

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)
Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 12th July 2021

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

Welcome and Synopsis

- Welcome to Mark Wheeler – new Committee Member who could not join this evening

Committee and Membership

Committee

- **Treasurer** – Handover actions as defined are in progress **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 with their skills and experience will ideally be in support of the DCC City Development Plan inputs, once that sub-committee is established in the near future **Action NMCE**.

Dublin South By-Election – SAMRA met all candidates ahead of the local By-Election election, at a meeting coordinated courtesy of South Dublin Core Georgian Residents Association. All candidates were appraised of SAMRA’s agenda and the most recent AGM proceedings. We look forwards to connecting with successful candidate Ivana Bacik in due course.

- **Membership Report** – Report prepared dated 30th June, courtesy of Geraldine Walsh (121 Computer Training Service Company) with the following highlights :
 - Total Current Membership 195
 - Yet to sign up 177
 - Total on database 372
 - 16 New Members since 28th April 2021 (last report)
 - All joiners are now by Paypal
 - Paypal Balance (today’s date) €542.22 (Note that Paypal due-diligence of SAMRA’s affairs needed to maintain full account operability **Action : DT**)
 - Geraldine Walsh Costs : Since 12th February 2021; 90 minutes; 45minutes; 20 minutes = €125+VAT = €153.75 Invoice to be deferred until September (*Note cost reduction due to the balance of secretarial work currently being absorbed by SAMRA Secretary*)
 - **Action DT** – Forward June 30th Membership Report, cross Committee

Planning – Niall McElroy

- **Sandymount Avenue** : this is currently with ABP and SAMRA continues to monitor
- **Pembroke Quarter Development** : Flyer and website link has been issued connecting SAMRA to the start of the forward consultation process. This is expected to be a 10 year development plan which will be separated into phases and it is thought that a Sub-Committee will need to be established on SAMRA to achieve the necessary focus and workload to be maintained **Action NMCE**

Pedestrianisation Trial – Dave

- Trial commenced 3rd July
- DCC Meetings in progress with SAMRA, Tidy Towns (STTCA); local Village Green residents and Trader representatives, all feeding in to ensure justifiable concerns arising are addressed.
- SAMRA (Chairman - Dave Turner) has met local green residents directly to ensure their concerns are understood and being addressed through DCC.
- DCC is operationalising the trial, with the DCC SE Area Manager (Brian Hanney) taking direct responsibility and inputting the considerable lessons learnt from other similar pedestrianisation trials that have and are taking place across the city.
- In addition to issues arising there has been considerable positive support for what is emerging both to SAMRA and STTCA and DCC are taking a steady systematic approach to setting this up.
- DCC Invitations to Traders have been made and replies are being reviewed by DCC with an expected 2-3 days turn-around to establish administrative, furniture and insurance matters. Space meanwhile is to be utilised with flowerbox planters and other temporary measures to ensure that the area looks as inviting as possible, with the inclusion of soft classical music during daytime early pm weekend hours.
- Dublin City FM arranged a radio interview (Dave Turner) transmitted Saturday 10th July to report on the early progress of the trial and SAMRA's Community wider aims. Considerable favourable text response was received.
- **REQUEST** – to ensure success of the trial, all committee members are requested to monitor and feed-back input, especially if any issues are observed to be arising.
- **ACTION DT** : To send an email update to SAMRA Membership and requesting feedback

Cycle-Route Update - High Court Case was heard 24/6 and a judgement will be reached in due course. A SAMRA response will be required whatever the outcome.

- **Cycle Parking Pods** – Following previous resident requests, a letter to DCC to consider cycle parking pods adjacent to the TESCO corner has been made, has been acknowledged and is being reviewed.

Architectural Heritage – (Lorna) : Sandymount and Merrion heritage is being destroyed at this time. It is a unique mix of Victorian/Georgian/Edwardian properties which should be surveyed and zoned and included in the National Inventory managed by the Arts Council. It is believed that this will be addressed in the DCC Development Plan work – but to ensure that this is the appropriate process for addressing this concern, an enquiry will be made **Action NMCE**

Beach Erosion and Sewage Report



The report received by David Turner is presented above and there was unanimous backing by SAMRA's Committee to develop a letter requesting DCC to advise the actions which are being taken. **The above situation occurs with every heavy rainfall resulting in high volumes of raw sewage released directly onto the public beach**, which does not clean up until the following Spring Tide. **This is a clear public health hazard, which has no signage beyond** what is posted to the Strand Road Notice Board (1/4 mile away) and children and walkers pass through this site taking considerable health risk.

It is also suggested that this is one of the main reasons for the **loss of BLUE FLAG status** having been lost on Strand Beach

Action D Turner – letter to be drafted approved and submitted to DCC

Climate Action Plan – Guest Speaker Professor Ray Bates

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Former professor Meteorology Copenhagen and NASA Scientist

- Professor Ray Bates has worked extensively with DCC on their Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2014, alongside Peter O'Neill, Lecturer in Engineering, UCD (Retired) and Fintan Ryan Senior Captain, Aer Lingus and Senior Engineer Inmarsat.

