

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)
Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 13th September 2021

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

Welcome and Overview - Chair

- A big welcome back to the Committee at the first face to face meeting after just over 18 months (since 11th March 2020) of working entirely on-line, meeting every month barring August 2021 and for 8 months working two meetings per month as work intensity demanded.
- A thank you and credit to the whole committee for their efforts in making a success of this shift to on-line working, over such a prolonged period.
- A face to face welcome to new Committee Members Julian Humphries and Mark Wheeler

Treasurer Handover : JH/JMacA/DT

- Handover actions as previously defined have continued. Handover was effective 30th June.
- Jeremy outlined and presented the proforma needed to enable on-line bank services going forward eg Paypal linkage; Membership Direct Pay etc
- This was duly signed by the 3xSAMRA Officers; Chair, Secretary and Treasurer,

Pedestrianisation Trial Update – D Turner

- **Report**
- The trial was reviewed for the benefit of the Committee :
 - ie
 - The original SAMRA request for DCC to consider the trial over the summer months
 - DCC Consultation process – 18th May to end June
 - Trial period : 3rd July to 31st August
 - DCC managed meetings at 2 weekly frequency through the trial to respond to take feedback and develop actions as necessary : Attendees : Residents at the Green; Local Businesses; SAMRA; STTCA;
 - SAMRA’s main representative throughout all meetings was the Chairman, with Niall McElroy and Stephen Hurley at the final 9th August meeting.
 - SAMRA’s feedback was taken from Committee input and a “Pulse Survey” of SAMRA members immediately before the 9th August meeting, to enable live representative feedback.
 - There were concerns and objections recorded but there were many more responses of appreciation and encouragement, with constructive suggestions for the future, recognised to be not possible within the constraints of a temporary trial
 - It is recognised that pedestrianisation of this area is not just about outdoor dining, which will become untenable on many occasions during winter weather but is about providing a safe space for many other communal activities which can occur during

other seasonal events eg Christmas / New Year / Halloween / Easter / Summer Dining etc etc

- Significant efforts were made throughout to meet residents to understand concerns, including a face to face at the Green and then work with DCC to address those concerns. This will continue in an endeavour to find a balanced outcome for the future.
 - Emails to SAMRA were collated and copied across all committee members, with individual responses and replies continuing to be made.
- **Going forwards :**
 - DCC has publicly committed to run a wide ranging post-trial consultation, using leaflet drops; public notices at the Green and website, targeted at all stakeholders. It was assured that this process will be as transparent as is possible, within the constraints of DGPR and personal data protection. This was also reported into the meeting as an action agreed at the same day SEAC meeting.

Cycle-Route Update – NMCE/DT

- Following the High Court Injunction, causing the trial to be suspended, it was reported that DCC are intending to respond to the Court of Appeal and are about to make a submission
- Full legal costs were awarded to the litigants but it is understood that this can be reversed through the Court of Appeal process
- STC held a public meeting 9th September to a wide range of invitees titled “Way Forwards”. This was attended by SAMRA by the Chairman and Irene Duffy Lynch.
- Observations include :
 - A scheme which has been further developed largely around the same routing as previously submitted by STC but which has been worked up to greater level of detail in the interim. The scheme is essentially the “Off-Road” solution, previously supported by SAMRA and 80% of the SAMRA respondents.
 - This was also previously rejected by DCC.
 - The STC scheme references the Strand Road as an “Arterial Route” and does not address the volume and stress of traffic directly negatively affecting a large proportion of residents, which has long been one of SAMRA’s top priorities.
 - The traffic stress has increased significantly with end of pandemic and this is now also evidenced by the Strand Road on-line noise data, from the monitor which has been installed over this period.
 - Whilst previously a top concern Strand Road is now demonstrated to be one of the noisiest roads in Dublin City.
 - SAMRA rejected the original DCC scheme on a number of points and continues to support the “Off-Road” alternative.
 - SAMRA’s position is that whilst it is not acceptable to create traffic chaos from diverted traffic – it is clearly equally unacceptable to allow the status quo to be maintained on the Strand Road.
 - SAMRA asserts that IF this could be addressed, there is an OPPORTUNITY to align the vast majority of resident concerns around a common solution.
- **Action DT/NMCE** to attempt to write a position which could incorporate key elements of Flood Defence/Cycle Route/Strand Road Traffic mitigation

Planning – Niall McElroy

- **Sandymount Avenue** : this is currently with ABP, with a decision due 17th September.
- **Tesco development query** – to be followed up **Action NMcE**
- **Pembroke Quarter Development** : no communications have been received and is to be followed up **Action : NMcE**
- **DART+ North / South Coastal route** – SAMRA are now on the consultation body listing and it is expected that the consultation process (ARUP appointed for Irish Rail) will begin in Q1 2022
- **Dublin Demographic Planning Alliance** – it was agreed that SAMRA should join this and will write to confirm, whilst recognising SAMRA's previously expressed position on SHD **Action NMcE**
- **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)** – facilitation of NIAH survey of Sandymount, for incorporation into the CDP **Action NMcE**

