

Date: 12th October, 2022

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

RICHMOND ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

Bernie Roe, October 2022

Background and Context

Following a review of all files and available correspondence relating to the Richmond Road project, it appears that the issue was initially raised around 2017 but nothing of note happened until concerns resurfaced again in 2019. At this time the North Central Area Office received representations from both Public Representatives and the Richmond Road & Grace Park Avenue Residents Association, who collectively wanted to address issues relating to illegal/dangerous parking and speeding at the western end of Richmond Road.

Since April 2019, a number of meetings and site visits have taken place between the key stakeholders to explore potential solutions and unpack any practical proposals that could resolve the issues initially raised. Many reports have been produced and ongoing reviews of proposals have been conducted both internally within Dublin City Council technical departments and through the Richmond Road & Grace Park Avenue Residents Association who have completed their own assessments of the draft schemes and reports put forward by the Council.

A snapshot of this engagement from 2019 – 2021 is as follows;

12/04/2019

A workshop was held to discuss issues relating to Richmond Road. Participants included Local Councillors, North Central Area staff, and Dublin City Council representatives from Planning, Roads and Traffic, Engineering and Transportation.

July 2019

Area Committee - Richmond Road issue raised and options discussed.

September 2019

Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) carried out traffic surveys on Richmond Road.

06/11/2019

Richmond Road Options Report is produced by Eoin Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transport Advisory Group. This report was circulated to all Public Representatives and the Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association.

17/11/2019

Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident's Association submit their written response to the Richmond Road Options Report to Dublin City Council.

18/11/2019

Meeting facilitated with local Councillors to discuss the Richmond Road Options Report.

06/12/2019

Response from Transport Advisory Group, Dublin City Council to Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association written submission.

11/02/2020

Internal Dublin City Council meeting - Staff from the North Central Area and Traffic and Parking Enforcement meet to progress project and an agreement is made to proceed with a door to door survey.

10/03/2020

A door to door survey is conducted on houses numbering 1 - 79 (40 houses in total).

20/07/2020

Area Committee - Survey Report 8/07/2020 was presented. This covered responses received from the houses initially visited (numbering 1 – 79). A proposal was put forward by Eoin Corrigan Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic Advisory Group to install double yellow lines from 45 - 57 and the placement of some bollards.

01/09/2020

Due to Covid restrictions, the second part of the door to door survey was not conducted until September 2020. Houses numbering 8 – 52 and 68 were targeted (24 houses in total).

21/09/2020

Area Committee - Survey Report 3/09/2020 was presented (this replaced initial Survey Report of 08/07/2020). The survey report was made available to the public via the Dublin City Council website and was also circulated to approximately 40 households on the western end of Richmond Road.

16/10/2020

Response received from Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association regarding the updated survey Report 03/09/20.

30/10/2020

Site Visit with Dublin City Council Staff and representatives of Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association. Participants included; Director of Services North City Coilin O'Reilly, Eoin Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Elaine Mulvenny, Local Area Manager and Deirdre Murphy, Administrative Officer, North Central Area Office.

01/11/2020

Minutes of site visit received from Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association.

19/04/2021

Area Committee - Progress Report 08/04/2021 presented by Elaine Mulvenny, Local Area Manager.

Draft of the proposed pay & display & permit parking scheme presented by Eoin Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic Advisory Group.

30/04/2021

Response from Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association to the Dublin City Council documents presented at Area Committee April 19th 2021 (Progress Report and Draft Scheme).

Current Process Underway; July 2021 – Present

Through the process of engagement outlined above and taking all of the feedback and reports into consideration it appears that the only viable option is the removal of some on-street parking with the introduction of a permit, pay and display parking scheme. This proposal is 'cautiously welcomed' by the Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association.

Since July 2021 there have been a number of key meetings facilitated both with residents and with internal departments in an effort to get the remaining three key issues addressed and actions underway.

1. To develop a long term safe and sustainable traffic management solution for the western end of Richmond Road.
2. Acquisition of the Square located at 15 - 17 Richmond Road.
3. Public Realm Improvements to enhance the area.

1. Safe and Sustainable Traffic Management Solution

In order to achieve safe traffic flow and at the same time provide on street parking for local residents, it has been agreed that the best option moving forward is to remove some car parking spaces and install double yellow lines in conjunction with a pay and display and a parking permit scheme. The following list captures actions undertaken to achieve this objective.

28/07/2021

The new Local Area Manager Bernie Roe, met on site with representatives from the Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Residents Association to get a briefing on the key issues of concern in relation to Richmond Road.

