



MINUTES OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 18 JULY 2022

1 Minutes of the NCAC Meeting dated 20th June, 2022.

Order: Agreed.

Matters arising: The members commended Cllr. Patricia Roe for her sterling work as NCAC chairperson over the past year.

Councillors collectively agreed that they were very unhappy with the response from Dublin City Council in relation to the provision of public toilets. Cllr. Stocker stated that the model adopted by the council has failed & no alternative has been proposed. The provision of public toilets in a variety of locations across the North Central Area should not have been taken in the context of covid provision only. Stand-alone toilets are and have been required in the area for many years pre-covid. This is now a city wide issue, not simply an issue for Clontarf promenade. Cllr. MacDonncha called for the NCAC to evoke the “cross party initiative” at city council, to reverse the policy of not providing public toilets in the city which appears to have been adopted by Dublin City Council. This was seconded by Cllrs. O’Muirí & Heney. Cllr. Stocker stated that she will work with councillors on the NCAC to submit a motion to the city council, to have the issue examined at that level.

Director of Services Derek Kelly acknowledged that this is a city wide issue. It is not something that can be dealt with by the North Central Area in isolation & he welcomed Cllr. Stocker’s suggestion of posing a motion to the full city council. He stated that there are very valid operational reasons for not opting for stand-alone models in the NCA. Considerable operational challenges would have to be overcome to provide stand-alone models (maintenance, security, ESB/waste water connection provision), however, area management will certainly keep this issue under review locally and are happy to examine various models to potentially find a solution.

On foot of concerns raised by Cllr. Cooney, Cllr. Roe requested that the specific question of toilet provision for Clontarf Promenade & Fairview Park, be kept on the agenda under matters arising for the September meeting and that local area management will make a statement on the matter at that juncture.

2 **Questions to the Area Manager - 18th July, 2022**

Order: Noted.

3 **Election of new chair/vice chair for the NCAC**

Order: Councillor Alison Gilliland was elected as the new NCAC chairperson (proposed by Councillor Heney & seconded by Councillor Catherine Stocker), with Councillor Deirdre Heney as vice chair (proposed by Councillor Gilliland & seconded by Councillor Daryl Barron).

4 **Area Matters**

a **Sports & Well-being Partnership Report**

Order: Noted. Cllr. Lyons thanked the Sports & Wellbeing partnership for the detailed report & is very happy with the new layout & additional information provided. He commended the ongoing work of the partnership. Cllr. O'Muirí was appreciative of the council's support for the forthcoming Griffith Avenue mile on Sunday 18th September, at 3 pm & encouraged all members to participate. Cllr. Cooney welcomed the linking in of the partnership with national & European initiatives & their work with women in sport. Cllr. Gilliland queried the timeline on the appointment of a replacement officer for Dan Russell. Aideen O'Connor stated that Donncha O 'Dúlaing is working on advertising a number of sports posts vacancies together in September/October of this year.

b **Extinguishments- Oscar Traynor Road**

Order Agreed: Refer to City Council. Derek Farrell to check can the present right of way be left as is until works commence and also ascertain the status of the works on the new right of way.

c **Disposals- Proposed disposal of a plot of land to the rear of 5 Marino Green, Marino Dublin 3.**

Order: Agreed. Recommend to City Council.

d **Licences - proposed grant of a Licence to Dublin City Farm and Ecology Centre Ltd to manage and operate St. Anne's City Farm, at lands adjoining St. Anne's Walled Garden, St. Anne's Park, Raheny, Dublin 5.**

Order: Agreed. Recommend to City Council. Cllr. Heney commended Les Moore and parks staff in relation to the assistance provided by parks to the city farm. She also officially lauded the managers of the farm and thanked them for all the work they do in fostering respect & care for animals throughout all facets of the community.

e **Part 8 - PPP Swords Road/Collins Avenue**

Order: Noted. Refer to City Council. Cllr. Roe requested that when this progresses, that the public be informed in advance of the loss of the park and ride facility, so that people who may have previously parked there to attend matches in Croke Park for example, are aware that it is no longer available. Gareth Rowan will bring this feedback back to the Planning Department.

f **North Central Area Managers' Report**

Order: Noted. Cllr. Lyons/Gilliland requested that a report be circulated to the members prior to the September NCAC on follow on actions by Waste Management in relation to the 20 tonnes of illegally dumped waste

removed from the Newtown/Malahide Road Industrial Estate. The report to include full details of the illegal dumping, any preventative measures (CCTV etc.) put in place to ensure this doesn't happen again and any fines issued or prosecutions pending. Derek Farrell stated that he will relay this request to Waste Management, however, there are issues here in retaining a turning circle for the businesses and dumping here is an ongoing issue. Cllr. O'Toole thanked Derek Farrell for the quick response in removing dumping from Darndale Park.

