

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)
Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 15th March 2020

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
- Noted that SAMRA had got back to a 4 week meeting cycle after the intensity of the last 8 months

Strategy Update - PJOG

At this 2nd discussion, PJ outlined his thinking on the next steps and the big decisions :

- Stay as we are, but consider the narrow agenda and limitations of having everything discussed across the main committee table – OR take a more over-arching role, broaden the agenda, greater use of sub-committees. He noted that we need to make changes to become sustainable. Also, that timing is everything and we should await settlement of the cycle-route debate and then implement the changes step by step.
- There was apparently a big appetite to work this across the committee :
 - EL – start preparing a plan of action and start laying the foundations
 - LH – positively support, but wait until things return to normal and cycleway is solved, more will join with sub-committee approach
 - LK – positive and will enable the committee to return to how it used to work
 - IL – yes, positively support these thoughts
 - JMCA – unlikely to bring in other RA’s; need more people on the committee eg PR/Website, then membership will follow
 - SH – positive but don’t under-estimate the overheads; the need a strong centre; will need a hi-degree of trust to enable the sub-committees to function well
 - PD – positive, reach out to other organisations soon whilst there the cycle route is live and before their interest dissipates
 - DT – positive, fully supports the principle of expanding of sub-committees targeting key individuals to join the committee with known competence v gaps; start working it now step by step. A key foundation element in considering the expansion must be the AIMS as opposed to by geography (street) or other RA. We would need to consider discussion on existing AIMS and be prepared to develop them with new Committee entrants.

*The general conclusion was that this should be worked starting now and await best timing before taking the next steps. PJ agreed to take on board the comments and come back to the committee with a further draft and thoughts. **ACTION : PJOG***

DCC Development Plan - Biosphere

Lorna outlined her thinking that with regards to the DCC plan, the Biosphere, the associated Biodiversity and Reclaimed Land has been insufficiently referenced. This UNESCO Biosphere is

unique connecting with Dublin as the only global capital city associated with a Biosphere. It is also much more significant than just SAMRA is a National Asset and needs to have afforded much greater levels of protection and consideration, particularly with the level of change and development now ongoing and yet to arrive on the area.

A Strategic Issues paper was sent from SAMRA to DCC in 2020 with holding statements.

A next level detail document will now be prepared referencing legislation and EU protections.

*This discussion carried 100% committee support and Lorna will initiate the document and call for assistance as and when required. **ACTION : LK***

Secretarial Role & Service Support

Further reference was made to the email 4th March from DT, explaining the current status. In addition the document attached to the agenda, outlining the split of tasks between Secretary and Service support was discussed.

1. Support was given to the budgetary request for 2021 as the means to control and reduce the associated service support costs **ACTION : DT**
2. Support was provided to maintain the Service Support relationship with 121 IT Consultancy which has turned out very well for SAMRA, giving the flexibility for maintenance of membership, project scope and admin support as needed
3. Support given to approach named and agreed individuals for the position of Secretary, currently being carried out in an interim capacity by the Chairman. **ACTION DT**

Finally, the success of the AVIVA funding grant of €2,300 for the development scope of the Membership Database, Drop Box and Library was acknowledged. AVIVA have confirmed full pay out to follow with the delayed scope to be completed by SAMRA. This will be progressed to completion with input from other Committee Members as required **ACTION : DT**

Planning Update

- **St John's Road Church Hall** – notification sent directly to SAMRA advising of the imminent submission to DCC, taking into account previously raised observations
 - New application now up on DCC website and will be reviewed with sub-committee **ACTION NMCE/EL/LK**
- Sandymount Avenue – review required by sub-committee **ACTION NMCE/EL/LK**

Cycle-Route Update

This is pending the High Court Injunction on 27th April and all work on the cycle trial has been suspended. Specific points of update :

- DCC order to restrict HGVs cancelled
- 30Kph speed restriction in force on Strand Road
- DCC announcement to recruit an architect for a Boardwalk at the Sandymount end of the route in service of an "Off-Road" solution

Sandymount VDS Village Project Programme

Further to request for information from SAMRA, the update received via Dermot Lacey confirmed that no progress has been achieved over the last year. Further oversight is required by SAMRA, to

attempt to bring additional energy and focus into this well articulated Vision and set of plans (20111).

