

## Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)

### Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

Apologies: Irene Duffy Lynch

#### **Welcome and Synopsis** – Agenda Overview

##### **AGM Feedback and extracted Key Issues** *(highlighted to be o/s)*

*The AGM received positive feedback, attended by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan, Lord Mayor Hazel Chu, Pembroke Councillors, SAMRA Committee and up to 138 members. Notes and Key proceedings have been prepared and posted separately and with the Presentation Pack, provide a formal record for all SAMRA members.*

*This was following a review by all of AGM discussion, Chatbox comments and multiple email feedback :*

- *Initiate a Poll on the Cycle Trial*
- *Re-summarise Roslyn Park School*
- *Draft an outline SAMRA mid-term STRATEGY for discussion/consideration amongst Committee*
- *Update Note on Flood Protection*
- *Update on VDS Projects from DCC*

#### **Strand Road Cycle Trial**

- **NMcE – status update :**
  - Reported from 12/02 DCC Consultation Forum
    - Trial reported to be going ahead with advance works commencing 15/02 and Trial starting 01/03, with cycle route fully available by 31/03
    - 24 hour HGV 5 axle ban starting 01/03
    - 30kph speed limit on Strand road for the duration of the trial
    - 8,000 leaflets have been dropped
    - The Consultation Forum will continue during the trial, to enable communication and representation of issues arising during the trial
    - Google and Satnav updates will be in place by 31<sup>st</sup> March
    - No advice or update received from DCC on cycle trial start date
    - SAMRA attended and requested in particular that the trial objective Success/Failure criteria sent by SAMRA in a letter 7<sup>th</sup> December needs to be answered in a more substantial way. It was acknowledged that DCC have attempted answers to the other questions but that the response to Q17 is not measurable and is inadequate. DCC committed and minuted to have a 1:1 dialogue with SAMRA **Action : DT +NMcE with DCC BOB**
- **Cycle Route Poll**
  - Completed and reported separately across the Committee and as a direct mail drop to all members. Positive feedback to having completed the poll.
- **STC Interaction update :**
  - Professional planner has withdrawn undermining the ability submit a Schedule 15 to An Bord Pleanala. The report declared a tenuous chance of success. A new planner has been appointed.

- Legal steps continue to be considered. At present, they advise regret that we are unable to identify a clear or strong basis for legal proceedings.
- SAMRA requested to be removed from their holding media statement, which referred to legal steps, requesting STC to respect SAMRA's position of responding independently.
- **SAMRA forward steps**
  - Letters drafted and to be released to OK and Minister ER, continuing to press for the "Off-Road" solution **Action : DT**
  - For live date monitoring now newly established : Air quality monitors in Sandymount Green and Ringsend and Noise monitor on Strand Road ;  
<https://dublincityairandnoise.ie/>
  - Proposal to consider how SAMRA could be best utilised with Sandymount it's over-view role and engagement with DCC's Consultation Forum. **Action : ALL**

#### **Planning Update :**

- **40 Park Avenue – Planning ref 4010/20**
  - The letter of Observation from SAMRA was submitted.

#### **Roslyn Park School –**

- ABP has granted planning permission for two schools on the Roslyn Park site for a student population of 1500 & additional associated staff.
- SAMRA had objected to the original and lodged an appeal with ABP on several grounds, in particular that the mass and scale of the schools were not justified, the site is one third of the recommended size for a schools of this size, there are very limited play / sport facilities and the design is monolithic and not in keeping with the neighbouring architectural conservation area. In addition it was noted that the local infrastructure is inadequate for the additional traffic and people volumes. There are two mobility parking spaces on the site and no staff parking.
- ABP conditions include, among others, that the proposed 3 storey gable at the coast road and to the rear of the apartments on Seafort Ave be reduced to 2 storey. The proposed roof sport courts / playgrounds have a condition that no ball games may be played on them.
- Concerns remain about the impact of flooding on adjoining and downstream properties and the village, along with potential for damage to adjoining properties during demolition, excavation and construction.
- **Planning Principles :**
- The purpose was to review SAMRA's existing Planning Principles as established 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and update and endorse them. The following was agreed :
  - Guiding Principles are critical to ensure objective decision making
  - The Guiding Principles as stated t present should be used by the planning Sub-Committee as the basis for providing a recommendation to the SAMRA main committee and discussion
  - The Guiding Principles need to be "re-nuanced" but are fit for purpose for ongoing use at present, until the Committee can achieve a Face to Face discussion, hopefully later in this calendar year.

- **Strategic Housing Development (SHD) –**
  - Document previously forwarded from Eglinton Road and Richview Residents Association, seeking review and endorsement by SAMRA Action : Niall McEvoy

### SAMRA Mid-Term Strategy :

- The Strategy Document prepared by PJ was considered to be an excellent first draft, provoking a rich discussion regarded as a challenge AND an Opportunity for SAMRA, drawing many valuable inputs, including :
  - How to be globally strategic for the area, whilst combining the ability to be dynamic and enable individual street level focus
  - Addition of Budget
  - Addition of Near Term Targets and Goals
  - Communications & Media focus
- This document was regarded as an excellent vehicle for articulating a commitment for the next 5 years by SAMRA
- It was agreed to incorporate the feedback and re-present an update back to the Committee **Action ALL to further their inputs and Action : PJ to re-present to Committee in due course**

### AOB

- **Membership Update**
  - 1) Between 16th December and 11th February 121 Joined = €2,277 Income
  - 2) Total Current Membership 174
  - 3) We have 367 people on the database
  - 4) We have 193 to target yet to sign up
  - 5) 94% of 174 are now on Paypal - a quiet and rapid transition (*but there are still 90 from last year who used the Membership Forms previously*)
  - Actions for ongoing membership progression : **Action DT**
    - 1) Email to members of 2020 but who did not appear at the AGM and have not yet joined by Paypal or MF
    - 2) Email to previously lapsed members, including a copy of the Membership Subscription Form
- **Community Gain Liaison Committee**
  - Ahead of official minutes, here's an update from the last Friday 12th February "Dublin WtE Community Gain Liaison Committee" meeting, attended by DT
    - Chaired by Peter McLoone - on behalf of DCC
    - 3 x Community Reps :
      - D Turner - Sandymount
      - Deke - Ruis ? - Ringsend (Youth Projects)
      - Eimar - McComb - Irishtown
    - Councillors : D Lacey (James Geoghegan - apologies)
    - Kieran Mullins - DWtE
    - Brian Hanney - DCC
    - James Nolan - DCC (apologies)
    - Natalie Boyce - Administration
  - Annual Funding available ~ €600K
  - Project Nominations :
    - last requested 2019
    - 2021 Programme will be launched in September
    - Criteria to be re-developed : eg Community Groups/Sporting Organisations

- Fund financial structure to be re-agreed, but typically max €50k
- OPPORTUNITY to develop candidates from SAMRA
- Official minutes to be forwarded to SAMRA Committee, once available  
**Action :DT**

The Action Log has been brought up to date off-line but is required for Committee Member progression and attention

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: tbc Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 7:30**

**SAMRA Actions Log**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>SAMRA Lead</b>	<b>Latest Status</b>
<b>New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting</b>			
1.	Cycle route – Success/Failure Criteria	DT/NMcE	Awaiting DCC response
2.	Clarify status on AVIVA grant and potential SAMRA alternative funding needs (09/11)	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. “
3.	Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02	DT	
<b>Ongoing Actions</b>			
4.	Resource a Secretary for SAMRA	DT/All	
5.	Communication &Media Needs of SAMRA (28/09)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
6.	Constitution Update (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
7.	SAMRA Logo for use on letter heads – develop options around the Village green and circulate committee (8/12)	EL	
8.	Dublin Port Development Plan – reclaim land proposal by DP (08/12)	LK/EL	Circulation of a proposed letter to Committee
9.	Strategic Housing development (SHD) (08/12)	NMcE	Discussion concluded that SAMRA had concerns regarding SHD attitude to SDZs & ABP. This has been relayed verbally by LK and it is expected that ERA will update their document, re-forward and SAMRA will then formally endorse. PENDING
10.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.
11.	Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator	TBC	No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report
12.	Contact Martello Tower owner to explore future plans	SH / DT	Outstanding action, awaiting progress report from Councillors..
13.	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 /


No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
			<p>groups for comments, each window for submissions is 4-8 weeks depending on the phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1 Expected August 2020: "Issues" - Public invited to submit Issues - will be advertised in the media.</li> <li>Phase 2 - Pre Draft</li> <li>Phase 3 - Draft</li> </ul> <p>Phase 4 - Material amendments</p>
<b>Completed Actions (to be refreshed and deleted monthly)</b>			
14.	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 CLOSED
15.	Cycle Route Survey Question to SAMRA Members – agreed in principle : Single Topic, Simple Question	NMcE	Survey question to be agreed : Proposed by email debate :  Q)What is your position on the current DCC proposal for an on-road 2-way cycle route along Strand Rd ? A)Support / Oppose
16.	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
17.	SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120	PJOG	COMPLETED
18.	Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11)	DT	Requested and awaited COMPLETED
19.	Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
20.	Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01)	DT/Committee	Response required. CLOSED
21.	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb DWtE Community Gain Liasion Committee	DT	Agenda has been issued
22.	DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028	DT/Agree attendance	Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
23.	South Georgian Core Residents Association 31/01	DT/ALL	Phillip O'Callaghan - seeking support from SAMRA to circulate a petition to resist closure by ESB of the Georgian House Museum in Fitzwilliam Street Lower
24.			
25.			

*Re-endorsed for ongoing use : 15/02/2021*

SAMRA : PLANNING PRIORITIES (Agreed at SAMRA CM 17 October 2019)		
	Principles	Key Words / Examples
1	HERITAGE	
2	STRATEGIC INTEREST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wide impact; Affecting many people; Scale</li></ul>
3	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NATURAL : Birds/Animals/Plants/Flora-Fauna</li><li>• URBAN : Street scape; Traffic Volume; Scale; Number of People; Drainage</li></ul>
4	ARCHITECTURAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not in Keeping</li></ul>
5	COMMUNITY VALUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eg School / Playing Fields</li><li>• Public Transport Services</li></ul>
6	PRECEDENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where there is clear evidence that a trend is likely to be initiated which clearly violates one or more of the above</li></ul>

**Notes :**

1. *The above is not intended to be an exhaustive prescriptive list of Key Words/Examples but be used as **guidance** in reaching a decision when interpreting against the principle*
2. *SAMRA response to a request to become involved in a Planning Application :* 
  - *Committee Team discussion, requiring a majority (of 5 assuming a minimum Committee of 9) – to enable SAMRA position to taken*
  - *Bias is for Assistance to be offered to the Individual to assist a PRIVATE representation to DCC*
  - *SAMRA formal position to be taken in the event of violation of one or more of the above **PRINCIPLES***
  - *SAMRA position could be (A) OBSERVATION or (B) OBJECTION*