Cllr. Lyons also commended the community team, Martina McHugh & Sheila Duffy for their reports and great work in the area & the ongoing work of Dympna McCann with the IOG.

Cllr. Cooney welcomed the work that Bernie Roe & Sheila Duffy have done on progressing the installation of the donated sensory garden for the CRC. However, in relation to the provision of new planters, she is concerned that the social enterprise element of supporting PACE will be lost, if we procure planters elsewhere and is keen to retain the services of PACE in this regard. Derek Farrell stated that we will be procuring planters from a variety of suppliers and there isn't a policy formalised as yet. Cllr. Gilliland requested clarification on whether or not the social enterprise element is considered as part of the procurement process.

Both Cllrs. Cooney & Heney thanked Ms. Joanne O'Sullivan for her work in progressing the installation of the new style triple capacity recycling bins on the promenade which Cllr. Heney had requested under the NCA Discretionary Fund. Cllr. Heney also commended the work of Sheila Duffy and noted the "team spirit" evident in all of the staff of the North Central Area Office. She also thanked the Parks Department & all NCA staff involved with the tremendous success that was the St. Anne's Rose Festival. Cllr. O'Toole echoed this and thanked the Irish Office for their very positive promotion of the Irish language throughout the festival. Cllr. Gilliland requested that Fergus O'Carroll send an email to all his team, thanking them on behalf of the North Central Area Committee, for this wonderful event.

Cllr. MacDonncha commended NCA staff on the swift response to the issue of illegal dumping at Kilbarrack Dart Station that he raised at the last meeting. He requested that the new design submitted for the Killester Memorial Garden be circulated to the members.

Cllr. O'Muirí raised the issue of grass verges once again as they continue to be problematic for the area and requested a realistic update on same. Cllr. Gilliland stated that we need to prioritise main roads in relation to the verges. Fergus O'Carroll stated that this is an ongoing mapping exercise and if councillors have any specific areas in mind, to email them to parks@dublincity.ie and they will be relayed to the contractors.

Cllr. Gilliland also asked for the policy on the locating of big belly bins in the area. Richard Cleary stated that these are placed mainly along areas of large footfall and main thoroughfares. Cllr. Cooney is keen that there is consultation with schools in relation to the placement of these bins, which can obscure young children crossing the road and therefore can be dangerous. Derek Farrell stated that if Cllr. Cooney can email him with the specific details of schools that may have had this issue, he will organise to have the offending bins moved.

Cllr. Lyons requested that the total number of voids in the area at any one time be included in the reports, so that we would have a better sense of how we are doing in this regard.

Cllr. Heney welcomed the work that is being done on St. Brigid's Court. Pat Smith confirmed that we are working on the refurbishment of all of the senior citizen complexes in his area and that we are still using PACE for wheelchair accessible picnic tables, for these complexes.

g **Area Housing Report**

Order: Noted.

5 **Roads & Traffic Matters**

a **Minutes of the TAG meeting held on 28th June, 2022**

Order: Noted. Cllr. Roe queried the outcome of the exercise carried out by Rhona White in relation to structure, streamlining and administration of TAG reports. Gerry McEntagart stated that Rhona is liaising with the consultant and will notify the members of the outcome in due course. Cllr. Gilliland raised a serious safety issue on Shanowen Park (Item 1 on the TAG report). She is concerned that an ambulance/fire tender can't get down this road & consequently she requested an audit be carried out by the CFO of DFB. She feels that it shouldn't be down to residents to sort this issue and is keen to get a resolution from TAG. Cllr. Roe echoed this sentiment. She said that there are several items that may pertain to the one stretch of road, but yet the report doesn't reflect this and it isn't evident where the issue stands. Gerry McEntagart to revert to both Councillors in this regard.

b **Gully Report for noting**

Order: Noted.

6 **Motions**

a **Motion in the name of Councillor Deirdre Heney**

That this Area Committee agrees that the Area Manager once and for all deals with the awful condition of the sandbags on the Clontarf seafront and say what measures can be taken to address the concerns of constituents who feel our area is being left in a dreadful state with filthy sandbags etc. lining our beautiful seafront and promenade and can the area manager make a detailed statement of how they intend to put matters right at this stage.

