

Date: 10th October, 2022

To: **The chairperson and members of
North Central Area Committee**

Report to North Central Area Committee

Richmond Road – Residential Parking Scheme Ballot

Introduction

The proposed residential parking scheme for Richmond Road which covers the area from the junction with Drumcondra Road Upper and Grace Park Road, encompassing property Nos. 1 -77, has been ready for ballot since October 2021. It was envisaged at this stage, that given the position of the scheme in the ballot queue, that the ballot would have been conducted in Q1 2022, around February or March. Unfortunately, factors outside the control of the Parking Enforcement Division prevented the ballot commencing as planned. These are outlined below.

New Ballot Process

During October 2021 the Parking Enforcement Division were preparing a report to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee where a new ballot process was proposed. At that time the Register of Electors (ROE) was used to conduct the ballots and only those on the electoral register were issued with ballot papers. Under the proposal at this time the Parking Enforcement Division proposed that while the ROE would still be used, all residents of the road or street would receive a ballot paper whether on the ROE or not.

The members of the SPC did not agree this at the meeting. At the next SPC meeting the Parking Enforcement Division proposed that well in advance of the ballot being conducted all residents would be informed that the only way they could partake in the Ballot was to be included on the ROE and they would be informed of how to join the ROE. This was agreed at the meeting and the report sent to the next Full Council Meeting.

At this time the Law Department in Dublin City Council had also asked for the Parking Enforcement Division to pause the conducting of Ballots until they had time to consider the process being used and possibly make recommendations around same.

While we were waiting for the Law Department to conduct its review, the Parking Enforcement Division did not conduct any ballots but continued with some preparation work on schemes.

GDPR

In late January 2022 the Franchise Department, which is the section responsible for administering the ROE, raised concerns about the use of the ROE for the purpose of

conducting residential Parking scheme ballots. The outcome of this was that due to GDPR they would no longer be in a position to issue an updated ROE to Parking Enforcement. The Law Department were contacted for advice on this and they agreed with the decision of the Franchise Department.

Further Proposal

As we were no longer in a position to use the ROE, the Parking Enforcement Division had to make further ballot process proposals to the Transportation SPC. After consultation with DLR Co.Co. on their methods, it was proposed to the SPC that the Parking Enforcement Division would use a “One House One Vote” policy where each house on the road or street would receive one ballot paper only. This removes the need to pro rata returned votes and also gives each house the opportunity to vote on the scheme, also offering more transparency. By the time this went through the SPC, Full Council and the Law Department agreed the proposal, it was June 2022.

Recommencing Ballots

The Parking Enforcement Division has recommenced ballots as of July 2022. Historically, no ballots are conducted over the month of August. Parking Enforcement have been working through the ballot list since September and it is proposed to commence the Richmond Road Ballot in November 2022. As this ballot period will extend into the Christmas period, the ballot will remain open until the first week of January 2023. Once closed, the ballot will be counted and the normal admin process post ballot will be commenced, based on the result of the ballot.

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