

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)
Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 14th June 2021

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

Welcome and Synopsis

- Agenda Overview

Committee and Membership

Committee

- **Treasurer** – Further to a meeting and discussions between SAMRA Chair, the Committee endorses the recommendation for Jeremy Humphries to join the Committee and take the role as Treasurer. **A warm welcome to Jeremy.** Ahead of the next meeting it is intended that a handover will take place for him to be able to assume the Treasurer role. **Action DT/JH/JMcA**
- **Secretary** – the position remains vacant at present and the duties of which will continue in the interim to be carried out by the Chair.
- **Other** – John O’Neill and David Bradshaw have also stepped forward to offer support to the committee – and this is much appreciated.
- **Eva Lloyd** – conveyed her decision to step down from the Committee, agreed to be at the end of June. Warm thanks are recorded by all for Eva’s significant contribution over the last 18 months. Eva stated her willingness to be at the disposal of SAMRA and committee to offer help when and if called upon to do so.
- **Membership Overview** – This was an overview of SAMRA’s membership status and in particular the process. The fundamental rules and fee structure are the same as before, albeit fees changed at the 2021 AGM - but the process has evolved to become on-line and digital. There are still some data gaps to close and improvements to make and the ongoing actions largely lie between Secretary and 121 Computer Consultancy service. It was explained how this is taking place. The Committee noted and endorsed this and the way forwards. An additional action was agreed to try and close the remaining gaps : **Action Dave/Joan**

Planning – Niall McElroy

- **Sandymount Avenue** : this is currently with ABP and SAMRA continues to monitor
- **YMCA – Sale Notification** – monitoring ongoing and in particular zoning in CDP

City Development Plan – requirement to reconvene the sub-committee in September.
Action 1 Niall McEvoy to investigate possibility/practicality of an earlier engagement.
Action 2 : Lorna to work with Eva on her understanding of the Poolbeg West

boundaries in the context of the biosphere areas, and to liaise with Niall on contacting Councillors re same before their upcoming meeting re the CDP on 22nd June.

New Business

- **Dart Upgrade Project (Dart + Southwest)** – <https://www.dartplus.ie/en-ie/about-dart> :
- This is a project which is following the government mandate and which SAMRA is monitoring for learning in advance of a similar scheme expected to be launched in 2023 on the South Coast route which will potentially have similar big significant impact on the Sandymount area. Potential for closure of railway crossings, new bridges etc. Connection has been made with the local RA.
- ARUP Consulting have been engaged to start the Consultation process and SAMRA (Niall) have written to register SAMRA as an interested party.

Pedestrianisation Proposal - Stephen

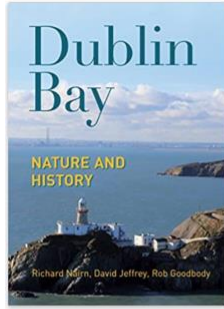
- The result of the DCC led consultation process was communicated 14th June recording 94% vote from 926 responses in support of the recommended trial along the north-east side of Sandymount Green. DCC have confirmed that the trial will be run during July and August.
- **Action : DT To write to DCC and request sight of the measures which will be put in place to address the specific concerns regarding litter collection on the green, public behaviour enforcement and traffic management.**

Cycle-Route Update

- High Court Case : set for a 24/6 hearing after which a judgement will be reached. A SAMRA response will be required on whatever the outcome.

New Business

- **Cycle Parking Pods** – DT – the contents of a prospective member enquiry was raised to the committee regarding the lack of facilities around Sandymount Village for cycle parking. There was general agreement that this is the case and it was suggested that in addition to the 2 additional cycle parking areas, which are an integral part of the forthcoming trial, that DCC should consider other long term options. An additional site was suggested to be suitable adjacent to the Tesco/Marine Drive corner. **Action : Letter to DCC covering these points.**
- **Natural Environment (Poolbeg)** – LK – This was an overview of a Book “Dublin Bay Nature & History” – recommended to epitomise the planning principles which should be embodied in SAMRA’s positioning for Dublin Bay, ahead of the City Development Plan. It was recommended that Committee should familiarise themselves with the contents



See all 2 images

Dublin Bay: Nature and History Hardcover – Illustrated, 13 Oct. 2017

by Richard Nairn (Author), David Jeffrey (Author), Rob Goodbody (Author)

★★★★★ 3 ratings

[See all formats and editions](#)