Reply:

In February 2002, Dublin City experienced an extreme tide event causing extensive flooding across the city including along the coast road in Clontarf. Sea levels in Dublin Bay are estimated to be rising at a much higher rate than current average climate-change predictions of mean Sea Level Rise. In January 2014 an extreme tide occurred which was c. 65mm higher than the 2002 event. It is estimated that 400 properties are at immediate risk of coastal flooding in Clontarf over a distance of c. 3km between the Alfie Byrne Road and the Bull Wall. Pending the implementation of permanent flood defences, temporary flood defences are required to protect these 400 properties. These temporary defences involve the deployment of large and small sand bags.

For various reasons, notice of coastal flooding can be as little as 24-48 hours giving the City Council very limited time to react. Coastal flooding warnings also affect the southern part of Dublin Bay (Merrion/Sandymount) and often impact the tidal sections of rivers requiring flood gates to be closed along the Dodder and Tolka Rivers and potentially along the Liffey Quays. In such circumstances, it would simply be impossible to deploy the temporary flood defences to Clontarf from storage on foot of a flood warning. They must be in place all year round so as to be immediately available to protect properties in the event of a coastal flood event.

Dublin City Council Drainage Maintenance are responsible for maintaining the sandbags at Clontarf. Typically weeds/vegetation in and around the large sand bags are cut back 4 times per year. Additionally the sand bags are continuously re-bagged every 1½ to 2 years as they naturally deteriorate over time. DCC DM carried out re-bagging of a proportion of the sand bags at the end of last year, and will resume re-bagging in the coming weeks. As part of this work DCC Drainage will inspect the various sand-bag locations to identify any additional measures that can be taken to improve the appearance of the area.

Contact: Robert McNally, Executive Engineer
Tel: 222 3646
Email: robert.mcnally@dublincity.ie

Order: Agreed. Cllr. Heney queried if there is a possibility of filling heavy duty recycled plastic bags with water? Could we revisit the idea of a temporary barrier in front of the businesses & households with the above to improve the appearance of the area?

Robert McNally stated that he is happy to consider any alternatives to replace the sandbags and would be pleased to meet with any of the members on site.

Cllr. O'Farrell & O'Muirí supported the motion also and would be pleased to meet on site.

Cllr. Cooney stated she is disappointed that the flood defences didn't happen in tandem with the installation of the cycleway. Could management please inform and update the public reps on the progress of the permanent flood defences.

Gerard O'Connell joined the meeting and confirmed that in relation to the Clontarf Flood Defences, his section are preparing contract documents to procure a consultant to progress the scheme to planning stage & which will go to the relevant departments (City Architects, Active Travel, Parks & Irish Water) for review over the next few weeks. A meeting will then be organised with the ward councillors, residents and businesses hopefully in mid-September. The Clontarf Ward councillors collectively look forward to this meeting. Cllr. Heney raised the issue of the sandbags with Gerard O'Connell as realistically, there won't be permanent flood defences implemented for at least two years. Gerard O'Connell stated that he would certainly look into alternatives in the short term.

b Motion in the name of Councillor Damian O'Farrell

That this Area Committee supports the proposed filtered permeability trial at Haverty Road and requests the trial begins as a matter of urgency please.

Reply:

A consultation letter has been sent to local residents and stakeholders, advising of the proposals and asking for feedback via our DCC Consultation Hub (visit <https://consultation.dublincity.ie/>). Consultation is open from 29th June to 13th July 2022. If the result is positive and a majority are in favour then it is anticipated that the proposed scheme can be implemented as soon as possible. The trial installation date has been provisionally set for Sunday 21st August 2022. However, this may be subject to change pending the outcome of the consultation feedback and the assessment and development of a technical design.

Contact: Andrew Geoghegan Neighbourhood Transport Engineer (North City)

Email: andrew.geoghegan@dublincity.ie

Order: Agreed. Cllr. O'Farrell stated that the residents are the main stakeholders and need to be treated accordingly & get priority from a consultative perspective. Cllr. O'Muirí seconded the motion. Cllr. Cooney requested that "joined up thinking" be applied to the design & delivery of neighbourhood transport schemes and active travel in general, to get the best outcome for residents. Cllr. Stocker supported the motion and echoed Cllr. Cooney's sentiments – she is keen not to push rat running to other parts of Marino as a consequence. Cllr. O'Farrell stated that a previous motion agreed that DCC would be proactive in ensuring that there is no rat running at all as a consequence of the C2CC.

c Motion in the name of Councillor Damian O'Farrell

That this Area Committee agrees to request an early autumn debriefing and forward planning meeting in respect of concerts held in St Anne's Park & Fairview Park please. While the area committee supports the benefits of the concerts in principle, there is some work to do going forward as regards the communication and planning aspects, as well as timing of and number of concerts held.

