

**Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)**  
**Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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

Apologies: Paddy Dunne

**Welcome and Synopsis**

- Agenda Overview

**Strategy Update - PJOG/EL/DT**

Since the last SAMRA meeting, Eva, Dave and I have had many discussions and having further evaluated our options have decided to recommend to SAMRA the structure outlined as following :

- Planning
- Community
- Environment - with subsets (Natural-Land Based; Natural Aqua; Industrial)
- Flood Risk - now a new separate entity - with subsets (Strand; Rivers)
- Heritage, Culture & Natural History
- Roads, Cycling, Pedestrians & Access
- Cycle Route - which is expected to subsume once resolution has been reached
- Membership - new with key focus to increase membership
- PR - new, to provide a consistent brand, approach and messaging

This was further overviewed in detail by Eva, describing the latest thinking on the definition and responsibility of each sub-committee. This was all as sent to each committee member on 8<sup>th</sup> May, with the attached explanatory tabulation.

We agreed that a focus on membership is crucial and that we need to establish that sub-committee. By continuing the process of categorising, Lapsed Members can be avoided when emailing, which avoids non-compliance with DGPR. We also discussed including a focus on Membership drive in the summer newsletter

This is centred on the existing AIMs of SAMRA, with a key goal of establishing SAMRA as the central Community Hub, for Residents and Local Street Groups. It is viewed that such an integration role will be of great service to local residents.

The intent is to build on what is already working well, increase focus on new and developing areas whilst reaching out to engage and involve more of SAMRA’s membership.

Questions, Answers and Discussion followed.

**Action 1 : ALL** to review this further, and in particular the PJOG communication of 8<sup>th</sup> May, with comments to be returned to PJ ahead of June Meeting

**Action 2 :** To present finalised structure and move into implementation phase : **PJ/DT/EL**

**Membership Focus**

- Secretary Role - enquiries have to date not been successful.
- Treasurer - JMCA has declared her intent to stand-down.

#### **ACTIONS :**

1. Names of Potential Candidates to be forwarded to Chair : **ACTION ALL**
2. Treasurers Handover Statement to be prepared and forwarded **ACTION : JMCA**
3. Membership Database and Summary Report to be forwarded across Committee **ACTION DT**
4. Summer Newsletter advising of notable events but in particular with an update on the refresh of the Sub-Committee structure and with enclosure seeking nominations for consideration for vacant positions on Committee : **ACTION DT/PJ/EL**

#### **Planning Update**

- **Sandymount Avenue** – Response received by ABP from Applicant. SAMRA response required by 17/05 **ACTION NMCE**
- **YMCA Sale Notification** – update from research : 6.6 acres with 0.5 zoned for residential zone 1; balance of 6.1 acres designated zone 9 (amenity & sporting) **ACTION NMCE : To monitor zoning in DCC Development Plan**
- **Planning CDP** - next gestation due Autumn, with 1<sup>st</sup> Draft now on DCC website. Public Consultation dates to be monitored for action
- **SHD** - awaiting a response from Robin Mandell to SAMRA **Action NME/EL to progress**

#### **Pedestrianisation Proposal**

- SAMRA Committee previously (Action : Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April) recorded a strong position of support of 7 for; 2 against and 1 abstention; with an overall recommendation to proceed with a recommendation to DCC for a limited period trial. It was considered that this will have considerable overall public benefit, if well managed.
- The DCC Consultation was launched, is in progress, due to close 14<sup>th</sup> May. This has been forwarded to ALL members, encouraging all to make their views known. There are issues to be resolved but which do appear to be soluble, based on enquiries to date. Various member replies have been sent to SAMRA and the vast majority are very positive and in support of the direction, believed to be for the greater good.
- There was considerable committee discussion around the issues but strong support for the purpose of a trial which is to establish this and then consult. As a first step it is necessary to await for the DCC consultation process to close and hear the extent of the response and proposed actions.

#### **Cycle-Route Update**

- High Court Case : set for a 22/6 hearing after which a judgement will be reached.

