

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)
Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 17th October 2021

Attendees: David Turner (Chair/interim Secretary), Joan MacArthur; Lorna Kelly, Irene Duffy Lynch; Jeremy Humphries (Treasurer); Mark Wheeler

Apologies: PJ O’Gorman; Niall McElroy; Stephen Hurley; Liam Handy

Welcome and Agenda Overview - Chair

Treasurer Handover : JH/JMacA/DT

- Handover actions as previously defined have continued. Has been formally transferred over with the bank.
 - Two SAMRA accounts have been consolidated
 - Forms have been completed for on-line banking
 - Paypal linkage needs to be completed ahead of the AGM (January)
 - Agreed to leave the box in the Hardware store (previously used for paper subscriptions) until after the AGM and then decommission that

Pedestrianisation Trial Update – D Turner

- A reminder email was sent to residents and the DCC consultation process closed. The outcome determined by DCC is awaited.

Planning – Dave/All

- DCC now adopting a new planning website which is reported to be less intuitive to use and identify new planning applications...
- **Sandymount Avenue** : this is currently with ABP – further delayed.
- **Pembroke Quarter Development** : meeting to be set up with developers representatives to start the engagement. There was discussion a view expressed that SAMRA should also be talking to DCC and Dublin Port Co. This needs to be discussed out further to agree tactics
Action NMCE
- **Dublin Demographic Planning Alliance** – *it was previously agreed that SAMRA should join this and will write to confirm, whilst recognising SAMRA’s previously expressed position on SHD.* No response as yet
Action NMCE
- **City Development Plan** – a draft is to be expected late November. Support to that review is needed from the Committee to enable a meaningful assessment and response. Action NME.
- **Merchants Archway** – outrage was expressed at the planning proposal to demolish the historic Merchants Archway at Temple Bar for a new hotel block development. The matter was discussed with a view to find a way for SAMRA to support. **Action : IDL**
- It was reported that a planning consultation process is underway on the draft “**Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Planning Authorities**”. It was considered at the meeting that this may of direct relevance to Biospheres and that SAMRA representation may

be required to engage ahead of consultation closure on 19th November. Post meeting review has revealed that this is in fact a broader process review and that it is believed SAMRA involvement should not be required. For interested parties, the above document can be downloaded from www.gov.ie and the email address seaguidelines@housing.gov.ie with contact number 01 88 2000 is to be used for further enquiries.

- *It was noted by the Chair that there is a significant and increasing workload arising on Planning Matters and an increased support focus will be required here for a meaningful response to be possible . Action DT/NMcE to look at options*

Flood Risk Defences – Dave/ALL

- Responses were requested on the draft position paper circulated to the committee ahead of the meeting. Insufficient time and representation was available for this to be concluded at the meeting and this action will carry forwards **Action Dave T**

Beach Erosion and Sewage Incident - DT

- DCC's further reply dated 8th October : DCC have stated that clean-up below the HW line on the beach is done in "good faith" and "on occasions in the interest of public health". Furthermore DCC states that a response from them requires notification from Irish Water of the Ailesbury pumping station activation. Quite separate to the drainage design deficiencies, which have separate actions, this is an inadequate response to clean up of a major public health hazard which is now known not to be just theoretical but to be to be a credible and repeating event which will occur in the future. This needs some form of escalation to have a robust clean-up plan put in place for the future. **Action : tba DT**

Community Gain Liaison Committee - DT

- It was concluded that SAMRA would not be making application in 2021. Resource and the fact that this is a "Reimbursement Scheme" precludes this for SAMRA at this time.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- SAMRA is now operating at a level which necessitates additional members to join the committee in either full membership or to serve on sub-committees. Meaningful responses will otherwise not be possible. There are a number of skills gaps. Eg Secretary, Ecologist, Biologist, Planning **Action ALL to consider**
- It was viewed that an advert in the Dublin4 Newspaper in addition to an Autumn edition of the SAMRA newsletter would be beneficial. **Action : DT**
- Use of the electronic screen in the Mace Store was additionally offered : **Action DT/MW**

AOB :

- Post Meeting request – to send Committee Member photo (as required) for updating of website Committee details

PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 22nd November 2021

SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting			
1.	Beach erosion and sewage incident – forward plan required for public health hazard events	DT	
2.	Autumn Newsletter	DT	
3.	NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER options	ALL	
4.	Merchants Archway – Planning Application	IDL	To review and recommend options available to SAMRA to support planning objection
5.	Architectural Heritage	NMcE	Facilitation of Sandymount survey
6.	Flood Defence work and SAMRA’s position	NMcE/DT	Position Paper for SAMRA
7.	Dublin Development Planning Alliance	NMcE	Letter confirming SAMRA
Ongoing Actions			
8.	Pembroke Quarter	NMcE	Re-establish communication updates as a registered consultation member
9.	Tesco development query	NMcE	
10.	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
11.	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
12.	Climate Action Plan/Flood Risk Agenda Item to be set to establish SAMRA’s	DT	

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

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29.	Dublin Port Development Plan – reclaim land proposal by DP (08/12)	LK/EL	Circulation of a proposed letter to Committee
30.	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
31.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.
32.	Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator	TBC	No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report
33.	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)			
34.	CGLC Grant candidates	DT/ALL	Eligible 27 th September – 31 st October
35.	Strand Beach Pollution Incident	SH	Response to DCC letter
36.	Issue Membership Report dated 30 th June	DT	
37.	Issue Membership Report dated 30 th June	DT	
38.	Pedestrianisation Trial	DT	Update email to members
39.	Architectural Heritage – establish process for protecting	NMcE	
40.	Sandymount Beach Raw Sewage Beach Erosion – Letter to DCC requesting actions to resolve	DT	

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41.	Ray Bates presentation to be forwarded across SAMRA Committee	DT	
42.	Weedkiller Usage - Letter to DCC	LK	
43.	Letter to DCC requesting addition cycle parking pods	DT	Completed
44.	Letter to DCC regarding incorporation of actions with regards to Pedestrianisation concerns	DT	Completed
45.	CDP – Red Lines to be drafted	LK	Completed
	City Development Plan – Early Engagement	NMcE/LK	Completed
46.	Membership Status	DT	To seek endorsement from SAMRA Committee for the Membership Rules and Protocol and seek active support for ongoing actions
47.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Draft letter for Observation – time barred – unable to address due to lack of resource
48.	PA – Incinerator	DT	Letter to EPA – time barred, unable to address due to lack of resource
49.	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>

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50.	PA – Poolbeg Glass Bottle Site	SH	To establish status of current actions and advise SAMRA steps
51.	Litter Proliferation at Strand Green	IDL	Letter + photo to 5x Pembroke Councillors - requesting action
52.	Treasurer Successor	DT	
53.	Treasurer Hand-Over Statement	JMcA	
54.	Membership Report - May	DT	
55.	Summer Newsletter	DT/EL/PJOG	
56.	PA – St John’s Church Hall	NmcE/EL/LK	Supportive but to write to DCC and seek conditions
57.	Cycle Route – Consultation Process Paper (M Flynn)	NME	To circulate copy requesting SAMRA support
58.	Pedestrianisation Proposal	DT/ALL	To establish SAMRA Committee position on proposal. COMPLETED : 7 For; 2 Against; 1 x Abstention
59.	Pedestrianisation Proposal - Draft Letter	SH	RCVD & CLOSED
60.	Membership registration & clean-up; 2 actions 15/02	DT	
61.	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. “
62.	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
63.	Cycle Route Survey Question to SAMRA Members – agreed in principle : Single Topic, Simple Question	NMcE	Survey question to be agreed : Proposed by email debate :

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
			Q)What is your position on the current DCC proposal for an on-road 2-way cycle route along Strand Rd ? A)Support / Oppose
64.	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
65.	SAMRA Strategic development – prepare a draft for Committee discussion (08/120)	PJOG	COMPLETED
66.	Update PAYPAL/Website to new subscription structure €40/30/10 (23/11)	DT	Requested and awaited COMPLETED
67.	Planning Principles Re-Endorsement (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
68.	Railway Union Offer to SAMRA (25/01)	DT/Committee	Response required. CLOSED
69.	12 th Feb DWtE Community Gain Liason Committee	DT	Agenda has been issued
70.	DCC Virtual seminars On Development Plan 2022-2028	DT/Agree attendance	Closing date for submissions 22/02/2021
71.	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