

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)

Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 9th November 2020

Attendees: David Turner (Chair), Joan MacArthur (Treasurer), Lorna Kelly, Irene Duffy Lynch, Paddy Dunne, PJ O’Gorman, Liam Handy, Niall McElroy; Stephen Hurley (Secretary p/t); Eva Lloyd

Apologies: None

Welcome and Synopsis

- DT welcomed the Committee and gave an overview of the agenda. Furthermore, as a brief synopsis of activities and news since the previous meeting of 26th October :
 - 26th October Meeting minutes adopted, modified and posted
 - Engagement of Cycle Routing sub-group with other Sandymount residents groups has continued – see below
 - Archiving progress – see agenda below
 - “Failte Ireland” has awarded a grant for the Skerries Martello to be developed as a museum. As an initiative of Fingal CoCo, it provides a precedent and example of potentially how to make progress with Sandymount Martello and as a new approach to the owner. SAMRA to resume this as soon as more information and capacity becomes available.
 - SAMRA Chairman nomination to DWtE Community Gain Liaison Committee formally accepted following invitation/selection process originating in March
 - Website updating now in progress – see below
 - Membership databasing updating in progress – see below

Strand Road Cycle Trial

- **NMcE – status update :**
 - The Sub-Group “Cross-Group” collaboration has been worked intensively by SAMRA with the other community groups
 - A Technical critique of the DCC Trial has been worked in detail and forwarded by STC to DCC and elected representatives, ahead of the decision making
 - SAMRA reached a conclusion NOT to take part in the STC Leaflet Drop campaign and also retain SAMRA independence on any further actions in the future
 - With regards to the previously submitted STC residents Alternative Plan (Options 1 and 2), proposing an “Off-Road” solution, utilising the seaside pavement of the Strand Road, a remote meeting was held by DCC for SE Area Councillors on 5th November, to provide feedback from their formal assessment. A DCC overview in the form of a power-point presentation was made, supported by a formal assessment from NTA, the authorising authority and approver of government stimulus funds.
 - In a separate letter from NTA, Director of Transport, Planning & Investment (Hugh Creegan) to DCC Covid Mobility Manager (Brendan O’Brien) it was concluded *“While we acknowledge that the intent of the proposals being advanced by the STC Community Group is to achieve the objective of trialling the installation of safer cycling facilities along Strand Road, while still retaining the existing traffic arrangements, the NTA would not be able to support, or fund, these proposals for the reasons set out above”*. NTA also stated: *For Option 1, the NTA does not consider the proposal is workable, adequate, safe or appropriate and for Option 2 : similar*

concerns but with additional commentary around Shuttle Running at the Merrion Gates and traffic queues, the increased risk profile at the Level Crossing and inadequate widths of pavement.

- DCC welcomed the alternative thinking and engagement from residents but concluded that they could not support the scheme due to the above reasons, the NTA assessment and the required move of all lighting columns and generally the significant cost of civil engineering works – all of which would also prevent a rapid deployment scheme.
- DCC re-stated the benefits of the trial : can be quickly installed, monitored, adjusted and removed if necessary, benefits to Strand Road, Ringsend, Irishtown and link-ups to the city wide cycle-routes.
- They added that the concerns regarding traffic Sandymount have been well flagged and will be monitored carefully.
- They advised that the original trial would commence 15th January for six months.
- DCC added that a Forum for residents, to be chaired by the Lord Mayor, will be established with 1st meeting late November; speed and traffic counts to continue; informational preparation to start, signage and advance notifications to be made, with the DCC Trial proposed to start 15th January.
- Councillor James Geoghegan email advised from their 9th November SEAC meeting that prior to the 14th December SEAC, that DCC will be providing a mapping on specific roads of what mitigation measures shall be put in place on the most affected roads and the village itself, IF the projected traffic increases materialise.
- The previously scheduled SAMRA meeting with TD Jim O’Callaghan (as part of the effort on advocacy from a political perspective) went ahead on Friday 6th November (DT/NMcE/IDL). Minutes have been posted. JOC listened to SAMRA’s concerns and committed to raise specific questions in the coming week in the Dail requesting : (1) Clarity around Success and Failure criteria for the trial (2) To start the engineering now on the Long Term “Off-Road” solution, which will achieve the S2S route AND return of Sandymount’s road network. SAMRA seeks this as the OPTIMAL solution to the current challenge of establishing a cycle route through Sandymount, whilst retaining existing road capability
- A detailed discussion followed to consider SAMRA’s position and response, to these latest developments :
 - Considerable concern was raised regarding the ACA requirements of Sandymount village and the adverse impact of increased traffic
 - Concern was raised regarding the prospect of “place-making” to link the cycle lane, the promenade and Village. DCC intend to involve the City Architect and also Parks Department who are responsible for the Strand Promenade and the Sandymount Green.
 - Discussion followed the suggestion around closing the Strand Road as a trial available now, to determine traffic impacts. It was concluded to be non-viable because of changing traffic patterns and the time taken for a trial to settle.
 - SAMRA agreed to deepen the level of assurance sought and gain more information before pursuing any specific line of further escalation at this stage.
 - As a part of this, it was agreed however, that specific questions were to be drafted and answers of assurance sought from DCC

- Eg Baseline Air condition measurements and installation of monitors
- Failure and Success criteria, against which the Trial will be removed
- Safety assessments at expected traffic “hot-spots” as has been done with the Merrion Gates and the STC proposal
- Specific mitigation measures at specific locations
- Communications, feedback and intervention protocol from the Consultation Hub

Such a letter would await an outstanding meeting to be arranged with Eamon Ryan [Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications](#) and [Minister for Transport](#) **Action : IDL**

Planning Update : N McElroy

- **Nothing to report**

Archiving - PJOG

- The 3 concerns from the previous meeting regarding the archiving of Lorna’s material were emailed to DCLA and addressed immediately. The DCLA policy document/procedure was sent back for review and supported by the sub-group.
- Following this, it is now proposed an than exchange of letters as opposed to a legal agreement would suffice – and was the recommendation made to the Committee.
- There were no further questions.
- The meeting supported the recommendation for this to go-ahead on this basis.
- We seem to have the outline of a good solution for the archiving of Lorna’s material, kindly offered by Lorna to SAMRA
- A reminder that the objective was “To identify a suitable archive repository who would review, catalogue and archive the material, ensuring that it would be available to SAMRA and the general public, during normal working hours”
- Thanks were voted to PJ for identifying this solution at zero cost to SAMRA and also with a result which is really befitting of the documentation collection which Lorna has meticulously amassed over the years for SAMRA.

Membership Database - update

- The time consuming task of scrubbing down the membership database for duplications, errors and finally the incorporation of data from Joan's original listing has been completed. (Dave/Joan)
- Report print-outs can now be made at will by Family name / Road / with little/no effort required outside the committee – which will reduce demand on the admin service and further costs
- Agreed action by DT to re-clarify status on AVIVA grant and potential SAMRA funding needs – next meeting
- A report has been prepared of all Paypal transactions for 2020 and passed to Joan for Treasury ratification with bank account information.

Website – Update

- All website tidy-up works as previously specified are now in progress and will shortly be complete.
- An additional task of removing a photograph which was on the website found to have a copyright violation was also carried out and replaced with an alternative photo from SAMRA's gallery.
- This will always be improvements identified, with further updates required – but the current round of structural changes and modifications will take care of the urgent updates requested – and provide a clean basis for moving forwards. For the future, a Committee Accountability is required for this task to maintain updates - AND a budgetary item should be generated.

AGM Preparation - update

- Date of AGM set for Monday 11th January
- A quorum to be >30 as per the Constitution
- AGM to be run via ZOOM meeting. Now confirmed that capacity for up to 500 is possible.
- Further work to be done to set up in advance across the residents and establish personal Zoom capability, with advance commitments for attendance **Action DT/SH**
- Existing Membership Proforma (R3) to be utilised or modified **DT**
- AGM invitational proforma to be modified from 2019 version **DT**
- Christmas Letter and AGM invitation to be issued as a Mail Shot in December **DT/SH**

AOB

- Future agenda items :
 - 2021 Fee Structure ahead of AGM
 - Treasury update – ahead of AGM
 - Constitution – review /update – ahead of AGM
 - Planning Principles – update/endorsement – ahead of AGM
 - Actions list scrub down/update

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: proposed Monday 23rd November 7:30

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