Beach Erosion and Sewage Incident - DT

- A letter of reply has been received from DCC. This provides information with regards to actions reported to be in progress in relation to the original design deficiency. However, there is a complete lack of reference to actions which relate to containment and management of what is a clear public health hazard. DCC demonstrated their knowledge in expectation of incident with predicted rainfall but which was removed after the event and nothing implemented to clean-up which took many days until the coincidence of the next spring tides. SAMRA views this to be totally unacceptable. **Action : S Hurley to respond back to DCC**

Community Gain Liaison Committee - DT

- CGLC has announced that the DWtE CGLC Projects Grant Scheme is open for applications 27th September 2021 to 31st October 2021
- A total amount of €500K will be available for disbursement across a range of eligible projects within the Irishtown, Ringsend and Sandymount catchment area.
- Since this scheme was established in 2016, €11m and over 100 projects have benefited
- **Action DT** – to forward the Flyers received and Criteria for eligible projects and funding strategy.
- **Action ALL** – to propose candidates
- **NOTE** : *as one of the funding criteria, this is a reimbursement scheme, which will require careful consideration by SAMRA*

AOB :

- Post Meeting request – to send Committee Member photo (as required) for updating of website Committee details
- Flood Defence – it was agreed that this requires a stand- alone separate meeting, which was set for 4th October **Action NMcE**
- Set up of meetings at Sandymount Hotel : **Action JMaC**

DATE OF SPECIAL MEETING “FLOOD DEFENCE” : Monday 4th October 2021

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday 11th October 2021

SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting			
1.	CGLC Grant candidates	DT/ALL	Eligible 27 th September – 31 st October
2.	Flood Defence work and SAMRA's position	NMcE	Stand-alone meeting : 4 th October
3.	Strand Beach Pollution Incident	SH	Response to DCC letter
4.	Architectural Heritage	NMcE	Facilitation of Sandymount survey
5.	Dublin Development Planning Alliance	NMcE	Letter confirming SAMRA
6.	Tesco development query	NMcE	
7.	Pembroke Quarter	NMcE	Re-establish communication updates as a registered consultation member
8.	Cycle route	NMcE / DT	Write a position paper which addresses the Strand Road traffic whilst incorporating the Off-Road solution, combined with Flood Defence needs
Ongoing Actions			
9.	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
10.	Climate Action Plan/Flood Risk Agenda Item to be set to establish SAMRA's formal position to Professor Ray Bates work	DT	
11.	Pembroke Quarter – establish Sub-Committee	NMcE	
12.	Paypal Due-Dilligence	DT	Ongoing

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

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
			and it is expected that ERA will update their document, re-forward and SAMRA will then formally endorse. PENDING
29.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.
30.	Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator	TBC	No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report
31.	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)			
32.	Issue Membership Report dated 30 th June	DT	
33.	Issue Membership Report dated 30 th June	DT	
34.	Pedestrianisation Trial	DT	Update email to members
35.	Architectural Heritage – establish process for protecting	NMcE	
36.	Sandymount Beach Raw Sewage Beach Erosion – Letter to DCC requesting actions to resolve	DT	
37.	Ray Bates presentation to be forwarded across SAMRA Committee	DT	
38.	Weedkiller Useage - Letter to DCC	LK	
39.	Letter to DCC requesting addition cycle parking pods	DT	Completed

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40.	Letter to DCC regarding incorporation of actions with regards to Pedestrianisation concerns	DT	Completed
41.	CDP – Red Lines to be drafted	LK	Completed
	City Development Plan – Early Engagement	NMcE/LK	Completed
42.	Membership Status	DT	To seek endorsement from SAMRA Committee for the Membership Rules and Protocol and seek active support for ongoing actions
43.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Draft letter for Observation – time barred – unable to address due to lack of resource
44.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Letter to EPA – time barred, unable to address due to lack of resource
45.	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>
46.	PA – Poolbeg Glass Bottle Site	SH	To establish status of current actions and advise SAMRA steps
47.	Litter Proliferation at Strand Green	IDL	Letter + photo to 5x Pembroke Councillors - requesting action
48.	Treasurer Successor	DT	

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49.	Treasurer Hand-Over Statement	JMcA	
50.	Membership Report - May	DT	
51.	Summer Newsletter	DT/EL/PJOG	
52.	PA – St John’s Church Hall	NmcE/EL/LK	Supportive but to write to DCC and seek conditions
53.	Cycle Route – Consultation Process Paper (M Flynn)	NME	To circulate copy requesting SAMRA support
54.	Pedestrianisation Proposal	DT/ALL	To establish SAMRA Committee position on proposal. COMPLETED : 7 For; 2 Against; 1 x Abstention
55.	Pedestrianisation Proposal - Draft Letter	SH	RCVD & CLOSED
56.	Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02	DT	
57.	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. “
58.	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
59.	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
60.	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

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
61.	SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120)	PJOG	COMPLETED
62.	Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11)	DT	Requested and awaited COMPLETED
63.	Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
64.	Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01)	DT/Committee	Response required. CLOSED
65.	12 th Feb DWtE Community Gain Liason Committee	DT	Agenda has been issued
66.	DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028	DT/Agree attendance	Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021
67.	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