

Subject: McAuley Park All weather pitch proposal...update 3-7-2018

Elected Public Reps:

To whom It may concern.

Re McAuley Park All weather Pitch proposal:

Update Following Public Information Day . :

The Public information Open Day took place on Sat 30 June 2018 from 10am -330pm in St Paul's Artane FC. Officials from both St Paul's Artane fc and St Brendan's Utd FC were in attendance for full duration. Approx 150 people, including a number of elected public reps, attended during the 5.5 hour period. Information Brochures were provided for all attendees. The brochures contained information on the proposed all weather pitch and also contained phone numbers and email addresses for representatives of both clubs. All attendees were informed that if they thought of any further issues at any time that they could raise them by email or by phone and that the clubs would be happy to address them. A number of opinions, both positive and negative were expressed during the day.

The main issue of support, following individual briefings, was that the overall Community All weather Pitch would be available for use by children and adults of both clubs, Children of the local Primary Schools and available to other local community groups and that this was a positive thing for the wider community .

The Issues of concern included:

Actual Location of proposed Pitch on McAuley PARK: A number of people objected to All Weather Pitch being considered for McAuley Pk whatsoever and suggested that the community should work together to resolve the poor drainage issues of the existing grass pitches. Others asked why can the proposed allweather pitch not be located in lands behind st pauls fc or st brendans utd fc, or behind St Brendans National School. *response : All three suggested locations will not fit a full sized soccer pitch. Dublin City Council are actually building the proposed pitch and we believe that they would not agree to build a pitch on lands it doesn't actually currently own .*

A Number of trees will need to be removed for building the proposed pitch in current proposed location: *response: The reason the trees would need to be moved was explained to all concerned, i.e. to maintain a maximum distance between the pitch and residential buildings. Any trees that need to be removed will be replaced elsewhere in the park. Council opinion is that a number of the existing trees are near end of life and will need to be replaced anyway in the coming years regardless of this proposal. Both Clubs have considered this matter after the open day and are happy to request the Council Planners to examine if the trees(immediately opposite St Pauls Youth club and Scoil Neasain) could remain and the pitch could be built just inside the line of the trees, and even possibly rotated by 90 degrees. This could minimise the removal of trees and alleviate most of the concerns regarding the trees. Ultimately this would be a decision for Dublin City Council Parks.*

Possible Increased negative drainage issues from removing trees: *response: Both clubs acknowledge that there are significant existing drainage issues with McAuley Park, and it's existing playing pitches. As part of the current plan drafted by DCC some trees will be removed. Club Officials do not know what effect this may have on the drainage issue but the contractor who builds the pitch will be*

aware of this issue and will need to take the relevant steps to resolve some or all of these drainage issues as part of the development works in installing an all weather pitch.

Impact from proposed pitch on Brent Geese: *response: Both clubs acknowledge that geese are prevalent in the area in winter months. However an estimated grass area of greater than 60% of the current grass area will remain if this proposed development goes ahead. Bearing in mind recent High Court / Planning issues in St Pauls college re the geese, Dublin City Council parks dept will need to address this issue in their part 8 planning documentation and the clubs will have no influence whatsoever over this matter.(as an aside, Kilbarrack utd had similar issues with geese, and on installation of their all weather pitch, the geese still arrived in the winter months but relocated to another grass area adjacent to the all weather pitch.)* Ultimately this matter will be adjudicated on as part of the planning process .

Possible Car Parking Congestion. *response: Both Clubs believe that car parking can be managed in existing car parks at both clubs and along the road inlet between St Pauls Youth Club and along the front of Scoil Neassain on evenings and at weekends. We will also request Dublin City Council parks to examine if these arrangements are sufficient as they will have knowledge of parking requirements in other all weather development s they have completed already. As in any planning application, the roads department will have an input into the final planning decision and should be qualified to identify any potential shortfalls if they exist. Ultimately this matter will be adjudicated on as part of the planning process.*

Hours of operation and Light Usage: *response: Planning regulations normally insist on lights being turned off no later than 10pm and both clubs are happy to commit to this. Modern light systems are very focussed and do not result in back spillage of light.*

Suggestion that children's playground and outdoor exercise equipment should be installed on Mcauley Pk. *response: Both clubs are proposing the development of an allweather pitch on mcauley pk and are seeking support of all local groups and individuals for their proposal.. Both Clubs are more than happy to support any other proposals that also improves recreational facilities for young and not so young in Artane .*

Visual Impact of the Surround fence of the all weather pitch. *Response: Both Clubs have asked and will ask Dublin City Council parks department again to plant suitable trees etc at relevant locations to reduce the overall visual impact of the fence etc on park users and indeed neighbouring residents.*

Both Clubs believe this mail addresses the majority of concerns raised at the Open Day and are happy to clarify any further queries received.

Yours in Sport

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