28/09/2021

Following ongoing communication with the Residents Association (phone and written correspondence) it was agreed that an in person meeting should take place between residents and Dublin City Council to further unpack concerns. This was scheduled to take place on the 6th of October in Civic Offices, Bunnary Road.

05/10/2021

Internal Dublin City Council meeting held between Local Area Manager Bernie Roe, Administrative Officer Deirdre Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer Eoin Corrigan and Catalin Rosca Traffic Advisory Group, to discuss progressing the plan for traffic calming measures and the detailed design for permit/pay and display parking for Richmond Road.

06/10/2021

A 'Taking Stock' exercise (in person) was facilitated by the Local Area Manager and Administrative Officer from the North Central Area office with residents and representatives from Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident's Association. Updates were given regarding the negotiations relating to the square, and all matters related to traffic management concerns, parking issues and public domain were discussed at length.

After an in-depth discussion it was agreed that the Residents Association would seek to acquire signatures of 33% of residents who are in favour of a 'detailed design' being carried out for a pay and display and a parking permit scheme. On receipt of

these signatures, the Traffic Advisory Group would prioritise doing a detailed design. Once the detailed design is approved it will go to a 'plebiscite' where 51% of resident agreement is needed for the scheme to be installed.

In addition to the traffic related concerns raised at the meeting, residents expressed that they would like to see improvements to the public realm and in particular to Clonturk Park. A site visit was set up for the following week with residents to explore options and ascertain what works needed to be carried out. The Area Manger facilitated this meeting on site with the residents and the Parks Department and agreed to lead out and fund a Parks Enhancement Project (see section three of this report).

15/10/2021

The Local Area Office received the submission of required signatures to advance detailed design and additional feedback from Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident's Association. All documentation was forwarded to Eoin Corrigan and Catalin Rosca, Traffic Advisory Group.

15/11/2021

North Central Area Committee; Eoin Corrigan stated that the detailed design is complete and has been referred to Dermot Stevenson, Parking Enforcement. At the same meeting Dermot Stevenson advised that schemes are dealt with in rotation and there are three other schemes ahead of the Richmond Road one.

22/11/2021

Meeting held between Local Area Manager Bernie Roe, Administrative Officer Deirdre Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer Eoin Corrigan, Catalin Rosca Traffic Advisory Group and a representative from Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident's Association. The discussion focused on specific elements of the detailed design, permit/pay and display parking. Residents requested a copy of the detailed design highlighting the position of the bollards on the southern footpath outside the Dublin City Council senior Citizens complex. It was felt that this would be helpful for when the scheme goes to ballot and may help getting the vote over the line.

13/01/2022

The Area Office contacted Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident's Association advising them that Rhona White Senior Executive Engineer had replaced Eoin Corrigan in TAG and a briefing meeting was set up for the 19.01.2022. As requested a copy of the detailed design indicating the position of bollards had been sent to Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident's Association.

19/01/2022

Meeting held between Administrative Officer Deirdre Murphy, Catalin Rosca and Rhona White Senior Executive Engineer Traffic Advisory Group. Rhona is aware of the work completed to date by TAG and is eager to progress this project in conjunction with the area Office.

07/03/2022

Update sent to Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident's Association regarding the status of the parking scheme. It is listed for discussion at the March Traffic Advisory Group meeting and the North Central Area Committee meeting 11/04/22 and the ballot should issue shortly after this.

24/03/2022

Traffic Advisory Group meeting –Formal recommendation made to proceed with the scheme ‘subject to ballot’

24/05/2022

Dermot Stevenson Parking Enforcement Officer, advised that a GDPR issue has emerged in relation to carrying out the plebiscite ballot procedure. A new ballot procedure will need to be put in place and approved by the elected representatives. This new procedure will go to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee on 8th June 2022 and if agreed will progress to the City Council in July. The current policy of parking enforcement is to not run ballots in August as many people are away and may miss the ballot deadline, therefore it will be September at the earliest before the ballot for Richmond road will go ahead.

28/06/2022

E .mail and photos received from a representative of Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident’s Association of the parking and traffic chaos which arose on Richmond Road on match day Sunday 26h June, 2022. This resulted in some residents being blocked in their own homes for over three hours. A request was made for any support the local office could offer to prevent this reoccurring.

30/06/2022

Deirdre Murphy from the area office met on site with representatives from Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident’s Association and completed a walkabout of the area. Arising from this site visit the following requests were received from the representatives of the Resident’s Association:

1. Planters to be installed in a number of spots identified by the Association as being where the worst offences occur.

Three planters were installed the week commencing 04/07/2022 with six more put in place as orders were delivered (some of the planters had to be custom made to fulfil certain criteria).

