

**Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)**  
**Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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

Apologies: None

**Welcome and Synopsis**

- Agenda Overview
- SAMRA Committee Easter Newsletter well received judging by resident replies. Thanks for the inputs

**Planning Update**

- **St John’s Road Church Hall** – noted that previous observations have been addressed resulting a much improved proposal. SAMRA is supportive but will seek conditions on screening on the west end and solar panel visibility. SAMRA account email reply will also be made. **ACTION NMCE/DT**
- **Sandymount Avenue** – SAMRA letter is with ABP. Monitor only.
- **YMCA Sale Notification** – general discussion on status, which is understood to have a 5 acres green retention clause. SAMRA to understand status and recommend next steps. **ACTION NMCE**
- **Glass Bottle/Poolbeg West** – it was reported that Boundary Markers have been seen in position, implying some form of action is starting. Reassurance to be sought on the basis of the mapping v public land. To establish status of boundaries and propose SAMRA steps **ACTION SH**
- **Incinerator – planned extension of capacity.**

Agreed actions :

1. Letter to EPA following up unanswered and documented questions from the previous SAMRA meeting, ie Ash Transportation and Emergency Preparedness **ACTION DT**
2. Subject to time-gate, letter to DCC Planning recording an Observation with regards to the unanswered questions. To be circulated across committee **ACTION DT**

**Strategy Update - PJOG**

PJ outlined work done to date by the sub-committee, which was concluding a strengthening of the existing approach. This will be outlined in more detail a future meeting, meanwhile the sub-committee will continue to meet.

- Inputs/Thoughts from the committee :
  - Consideration to be given to a Financial Sub-Committee, where greater focus could be developed on grants/funding and future key expenditure items
  - Would the AIMS be reviewed at the end of this piece of work ?
  - Consider that Planning has two or 3 key dimensions, that require a different focus and skillset : Industrial, Residential & Environmental
  - Consider that a Project Focus may be appropriate not requiring a full time role onto the Committee. This is worked already eg the Ectocarpus/Beach Project

*PJ agreed to take on board the comments and come back to the committee with a further draft and thoughts. **ACTION : PJOG***

### **Cycle-Route Update**

- High Court Case : DCC filed a defence in March requesting the hearing date to be advanced but a new date of 24/6 was set after which a judgement will be reached.
- Funding – a further public funding campaign is being initiated, which will be for individual take-up
- A “cross-city position paper” is being worked by Mannix Flynn regarding the DCC Consultation process and will be looking for support from RAs. Agreed to circulate the document when it becomes available **ACTION NMcE**

### **Pedestrianisation Proposal - SH**

*"On the agenda item around pedestrianisation, my recommendation to the Committee is that we agree to explore options with local businesses and Councillors regarding possible trial pedestrianisation of the North side of Sandymount Green from Ryan's down to Pete's. You'll recall we had a similar discussion last year and agreed a majority Committee position on this topic (see July 2020 minutes circulated).*

*Providing greater space for residents and local businesses could provide a safer and more welcoming environment for people as Covid restrictions begin to ease. The recent closure of this stretch of road while works were taking place on the new pedestrian crossing shows that it should be possible to close the street to motor traffic without causing disproportionate impacts in the Village in terms of bus routing or disabled parking."*

SAMRA Committee Position to be established : Pending email discussion and Committee voting process **ACTION : DT/ALL**

### **AOB :**

1. AVIVA Funding Grant cheque of €2,300 received and passed to Treasurer for lodgement
2. Previous leads for Secretary have proved fruitless and action continues **ACTION : DT**
3. Potential future funding candidates include :
  - a. Village Green park benches
  - b. Village green Electronic Notice Board
4. AGENDA item “Membership Status – Subscriptions and Ongoing Actions” – NOT DISCUSSED as part of the above meeting – time barred AND to be sent across the Committee ahead of next meeting. Purpose to inform Committee of status, seek endorsement to the Rules and Process and request active support for the ongoing actions. **ACTION : DT**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: tbc Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7:30pm**

### SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
<b>New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting</b>			
1.	Membership Status	<b>DT</b>	To seek endorsement from SAMRA Committee for the Membership Rules and Protocol and seek active support for ongoing actions
2.	Pedestrianisation Proposal - Draft Letter	<b>SH</b>	
3.	Pedestrianisation Proposal	<b>DT/ALL</b>	To establish SAMRA Committee position on proposal
4.	Cycle Route – Consultation Process Paper (M Flynn)	<b>NME</b>	To circulate copy requesting SAMRA support
5.	PA – Poolbeg Glass Bottle Site	<b>SH</b>	To establish status of current actions and advise SAMRA steps
6.	PA – YMCA sale application	<b>NMcE/EL/LK</b>	Establish status and consider SAMRA steps
7.	DCC Dev Plan – biosphere protection	<b>LK</b>	Will request support if needed in drafting
8.	Secretarial Role candidates	<b>DT</b>	Ongoing
9.	PA – St John’s Church Hall	<b>NmcE/EL/LK</b>	Supportive but to write to DCC and seek conditions
10.	Sandymount VDS Village Project Programme	<b>DT/NmcE</b>	To meet with DL and establish a way forwards
11.	PA – Incinerator	<b>DT</b>	Draft letter for Observation
12.	PA – Incinerator	<b>DT</b>	Letter to EPA
<b>Ongoing Actions</b>			
13.	PA – Sandymount Avenue	<b>NmcE/EL/LK</b>	With ABP – Monitor
14.	Cycle route – Success/Failure Criteria	<b>DT/NmcE</b>	Awaiting DCC response
15.	SAMRA Strategy development	<b>PJOG/ DT/EL</b>	Ongoing sub-committee support

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
16.	Resource a Secretary for SAMRA	DT/All	
17.	Communication & Media Needs of SAMRA (28/09)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
18.	Constitution Update (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
19.	SAMRA Logo for use on letter heads – develop options around the Village green and circulate committee (8/12)	EL	
20.	Dublin Port Development Plan – reclaim land proposal by DP (08/12)	LK/EL	Circulation of a proposed letter to Committee
21.	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
22.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.
23.	Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator	TBC	No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report
24.	Contact Martello Tower owner to explore future plans	SH / DT	Outstanding action, awaiting progress report from Councillors..
25.	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"> <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>


No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
			Phase 4 - Material amendments
<b>Completed Actions (to be refreshed and deleted monthly)</b>			
26.	Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02	DT	
27.	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. "
28.	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
29.	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
30.	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
31.	SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120)	PJOG	COMPLETED
32.	Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11)	DT	Requested and awaited COMPLETED
33.	Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
34.	Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01)	DT/Committee	Response required. CLOSED
35.	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb DWtE Community Gain Liason Committee	DT	Agenda has been issued

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
36.	DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028	DT/Agree attendance	Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021
37.	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
38.			
39.			

*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*