- Ray explained his challenge to ensure the appropriate level of response is being achieved by DCC and after presenting some of his work, the position adopted by DCC, this was debated extensively across the Committee.
- Since Flood Risk is a Number 1 Priority for SAMRA, with difficulties experienced by many residents in achieving flood insurance – it is crucial to understand how SAMRA needs to relate to this challenge and debate.
- **Action DT** to Forward the presentation to all Committee Members to enable a 1:1 dialogue and personal understanding with Professor Ray Bates **Action : ALL**
- **Action DT** : To agenda this topic at a suitable future meeting to establish SAMRA's formal position in relation to this work

AOB :

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: tbc Monday 16th August 2021

(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.	Climate Action Plan/Flood Risk Agenda Item to be set to establish SAMRA's formal position to Professor Ray Bates work	DT	
2.	Ray Bates presentation to be forwarded across SAMRA Committee	DT	
3.	Sandymount Beach Raw Sewage Beach Erosion – Letter to DCC requesting actions to resolve	DT	
4.	Architectural Heritage – establish process for protecting	NMcE	
5.	Pedestrianisation Trial	DT	Update email to members
6.	Pembroke Quarter – establish Sub-Committee	NMcE	
7.	Issue Membership Report dated 30 th June	DT	
8.	SAMRA Logo for use on letter heads – develop options around the Village green and circulate committee (8/12)	DT	Action transferred following EL departure from committee
9.			
Ongoing Actions			
10.	Paypal Due-Dilligence	DT	Ongoing
11.	Comment on Strategy Sub-Committee Draft to PJ	ALL	
12.	Summer social	tba	

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
13.	CDP - Set up sub-committee	NMcE	
14.	Treasurer Handover Meeting	DT/JMcA/JH	Ongoing
15.	Membership Data Gaps	JMcA/DT	
16.	DCC Dev Plan – biosphere protection	LK	Will request support if needed in drafting
17.	Sandymount VDS Village Project Programme	DT/NMcE	To meet with DL and establish a way forwards
18.	PA – YMCA sale application	NMcE/EL/LK	Establish status and consider SAMRA steps
19.	Secretarial Role candidates - Resource a Secretary for SAMRA	DT	Ongoing
20.	PA – Sandymount Avenue	NmcE/EL/LK	With ABP – Monitor
21.	Cycle route – Success/Failure Criteria	DT/NmcE	Pending High Court Decision
22.	SAMRA Strategy development	PJOG/ DT/EL	Ongoing sub-committee support
23.	Communication &Media Needs of SAMRA (28/09)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
24.	Constitution Update (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
25.	Dublin Port Development Plan – reclaim land proposal by DP (08/12)	LK/EL	Circulation of a proposed letter to Committee
26.	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
27.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
28.	Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator	TBC	No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report
29.	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)			
30.	Weedkiller Usage - Letter to DCC	LK	
31.	Letter to DCC requesting addition cycle parking pods	DT	Completed
32.	Letter to DCC regarding incorporation of actions with regards to Pedestrianisation concerns	DT	Completed
33.	CDP – Red Lines to be drafted	LK	Completed
	City Development Plan – Early Engagement	NMcE/LK	Completed
34.	Membership Status	DT	To seek endorsement from SAMRA Committee for the Membership Rules and Protocol and seek active support for ongoing actions
35.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Draft letter for Observation – time barred – unable to address due to lack of resource
36.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Letter to EPA – time barred, unable to address due to lack of resource
37.	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"> 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>
38.	PA – Poolbeg Glass Bottle Site	SH	To establish status of current actions and advise SAMRA steps
39.	Litter Proliferation at Strand Green	IDL	Letter + photo to 5x Pembroke Councillors - requesting action
40.	Treasurer Successor	DT	
41.	Treasurer Hand-Over Statement	JMcA	
42.	Membership Report - May	DT	
43.	Summer Newsletter	DT/EL/PJOG	
44.	PA – St John’s Church Hall	NmcE/EL/LK	Supportive but to write to DCC and seek conditions
45.	Cycle Route – Consultation Process Paper (M Flynn)	NME	To circulate copy requesting SAMRA support
46.	Pedestrianisation Proposal	DT/ALL	To establish SAMRA Committee position on proposal. COMPLETED : 7 For; 2 Against; 1 x Abstention
47.	Pedestrianisation Proposal - Draft Letter	SH	RCVD & CLOSED
48.	Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02	DT	
49.	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. “

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
50.	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
51.	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
52.	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
53.	SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120)	PJOG	COMPLETED
54.	Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11)	DT	Requested and awaited COMPLETED
55.	Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
56.	Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01)	DT/Committee	Response required. CLOSED
57.	12 th Feb DWtE Community Gain Liason Committee	DT	Agenda has been issued
58.	DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028	DT/Agree attendance	Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021
59.	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