2. Could the proposed 165 mm of double yellow lines on the southern side of the road as outlined in the detailed design for the pay and display/permit parking scheme be implemented in the short term (in advance of the plebiscite procedure) which is taking a considerable amount of time.

Rhona White, Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic Advisory Group agreed to this request and it is anticipated that these road markings will be carried out by the end of October.

2. Acquisition of the Square - 15 – 17 Richmond Road

During the door to door surveys and through discussions with residents and the Richmond Road and Grace Park Avenue Resident’s Association it became clear that many wanted to see this square cleaned up and resurfaced, with improved lighting and clearly marked parking spots that could provide additional car parking spaces.

This piece of land is currently not in Dublin City Council ownership but the North Central Area Office have been examining the feasibility of acquiring this piece of

ground. As part of this process we undertook to establish the ownership of the square at 15 – 17 Richmond Road and in August 2021 we engaged the services of Byrne Wallace Solicitors to carry out due diligence to ascertain title/ownership of the square.

18/10/2021

Solicitors confirmed title is with AIB and this could potentially be transferred subject to AIB making some clarifications on their side. Since October 2021 there has been ongoing communication and engagement between the Dublin City Council Valuer, the North Central Area Office and AIB to progress this piece of work.

24/11/2021

Our contact in AIB confirmed that he was forwarding his opinion of value in relation to the site (which would then form the basis of a paper) for approval. There is an internal process that needs to be followed in order to transfer the land and he advised that these things can take some considerable time.

24/01/2022

Correspondence received from our contact in AIB confirming that their own valuation office has yet to get the report back but that he is actively chasing it.

22/02/2022

AIB contact confirmed that he had received the valuation of the site and would be making a recommendation to his Senior Management Team at their meeting due to be held on 24.03.2022.

05/04/2022

Dublin City Council valuation office have requested an update from AIB and are still awaiting same.

Further requests in May, June, August and September were sent by DCC valuation office requesting an update from AIB. Still awaiting a decision from their Senior Management.

3. Public Realm/Clonturk Park Improvements

In addition to the traffic related concerns raised at the meeting in October 2021, residents expressed that they would like to see improvements to the public realm and in particular to Clonturk Park. Following a site visit a week later with residents the Local Area Manager committed to lead out and fund a Parks Enhancement Project covering the following works;

- The overgrowth of weeds and bushes throughout the park were to be dealt with as a matter of priority with particular attention to be paid to the entrance at Clonturk estate. It was raised by residents that the overgrowth was bad enough to impact on the children navigating their way to school. This issue was addressed within days of the site visit.
- The installation of a path/walkway from the park entrance at Gracepark Road and running through the trees, ending at the far gate that enters into the Clonturk estate. This was a substantial piece of work involving the levelling out and realignment at the existing entrance to ensure ease of access for all (including buggies/wheelchairs etc.). This was done as a priority and completed by a

contractor within weeks (November 2021) Feedback to date has been hugely positive on this initiative.

- The removal of the wall on Richmond Road (beside the clubhouse). Residents were concerned that this was the scene of some dumping and anti-social activity. The wall was demolished and railings erected in its place to offer passive surveillance. This complimented the existing railings that were already in place around the perimeter of the park and improved considerably the look of the park. We also installed some security lighting at the clubhouse as requested.
- The broken gates were removed and in advance of having them repositioned a contractor was appointed to make secure the weakened columns on which they would be hung. This was an issue that was raised when the works on the pathway were being completed.
- In April 2022 a follow up site meeting was facilitated by the Area office with the Parks Department and local residents. At this session the Parks department agreed to plant ivy on the boundary walls of the park and to plant trees and spring bulbs at the end of the year. The trees are to go on the left hand side of the new path to balance out the ones on the opposite side. The spring bulbs will be planted at all entrances of the park and the Parks Department have also committed to planting spring bulbs on the right hand side of the new path. All will be planted later this year (November 2022 – January 2023).
- There was a request from residents that we would lay concrete at the football club (inside the gate from Richmond Road into the park) that would join up with the footpath accessing the football club. This has been completed (Sept 2022) and we are awaiting the arrival of bike stands that will be installed on this area in mid-October.
- The Public Domain team have been actively engaging with residents groups and have ensured that the hanging baskets along the shops that run from Tesco to insomnia and on the bridge were filled with summer bedding rolled. In addition all planter boxes were re stocked and repainted as required.

Bernie Roe

Local Area Manager