

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)

Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 28th September 2020

Attendees: David Turner (Chair), Joan MacArthur (Treasurer), Stephen Hurley (Secretary), Irene Duffy Lynch; Lorna Kelly, Paddy Dunne, Eva Lloyd, PJ O’Gorman, Liam Handy, Niall McElroy; Liam Handy

Apologies: Dara Lynne Lenehan

Welcome and Introductions

- DT welcomed the Committee and gave an overview of the agenda.

Strand Road Cycle Trial

- **DT overviewed SAMRA’s work to date :**
 - 4 Letters to DCC CEO Owen Keegan, dating back to 18th August and 3 replies all posted to the SAMRA website
 - Numerous interactions with residents and committee members
 - Request to the Covid Manager Brendan O’Brian for SAMRA to take part in the proposed consultation hub has not been replied to
- **SAMRA’s positioning :**
 - to support the expansion of a safe cycling route and Covid response measures
 - the resulting scheme must not cause additional traffic to be diverted through the already congested Sandymount Village area
 - the current route through Sandymount, through the Merrion Gates causing 50% of the road to be utilised is not considered to be optimum because of the traffic diversion and flow problems that will result through Sandymount village to achieve access to the East Link
 - to request Traffic Flow modelling in advance of the scheme and an impact assessment to be declared with mitigation measures put in place
 - to request an open, transparent consultation process, to optimise the cycle routing
 - it has been noted that the HGV routing if allowed to continue through the area will undermine any selected re-routing proposals.
- **DT outlined the current status to date :**
 - DCC led consultation process consisted of DCC managed website attracting 2,400 responses
 - Traffic Flow modelling report not sighted in the public domain and is now overdue by DCC’s declared timescale
 - Councillor motion at 14th September SE Area meeting was defeated and DCC (Managers report stands)
 - Await October DCC report due 2/3 October ahead of the October 12th SEAC Meeting
 - Await set-up of DCC Consultation Hub
- **Discussion and Actions Agreed : DT +NMCE**
 - General concern due to a lack of clarity due to the defeated Councillors Motion, lack of transparency on response to the 2,400 website representations, and delayed traffic flow modelling. What is DCC’s response and when will it be received?
 - Suggested that AA could be requested for information with regards to the traffic flow data and secondly, that leaflet drops to motorists at the Merrion Gates could be considered

- Reach out to other interest groups across the Sandymount area : STTCA; Tritonville; Sydney Parade; Bath Avenue; Merrion RA; Serpentine, Clairmont, Tritonville
 - Establish common ground and potential collective actions
 - It was agreed that SAMRA needs to be in contact with ALL elected officials in our area – Councillors and TDs by telephone or face to face and that these exchanges need to be followed up with letter/email.
 - DT/NMcE to devise a plan which is likely to be distributed across the Committee
- **Offroad Solution – Public Private Partnership - Irene Duffy Lynch**
 - A PPP was outlined as a potential solution to providing funding for an Offroad Solution for the 0.5Km section of the Strand Road Gilford Road to Beech Road. This is the section of the Strand north of the Strand Green, which appears to be part of the source of the impasse, requiring a cantilevered board walk type solution to expand space for a cycle lane, as previously proposed.
 - Examples of previous success were given – the 1816 Halfpenny Bridge - most notably but more recently PPPs have been used by the Government/the public exchequer in Ireland since 1999 across the areas of transport (roads), health (hospitals) and education. Elsewhere in the world, PPP's have been used to help fund cycle-ways and perhaps even in Ireland for the Greenways that are developing across the country.
 - Funding should not be considered as the blocker as in support of a Corporate Social Responsible approach, it is believed that local business support from the number of global enterprises could be attractive in support of their much publicised green policies, in the context of climate change - could produce a viable option

Planning Update : N McElroy

- **Roslyn Park School**
 - The appeal to An BordPleanala was successfully lodged by the 21st September due date. This was led by Niall McElroy, the planning sub-group, Lorna Kelly and Eva Lloyd and supported across the committee.
 - The submission was considered to be comprehensive and robust, bringing to the fore significant factors not previously profiled or considered.
 - SAMRA supports the principle of a school BUT of significant concern is the fact that this development as it stands is oversized and measured by department of Education technical standards is circa 3x over-developed for the size of site available. This will result in significant safety risks, traffic impact and have a long term negative impact on the area.
 - SAMRA has expressed serious concerns and appealed against the proposal

Membership Update

- A report dated 28th September has been prepared by Geraldine Walsh (121ITComputer Services) and is to be circulated to Committee Members on confidential basis. The following are the summary highlights :
 - Membership now totalling at 209 Paid Up Members; 115 New Members and 94 Renewals, since the start of the year

- PAYPAL balance has been re-zeroed with membership subscriptions transferred over to AIB SAMRA account.

Archiving - PJOG

- The plan previously agreed has been to look for a means to safe-guard the Lorna Kelly material. SAMRA is looking for funding and for a location.
- Positive progress has been achieved, the Heritage Office has been contacted, it is in a position to provide funding and SAMRA is awaiting their response.

Website Update - DT

- The Committee recognises that the SAMRA website requires some essential updates, many of which have been deferred due to recent priorities. Some are in progress at the time of the meeting and some will require further scoping and agreement on costs with both 121Computer Services and the website designer.
- It was agreed, there is a conversation and future agenda item required to discuss how to proceed with SAMRA's needs for virtual image projection and communication needs forwards. It was generally agreed that the website provides as the "Corporate Image" and a good foundation for essential documents, requiring membership transparency but that there is a need for a more instantaneous means to connect membership on rapidly changing events eg WhatsApp
- Future agenda item to be organised to address the communication needs of SAMRA
- Overall, it was agreed that as a first step, website updating was required to make it more relevant, less complex and current. Access to 121IT Computer Services and website designer will be needed and used to make these changes.

Gaeltacht Organisation in Sandymount Green – IDL

- Irene overviewed the above and post Covid constraints expressed the desire to organise with the Gaeltacht People/Organisation a "Pop-Up" event on the Sandymount Green.
- Recently featured on TG4, there is a growing interest in increasing the profile of Gaelic Ireland's first official language - in the midst of the cultural diversity here in Sandymount.
- This was supported across the Committee and will naturally fit with SAMRA's objective of increasing the Cultural and Family Day activities, once constraints enable that again.

AOB

- None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12th October 2020.

(*Note that in the event of the need for a Special Meeting arising out of the Strand Road Cycle discussions, the committee will be informed as far ahead as is possible***)**

SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting			
1.	Summarise the Committee’s majority position regarding Covid 19 temporary measures and send a note to the Councillors	DT	Closed – note sent 21 July
2.	Prepare and circulate draft newsletter to members ahead of the Summer break	SH	
3.	Explore new planning applications and come back to the Committee with recommendations	EL and Planning Sub-Group	
4.	Send a note to the Committee summarising current thinking on DCC development plan and the work needed to progress a SAMRA response	EL	Closed – note circulated 22 July
5.	Send thank you note and set up meeting with Jessica Handy on archiving proposal	DT	Note sent 23 rd July awaiting JH response
Ongoing Actions			
6.	Identify possible candidates to carry out archiving	All	Jessica Handy proposal submitted, with follow up meeting to take place
7.	Prepare a draft response to the Lea Crescent resident who raised a planning concern	LK and EL	
8.	Prepare draft observations in relation to the application near Enable Ireland	EL and NMcE	
9.	Prepare and send response to Elm Park residents	EL and DT	Sent 22/06 and cc’d all. CLOSED
10.	Circulate copy of SAMRA Constitution to Committee members	SH	Closed - Sent 19 June
11.	Prepare and circulate list of SAMRA subgroups	SH	Circulated on 20 July
12.	DCC updates on Irishtown Nature Park signage, new North Dublin wastewater treatment plant, protected status of Tram Sheds	DT / local councillors	Update sent by DT to Committee members w/c 8 June

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
13.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.
14.	Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator	TBC	No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report
15.	Contact Martello Tower owner to explore future plans	SH / DT	Outstanding action, awaiting progress report from Councillors..
16.	Follow up directly with any remaining lapsed members	JMacA	Ongoing. Lapsed members list sent by SH
17.	Invite Dublin Bay South TDs to SAMRA meeting following upcoming General Election	DT	Ongoing, awaiting Covid developments and government formation talks
18.	Research previous survey by Irish Rail regarding level crossings	LK	Ongoing
19.	AVIVA Funding application	DT	Hon Sec -AVIVA Stadium Community Committee :“Fund has agreed to provisionally award you a grant of €2,300 towards IT project: database and archive. “ NOTE : Conditional on following Covid-19 guidance in all activities associated with this project. Sub-group to now take this forwards. Complete and invoice later. CLOSED
20.	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
21.	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
22.	Research upcoming Dublin City Development Plan to understand topics and timescales	EL	EL spoke with DCC (Sharon Vinci) on 11/2 and the City Development plan 2022 goes through 4 phases, some are open to the public / groups for comments, each window for submissions is 4-8 weeks depending on the phase. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 Expected August 2020: "Issues" - Public invited to submit Issues - will be advertised in the media. • Phase 2 - Pre Draft • Phase 3 - Draft Phase 4 - Material amendments

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
23.	Check the capacity of the Sandymount Hotel in preparation for the next AGM	JMacA	Oaklands suite 80 Conference but 120 Insurance Max
Completed Actions (to be refreshed and deleted monthly)			
24.	Expore potential Community Art Project for Victoria Baths	DT	Discussions concluded with SUBSET regarding non-suitability of Victorian Baths. Other opportunities to be considered CLOSED
25.	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
26.	Submit response to Bus Connects consultation	SH	Submission made to consultation, monitoring in progress
27.	Confirm status of Preservation Order St John's Church Hall	SH	Confirmed it's not on DCC list of protected structures
28.	Arrange slot for the rest of the Committee to meet with candidates	DT	COMPLETED: meeting held on 10/2
29.	Send an email to those lapsed members with email addresses asking them whether they would like to re-join	SH	COMPLETED: Email sent on 7/2
30.	Submit nomination for Waste to Energy Community Gain Committee	DT	COMPLETED
31.	Contact Dermot Lacey regarding Jack Torpey Award	DT	COMPLETED
32.	Write to DCC asking to be kept informed of any updates regarding Roslyn Park planning application	SH	COMPLETED: Email sent by SH to Claire Owens (Planning Officer) on 11/2