subset of minutes subsequently prepared by Roisin Kelly. **The agreed actions were : (1) Upload Presentation to the website : DT; (2) Letter to DCC with SAMRA endorsement Roisin Kelly (on behalf of SAMRA)**

SAMRA Meeting – Ectocarpus Monday 21st Oct – 8.00pm

For Upload to Website

Roisin Ni Cheallaigh shared a presentation, the key points of which are summarised below. (Full presentation available on SAMRA website)

Conclusions and recommendations from the meeting

- SAMRA committee was interested in the Ophelia report regarding the impact of nitrogen from sewage on the growth of microalgae and agreed that it was highly likely that this had contributed to the high levels of growth this year.*
- A committee member noted that in the 1970s, levels had been even higher. Thus the meeting noted that this is not a one off event and will need to be considered on an ongoing basis. The broader root causes of sewage treatment and drainage must continue to be considered, in parallel with shorter term initiatives to address this current issue.*
- The committee also agreed that Sandymount strand has important amenity value for residents and that this is being heavily compromised by the ectocarpus growth this year, which means parts of the strand near the Bathing area are inaccessible on foot unless wearing protective boots.*
- It was noted that the Seagrass area, particularly at the Merrion Gates end of the beach should be protected and signage erected as per the previous meeting with Councillors. This is understood to be underway.*

In the light of the above, the following recommendations were made:

SAMRA supports the removal of ectocarpus from the Strand in a managed and balanced way. We explain this further below.

- 1. The ectocarpus can be removed with rakes. It was noted that some good work had been done on the immediate shoreline on the morning of Monday 21st by a volunteer resident which had made quite an improvement*
- 2. The committee recommends that in the short term, a small area of approx. 250m squared is raked at the most heavily impacted area of the strand (near the Baths)*
- 3. The committee suggests that the ectocarpus be removed from the beach. The group are open to suggestions and discussion regarding appropriate areas for disposal (e.g. use of council composting facilities). This would avoid loose ectocarpus being spread onto the paths and even further damaging the public amenity*
- 4. The committee would like to agree a mechanism to engage constructively in the longer term with the relevant authorities in the Council. For example, early and regular intervention earlier in the Summer at the Marine Drive area, would reduce the build up of ectocarpus later in the season, given the usual tidal flow.*
- 5. The committee are open to discussion on the resources to be used to address the issue. Some concerted effort will be required at present given the current position. However, in the longer term, if council workers could do "a little and often", potentially in conjunction with path clearing/ bin emptying, this would avoid the issue occurring at such a large scale*
- 6. As we align on the communication mechanism, we would like to collaborate in the development of an agreed plan, ready for implementation when the situation arises, thereby avoiding the large scale occurrence in the future.*

2.0 Membership/Website Update – DT (post Meeting)

2.1 Exec Summary

- **New Members** – October, 2 new members and 1 Updated Membership

Media : Website/Newsletter/FaceBook

- Facebook post updates : 5
- Website post updates : 5

4.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

- **Community Art** - response from SUBSET, declaring that they cannot work on the surface of the Victoria Baths. **Action : DT – to respond seeking insight to this**
- **IRISH WATER – Strategic Infrastructure Upgrade Application : (Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project) *DISCUSSION DEFERRED***
- **Merrion Strand Traffic** – *Transferred to 12th September Councillor Meeting for action invigoration NO UPDATE* **Action : DT**
- **Poolbeg Incinerator :**
 - (1) **Monitoring (Emergency Procedures) : PREVIOUS**
 - ***ACTION SAMRA DT to visit EPA offices and review the Notifiable Incident reports DISCUSSION DEFERRED. (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***
 - ***DISCUSSION DEFERRED: MEETING TO BE REQUESTED WITH EPA ACTION DT***
 - **Bus Route Changes** – *Transferred to 12th September Councillor Meeting for action invigoration* **ACTION : SH**
 - **Proposal to synchronise SAMRA updates with NEWS4 release** – now possible given live website status **Action Irene**
 - **Sandymount Traffic Calming** *Transferred to 12th September Councillor Meeting for action invigoration* **ACTION : SH**
 - **Planning Item – Preservation Order St John’s Church Hall – supported by SAMRA (Action : Lead Stephen) *DISCUSSION DEFERRED***

For Upload to Website

- **Martello Tower** – ACTION Stephen Hurley
- **Container Removal** – ACTION Dave Turner
- **Signage on the Prom** – ACTION Dave Turner
- **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 **DISCUSSION DEFERRED**
- **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; DISCUSSION DEFERRED**

6.0 Website Posting Items

- **Ectocarpus Presentation and Letter**

7.0AOB –

- None

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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

DATE OF NEXT EC MEETING : Proposed 25th November

SAMRA WEBSITE LINK : www.samra.ie

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

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For Upload to Website

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