#### **Flooding -**

- Discussion was held regarding the document received from Professor Ray Bates (Meterology), on behalf of himself and retired lecturer in Engineering UCD Peter O'Neill, advising of a fundamental difference in modelling conclusions v what is applied in the DCC Climate Action Plan, which underpins the DCC Flood Defence programme. SAMRA is grateful to receive this information but proposes not to take any action at this stage. This will be reviewed further within the Flooding sub-Committee, yet to be set up.

### **Weedkiller Usage - Glyphosphate**

- Concern was raised with regards to the use of Glyphosphate at the IrishTown Nature Reserve with published warning signage. This is a controversial product, with potential risks to wildlife and it is unclear why this pesticide is being used. **ACTION : LK Letter from SAMRA to DCC requesting answers to key questions around it's utilisation.**

### **Litter**

- The volume of litter across the area was reported to have become a serious problem. In particular, it is recognised at Sandymount Village Green, where this is already being discussed as a part of the integrated actions which need to be addressed within the pedestrianisation trial proposal. Local Businesses are acknowledged to be proactively working to resolve this.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Focus is along the Strand at the Circle K/Scoop location where an intensification of litter has occurred around those businesses. There is no evidence of any additional action here and this causes a proliferation of litter across the entire Strand Green frontage. **ACTION : Irene Duffy Lynch, photo + Letter from SAMRA to Pembroke Councillors requesting assistance at this location.**

### **AOB :**

1. **CARRY FORWARD** : 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**
2. **Sean Moore Park** - for information regarding a proposal from DCC at the 10/05 SEAC Meeting with regards to additional café and toilet facilities alongside the playpark.
3. **Sean Moore Park** - further to a recent event reported to Gardai, recommendation for action has been taken up by Dermot Lacey, with the potential for security CCCTV

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: tbc Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 7:30pm**

### SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
<b>New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting</b>			
1.	Litter Proliferation at Strand Green	<b>IDL</b>	Letter + photo to 5x Pembroke Councillors - requesting action
2.	Weedkiller Usage - Letter to DCC	<b>LK</b>	
3.	Summer Newsletter	<b>DT/EL/PJOG</b>	
4.	Treasurer Successor	<b>DT</b>	
5.	Treasurer Hand-Over Statement	<b>JMcA</b>	
6.	Membership Report - May	<b>DT</b>	
7.	Comment on Strategy Sub-Committee Draft to PJ	<b>ALL</b>	
8.	PA – Poolbeg Glass Bottle Site	<b>SH</b>	To establish status of current actions and advise SAMRA steps
<b>Ongoing Actions</b>			
9.	DCC Dev Plan – biosphere protection	<b>LK</b>	Will request support if needed in drafting
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
13.	Membership Status	<b>DT</b>	To seek endorsement from SAMRA Committee for the Membership Rules and Protocol and seek active support for ongoing actions
14.	PA – YMCA sale application	<b>NMcE/EL/LK</b>	Establish status and consider SAMRA steps
15.	Secretarial Role candidates	<b>DT</b>	Ongoing

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

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
			<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>			
29.	PA – St John’s Church Hall	NmcE/EL/LK	Supportive but to write to DCC and seek conditions
30.	Cycle Route – Consultation Process Paper (M Flynn)	NME	To circulate copy requesting SAMRA support
31.	Pedestrianisation Proposal	DT/ALL	To establish SAMRA Committee position on proposal. COMPLETED : 7 For; 2 Against; 1 x Abstention
32.	Pedestrianisation Proposal - Draft Letter	SH	RCVD & CLOSED
33.	Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02	DT	
34.	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. “
35.	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
36.	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

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
37.	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
38.	SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120)	PJOG	COMPLETED
39.	Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11)	DT	Requested and awaited COMPLETED
40.	Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
41.	Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01)	DT/Committee	Response required. CLOSED
42.	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb DWtE Community Gain Liason Committee	DT	Agenda has been issued
43.	DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028	DT/Agree attendance	Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021
44.	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
45.			
46.			