ACTION : DT/NMcE to meet with Dermot Lacey on face to face to discuss and consider best way forwards.

Incinerator

The planned expansion of incinerator throughput was discussed, now an application to go before An Bord Pleanala.

It was noted that there are outstanding questions and concerns previously expressed by SAMRA in particular around (1) Emergency Response Preparedness (2) Transportation of Hazardous Ash. The obligation to respond lay with EPA and Resource pressures within SAMRA have prevented prioritisation for follow-up to date.

It was viewed appropriate at this juncture, to consider an Observation v this development. Gathering of evidence and proposed Letter to be drafted : ACTION DT

AOB :

1. CGLC – to issue invitation for funding candidates in the near future. SAMRA Committee Members to consider options.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: tbc Monday 12th April 2021 7:30pm

SAMRA Actions Log

| No. | Action | SAMRA Lead | Latest Status |
|--|--|------------------------|---|
| New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting | | | |
| 1. | DCC Dev Plan – biosphere protection | LK | Will request support if needed in drafting |
| 2. | Secretarial Role | DT | Approach named individual |
| 3. | PA - St John’s Church Hall | NMcE/EL/LK | To review and revert to Committee for recommendation |
| 4. | PA - Sandymount Avenue | NMcE/EL/LK | To review and revert to Committee for recommendation |
| 5. | Sandymount VDS Village Project Programme | DT/NMcE | To meet with DL and establish a way forwards |
| 6. | PA - Incinerator | DT | Draft letter for Observation |
| Ongoing Actions | | | |
| 7. | Cycle route – Success/Failure Criteria | DT/NMcE | Awaiting DCC response |
| 8. | SAMRA Strategy development | PJOG | May require sub-committee support |
| 9. | Resource a Secretary for SAMRA | DT/All | |
| 10. | Communication & Media Needs of SAMRA (28/09) | DT/ALL | Agenda item |
| 11. | Constitution Update (09/11) | DT/ALL | Agenda item |
| 12. | SAMRA Logo for use on letter heads – develop options around the Village green and circulate committee (8/12) | EL | |
| 13. | Dublin Port Development Plan – reclaim land proposal by DP (08/12) | LK/EL | Circulation of a proposed letter to Committee |
| 14. | 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 |
| 15. | Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA | DT / local councillors | Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June. |
| 16. | Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator | TBC | No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report |
| 17. | Contact Martello Tower owner to explore future plans | SH / DT | Outstanding action, awaiting progress report from Councillors.. |


| No. | Action | SAMRA Lead | Latest Status |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| 18. | 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 |
| Completed Actions (to be refreshed and deleted monthly) | | | |
| 19. | Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02 | DT | |
| 20. | 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. " |
| 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 CLOSED |
| 22. | 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 |
| 23. | 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 |
| 24. | SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120) | PJOG | COMPLETED |
| 25. | Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11) | DT | Requested and awaited COMPLETED |
| 26. | Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11) | DT/ALL | Agenda item |

| No. | Action | SAMRA Lead | Latest Status |
|-----|---|---------------------|--|
| 27. | Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01) | DT/Committee | Response required. CLOSED |
| 28. | 12 th Feb DWtE Community Gain Liason Committee | DT | Agenda has been issued |
| 29. | DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028 | DT/Agree attendance | Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021 |
| 30. | 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 |
| 31. | | | |
| 32. | | | |

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">• Wide impact; Affecting many people; Scale |
| 3 | ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NATURAL : Birds/Animals/Plants/Flora-Fauna• URBAN : Street scape; Traffic Volume; Scale; Number of People; Drainage |
| 4 | ARCHITECTURAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not in Keeping |
| 5 | COMMUNITY VALUE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eg School / Playing Fields• Public Transport Services |
| 6 | PRECEDENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where there is clear evidence that a trend is likely to be initiated which clearly violates one or more of the above |

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*