Hardcover
from **£12.57**

4 Used from £12.57

On the fringe of Dublin's hive of human activity, a miraculous coastal ecosystem carries on as it has done since the last Ice Age. Beaches, saltmarshes, rocky shores, cliffs, islands and offshore sandbanks all support millions of tiny creatures and thousands of migratory birds from as far afield as Arctic Canada and tropical Africa. Nature is intimately linked with the people whose lives unfold around it, and over a million people have direct access to Dublin Bay. We need to understand how we are affecting its ecosystem, from the disturbance of birds to dredging of shipping channels and the longer-term implications of climate change. Weaving the kindred strands of history and nature, the authors tell the fascinating story of the bay. The development of the port city has been mirrored by major changes in the coastal environment. Learn how the creation of Dublin Port caused the formation of Bull Island, or how the cockles and mussels immortalised in Molly Malone caused typhoid fever throughout the city. The human and natural components of the bay have learned to coexist and, in some cases, even to depend on each other. The bay has stretched its arms widely to embrace countless generations of Dubliners: it is a life support system, an economic asset and an invaluable recreational resource. This new look at a familiar seascape authoritatively explains its importance to the past, present and future of our city and country.

[Read less](#)

Action LH : SAMRA will buy a copy for reference and sharing amongst the committee (Sandymount Green Bookshop)

- **Architectural Heritage** – Lorna – not urgent and deferred to the next meeting for a full conversation
- **ACTIONS UPDATE – DT** - deferred to the next meeting, due to time constraints

AOB :

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: tbc Monday 5th July 2021 7:30pm

(Possibility of Face to Face to be considered – Action Joan to investigate with Sandymount Hotel)

SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting			
1.	Treasurer Handover Meeting	DT/JMcA/JH	
2.	Membership Data Gaps	JMcA/DT	
3.	City Development Plan – Early Engagement	NMcE/LK	
4.	CDP – Red Lines to be drafted	LK	
5.	CDP - Set up sub-committee	NMcE	
6.	Letter to DCC regarding incorporation of actions with regards to Pedestrianisation concerns	DT	
7.	Letter to DCC requesting addition cycle parking pods	DT	
8.	Summer social	DT	
9.	Weedkiller Useage - Letter to DCC	LK	
10.	Comment on Strategy Sub-Committee Draft to PJ	ALL	
Ongoing Actions			
11.	DCC Dev Plan – biosphere protection	LK	Will request support if needed in drafting
12.	Sandymount VDS Village Project Programme	DT/NMcE	To meet with DL and establish a way forwards
13.	PA – YMCA sale application	NMcE/EL/LK	Establish status and consider SAMRA steps
14.	Secretarial Role candidates - Resource a Secretary for SAMRA	DT	Ongoing

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

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
26.	Membership Status	DT	To seek endorsement from SAMRA Committee for the Membership Rules and Protocol and seek active support for ongoing actions
27.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Draft letter for Observation – time barred – unable to address due to lack of resource
28.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Letter to EPA – time barred, unable to address due to lack of resource
29.	Research upcoming Dublin City Development Plan to understand topics and timescales	EL	<p>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.</p> <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 <p>Phase 4 - Material amendments</p>
30.	PA – Poolbeg Glass Bottle Site	SH	To establish status of current actions and advise SAMRA steps
31.	Litter Proliferation at Strand Green	IDL	Letter + photo to 5x Pembroke Councillors - requesting action
32.	Treasurer Successor	DT	
33.	Treasurer Hand-Over Statement	JMcA	
34.	Membership Report - May	DT	
35.	Summer Newsletter	DT/EL/PJOG	
36.	PA – St John’s Church Hall	NmcE/EL/LK	Supportive but to write to DCC and seek conditions

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
37.	Cycle Route – Consultation Process Paper (M Flynn)	NME	To circulate copy requesting SAMRA support
38.	Pedestrianisation Proposal	DT/ALL	To establish SAMRA Committee position on proposal. COMPLETED : 7 For; 2 Against; 1 x Abstention
39.	Pedestrianisation Proposal - Draft Letter	SH	RCVD & CLOSED
40.	Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02	DT	
41.	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. “
42.	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
43.	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
44.	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
45.	SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120)	PJOG	COMPLETED
46.	Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11)	DT	Requested and awaited COMPLETED
47.	Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
48.	Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01)	DT/Committee	Response required. CLOSED
49.	12 th Feb DWtE Community Gain Liason Committee	DT	Agenda has been issued
50.	DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028	DT/Agree attendance	Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021
51.	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