

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)

Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 4 February 2020

Attendees: David Turner (Chair), Joan MacArthur, Lorna Kelly, Paddy Dunne, Liam Handy, Stephen Hurley, Eva Lloyd

Apologies: Irene Lynch

1. AGM 2019 Reflections

- Noted that the meeting was very productive, with intelligent and lively debate on a range of issues. Noted that Garda presence was very welcome
- Agreed to add section to SAMRA website setting out useful contacts, e.g. DCC South East Area Manager
- Noted views that the venue was not readily accessible for all attendees, as well as some congestion at entry. Agreed to review arrangements ahead of next AGM

2. SAMRA Priorities 2020

- Following discussion and reflecting on the AGM, agreed to prioritise the following issues for 2020:
 - Dublin City Development Plan, including Sandymount Village Design Statement and Architectural Conservation Area
 - Traffic management, including Sandymount village traffic plans and potential Eastern Bypass
 - Sandymount Strand disrepair and environmental impact, including further exploration of the status and potential community use of the Martello Tower
 - Roslyn Park school planning application
 - Irish Rail potential proposal to close certain level crossings in the local area
- DT also noted the following particular focus areas for the Chair 2020:
 - Ensure greater influence and forward planning for SAMRA activities, through e.g. more contact with elected representatives and other stakeholders
 - Provide more regular links to Sandymount Tidy Towns to explore areas of common interest
 - Create a SAMRA succession plan to ensure knowledge is retained and passed on

3. Committee Update

- DT welcomed EL to the Committee and noted that expressions of interest to join the SAMRA Committee had been received from three individuals, each of whom he had met
- The Committee endorsed DT's recommendation that the individuals be invited to join the Committee
- It was agreed that DT would look to arrange a mutually convenient slot for the rest of the Committee to meet with the candidates
- It was noted that DT would continue to work with SH and JMacA to finalise handovers for the roles of Secretary and Chair, respectively

4. Membership Update

- SH noted that SAMRA now had 152 paid up members, with over 100 lapsed members who could potentially re-join

- It was agreed that SH should send an email to those lapsed members with email addresses asking them whether they would like to re-join for 2020
- JMacA agreed to follow up directly with any remaining lapsed members

5. New Items & AOB

- **Waste to Energy Community Gain Committee:** JMacA noted that she had been approached to see whether SAMRA would want to nominate someone to join the Dublin Waste to Energy Community Gain Liaison Committee. DT agreed to nominate himself and follow up as needed
- **Jack Torpey Award:** DT agreed to speak to Dermot Lacey regarding nominations
- **Sandymount Defibrillator:** DT noted that he has spoken to a SAMRA member who was following up directly with Councillor Geoghegan
- **Roslyn Park Update:** EL noted that additional materials had been provided in relation to the planning application. It was agreed that SH would write to DCC asking that SAMRA be kept informed of any updates. It was also agreed that any concerns in relation to compliance with the planning consents for the current temporary school should be raised by the local Seafort residents
- **Poolbeg Chimneys:** LK noted that she planned to meet Hillary White who is researching material for a book on the history of the Poolbeg chimneys

SAMRA Actions Log (February 2020)

| No. | Action | SAMRA Lead | Latest Status |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Ongoing Actions | | | |
| 1. | Raise awareness regarding Ectocarpus on Sandymount Strand | Roisin Kelly | SAMRA endorsed proposal (now on the website) is currently with Hazel Chu, who is coordinating with the various responsible bodies |
| 2. | Expore potential Community Art Project for Victoria Baths | DT | Discussions concluded with SUBSET regarding non-suitability of Victorian Baths. Other opportunities to be considered |
| 3. | Lobby in relation to Merrion Strand Traffic | SH | Letter sent to the new Garda Superintendent, expressing concerns regarding the deteriorating situation, in particular regarding the frequency of heavy lorries and the need for enforcement against existing rules. Garda attendance at AGM |
| 4. | Continue engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator | TBC | No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report |
| 5. | Submit response to Bus Connects consultation | SH | Submission made to consultation, monitoring in progress |
| 6. | Explore ability to synchronise SAMRA updates with News 4 releases | IL | TBC |
| 7. | Confirm status of Preservation Order St John's Church Hall | TBC | Awaiting Councillor response |
| 8. | Write to Martello Tower owner to explore future plans | SH | Letter written to owner and awaiting response |
| 9. | Push for container removal on Sandymount Strand, improve general state of disrepair of promenade | DT | Covered in detail with pictorial evidence Councillors meeting in September 2019. Specific follow-up letter to be sent |
| New Actions (February 2020) | | | |
| 10. | Add section to SAMRA website setting out useful contacts | SH and 121 | |
| 11. | Arrange slot for the rest of the Committee to meet with candidates | DT | |
| 12. | Send an email to those lapsed members with email addresses asking them whether they would like to re-join | SH | |

| No. | Action | SAMRA Lead | Latest Status |
|-----|---|------------|---------------|
| 13. | Follow up directly with any remaining lapsed members | JMacA | |
| 14. | Submit nomination for Waste to Energy Community Gain Committee | DT | |
| 15. | Contact Dermot Lacey regarding Jack Torpey Award | DT | |
| 16. | Write to DCC asking to be kept informed of any updates regarding Roslyn Park planning application | SH | |
| 17. | Research upcoming Dublin City Development Plan to understand topics and timescales | EL | |
| 18. | Invite Dublin Bay South TDs to SAMRA meeting following upcoming General Election | DT | |