Reply:

A meeting is scheduled with the promoters later this week where all such aspects of the concerts will be discussed.

Contact: Fergus O'Carroll, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent

Tel: 222 6625

Email: parks@dublincity.ie

Order: Agreed. Cllr. O'Farrell stated that there was a complete lack of notice given to members and residents in advance of these concerts. He said that the leaving certificate was taking place during these concerts causing huge disruption to local students. He is keen that the scheduling

of concerts will be more considered in future, ensuring that they do not happen in tandem with the state exams. He would like to meet with Parks in this regard. Cllr. Cooney requested that Parks reconsider the early closing of certain access routes, to facilitate people travelling from the Dart station at peak commuter time. Cllr. Muiri would like two separate formal reports (one for Fairview Park and the other for St. Anne's Park) back from Parks prior to the next meeting, in relation to what worked and what didn't work for this year's concerts in both venues. He would also like a clear commitment from Parks that officials will sit down with the members before the end of this year and agree the schedule for next year's concerts at both of these venues. Cllr. Heney stated that communication is key and supported the motion. Fergus O'Carroll stated that he will be happy to facilitate the above.

d Motion in the name of Councillor Naoise O'Muirí

That this Area Committee asks that Dublin City Council request and promote more active enforcement of the "no left turn" ban on HGVs turning from Swords Road onto Collins Avenue, to include more targeted messaging on the existing VMS there.

Reply:

Collins Avenue is covered by the 3.5 tonne ban for vehicles entering from Swords Road. It should be noted that this weight limit does not apply to vehicles accessing the road to make a delivery.

Dublin City Council do not have the authority to carry out checks on HGV's travelling through restricted areas; enforcement lies within the remit of An Garda Síochána.

However, the location will be examined by the Area Engineer to determine if additional signage can be provided.

The Transport Advisory Group will also raise the Councillor's concerns with An Garda Síochána at the next monthly TAG Meeting

Contact: Gerry McEntagart - North City Executive Engineer
Email: gerald.mcentagart@dublincity.ie

Order: Agreed. Cllr. O'Muirí stated he would be pleased if TAG could follow up on the signage. Cllr. Stocker seconded the motion. Catalin Rosca said he would follow up on this and revert back to the members.

e Motion in the name of Councillor Donna Cooney

That this Area Committee agree that Seaview Avenue, Clontarf, has been neglected for years, despite my previous questions and motion/requests, no trees replaced, no planters, no proper signage, only a temporary sign falling apart and a sign for stiles road with an arrow pointing and large potholes only temporarily fixed, that have sunk again and are a hazard for cyclists and that this busy Avenue off Clontarf road is given the care and attention it deserves.

Reply:

The Environmental Liaison Officer will carry out an audit of signage on

Seaview Avenue & Stiles Road and will send a request list to Road Maintenance for painting or replacement as necessary.

The planter request list is currently on hold as we are hoping to change over to 100% recycled plastic planters going forward. This area will be put on the planter request list but I would be grateful if Councillor could pass on contact details of resident to discuss & meet onsite.

Contact: Joanne O'Sullivan, Staff Officer (Act. Environmental Liaison Officer)
Phone: 222 8843
Email: joanne.osullivan@dublincity.ie

It appears that there is one empty pit on this road which will be inspected for suitability for possible inclusion in next winter's tree planting programme.

Contact: Fergus O'Carroll, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent
Tel: 222 6625
Email: parks@dublincity.ie

The footpaths and carriageway on **(details supplied)** are not part of the works programme in 2022.

The Area Engineer will note this location and consider its inclusion in the 2023 works programme or if additional funding becomes available this year.

Contact: Derek Horan, Executive Engineer.
Tel: 222 3898.
Email: derek.horan@dublincity.ie

Order: Agreed

7 **AOB**

ClIr Gilliland reminded the members to email items for future meetings to fiona.moore@dublincity.ie by Friday 22nd July.

Councillor Alison Gilliland
Chairperson
Monday 18 July 2022

Attendance:

Members:
Patricia Roe (Chairperson)
Dearbháil Butler

Members:
Daryl Barron

Members:
Donna Cooney

Catherine Stocker
Deirdre Heney
Micheál MacDonncha
Larry O'Toole

Terence Flanagan
Jane Horgan-Jones
Naoise Ó Muirí
Declan Flanagan

Racheal Batten
John Lyons
Damian O'Farrell
Alison Gilliland

Officers

Patrick P Smith
Deirdre Murphy
Derek Kelly

Fergus O'Carroll
Derek Farrell

Richard Cleary
Fiona Moore

Apologies:

Non-Members: