



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to Housing SPC

Date: Wednesday 13th October 2021

Item No. 5i

Dublin City Council Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

Date: Friday 10th September 2021 / Meeting via Teleconferencing (ZOOM)

Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jack Keyes – Chairperson
 Mr. Pat Teehan – A\Senior Executive Officer
 Cllr. Sophie Nicoullaud
 Mr. Shay L’Estrange – BTAP
 Ms. Anne Helferty – Chief Welfare Officer
 Cllr. Anthony Connaghan
 Ms. Winnie McDonagh – TravAct
 Ms. Collette Spears – CDTG Community Worker

Apologies:

Ms Mary Hayes – Executive Manager
 Cllr. John Lyons
 Ms. Angela O’Neill - FTDG
 Cllr. Hazel De Nortúin
 Ms. Mary McCann – Avila Representative
 Ms. Brigid McDonagh – Cara Representative
 Margaret Wall - Ballyfermot Representative
 Ms. Mary Berry - Labre Park Representative
 Ms. Winnie McDonnell – PHC St Margaret’s
 Ms. Sally Flynn - Labre Park Representative
 Lord Mayor Cllr Alison Gilliland
 Cllr. Janet Horner

Minute Taker: Ms. Denise Doyle– Housing Advisor, TAU

	Welcome	Jack Keyes, Chairperson.
1.	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Request to note on Minutes that today is World Suicide Prevention Day. Particularly relevant to the Traveller Community given the number of suicides each year and also due to the fact that some can be directly related to Housing issues. ➤ Minutes silence observed in memory of Cllr Anthony Flynn, RIP.
2.	Issues arising from last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Query – In relation to attendance –Should meeting go ahead without full quota? ➤ Reply – P.T – we do not have a quota in relation to Traveller Reps and Voluntary Traveller Reps. Figures are askew with regards to Statutory Reps versus Traveller Reps. DCC have agreed at previous meetings to provide a small subsidy to allow Voluntary Traveller Reps to attend. ➤ Chair – Noted it is up to the Committee if meeting goes ahead – no decision can be made without full quorum but important issues should be discussed. ➤ Agreed by all ➤ Also noted that some Traveller Reps would like to attend but are struggling to use apps like Zoom – could more training be provided by DCC staff and/or Travact? ➤ DCC offers to assist if necessary.

3.	Correspondence – (Ministers reply to Lord Mayor’s letter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Query - Any comments on the reply received? Should the Lord Mayor respond in any particular way? ➤ Reply – General feeling that Ministers response was disappointing and very vague.
4.	Manager’s TAP report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Query – Any plans to do anything with St Olivers and Bridgeview? Some houses have been upgraded already, will any more be done? ➤ Reply – P.T – Retrofitting of existing houses has not started anywhere yet. Cara will be started first. Full Framework has just been completed and will issue in 2wks. Works due to be completed this year. Full retrofit of all sites expected to be completed by end of 2022. ➤ Query – Is it possible to give dates of when projects will be happening? Are there dates for new TAP? ➤ Reply – P.T – Cannot give dates for projects due to the level of background work required. No dates can be discussed until Planning permission has been granted. Once Planning permission is received we would look to start asap with design stage. Tender stage takes 3-4mths to complete. Once we have agreed the Tender and have approval from the Dept we will have a better idea of dates. When a Contractor is appointed a Schedule of Works will be provided. ➤ Query – Year-end review – will there be a review completed and if so, when? ➤ Reply – P.T – External review should be conducted as was done previously. Will contact previous reviewer and begin process. ➤ Query – update requested on Bluebell site. A lot of contradictions in media reports – what is the current position with Irish Water? ➤ Letter which was issued to City Manager to request he be more involved with Traveller Accommodation – serious issues with dumping on sites which is causing disputes between families on site. Illegal burning also causing serious health problems on site. We need more involvement from Waste Management – we are still waiting on them to attend a meeting. Guards have been contacted on these issues but are refusing to get involved. ➤ Staff changes within TAU have also caused problems – are staff that have left being replaced? Housing Applications have gone missing due to staff changes – is the section being managed correctly? With P.T leaving will he be replaced and if so, when? ➤ Response from letter to City Manager stated that B.K would attend meeting. Why isn’t he here? LTACC are being fobbed off – we should have the Housing Manager in attendance. It is disappointing that that has not happened. Commitment to TAU is not being shown. It is an abuse of Human Rights that adequate housing is not available. Top tier of Management are not doing enough. ➤ Reply – P.T – RE Bluebell – we have been in contact with Irish Water & questions in article have been answered. We cannot go any further with this until Irish Water take the connection in charge as existing residents will not allow us to use it. We will review

it again when we get an agreement in place with Irish Water.

- Critical Vacancy Requests have gone to HR for replacement staff. Current embargo on recruitment is delaying things. It was confirmed yesterday that P.T will be staying as overall Manager of TAU but a new person will be coming in to manage the day-to-day administration of the section. P.T will be working closely with them to keep things going. Current staff are doing 3 or 4 other jobs and are doing their best to keep things going.
- B.K will be retiring on 15th October next, and was unable to attend today.
- With regards to illegal dumping – P.T will continue to work to get a solution setup.
- **Statement** – Motion could be sent forward for meeting with DCC, HSE, Waste Management and Gardai in relation to illegal dumping and the effects on site. Guards need to provide more support on these issues and to TAU. LTACC is barely standing and needs to push for more attendance and support to get issues resolved.
- **Statement** – It is not believed that LTACC is dysfunctional however, the amount of people on LTACC wearing ‘other hats’ is having an impact on attendance. We are missing the voice of actual Travellers living on sites. To get them to attend we need to make the LTACC more relevant. We are part of Housing SPC and only a small number of Cllrs asked questions and supported Travellers. We are now number 3 on the agenda with 4 sub-headings. Issues are getting looked at more closely on a rotated basis – every 2mths we are there and they get a copy of these meetings. LTACC needs to be made as good as it can be.
- **Statement** – it is felt that this LTACC is very functional. Reports are always given in advance which is very helpful. Reps need to do more to encourage attendance. Challenges with TAU staffing levels are an issue but TAU are doing well especially under current circumstances. It is felt that overall, DCC has responded very well to Traveller issues.
- **Statement** – Not enough progress is being made with regards to Housing. It is the main issue and we are failing to deliver. Travellers are being forced to move into settled communities and are losing their identities. City Manager needs to have more direct involvement to make progress. More housing needed in Coolock area – more land needed to build Traveller specific sites.
- **Query** - -Is embargo on recruitment just linked to TAU or is it throughout the whole of DCC?
- **Reply** – Recruitment embargo is across the board throughout DCC. Management need a really good argument to get staff. However, TAU is one of the only sections to operate a complete service throughout the pandemic. It is a critical service.
- **Chair** – LTACC to issue letter requesting positions to be filled within TAU. Lord Mayor could also make a request in support.
- **Statement** –New staff coming into the section need to be provided with Cultural Awareness Training. Site visit should also be arranged with all Cllrs in attendance to a culturally appropriate site.
- **Query** – Should a special meeting be held to review the IREC report?
- **Reply** – As attendance is an issue we should have the next LTACC at 11am to discuss IREC report if P.T is happy with that.

5.	Update on Caravan Loan Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ P.T - Presentation on Caravan Loan Scheme is not ready so brief update will be provided ➤ Report has already issued to LTACC members – this is a pilot scheme with €300,000 from Dept for each of the 4 Councils. Additional amount of €90,000 has been given to DCC. ➤ Some issues with previous purchases as to the quality of the caravans as they are secondhand. ➤ New Framework drawn up with amendments for potential Contractors. We need to know that we are getting good quality caravans. Caravans must have winter weather pack. ➤ This loan is only for secondhand caravans to a max of €30,000 – they won't last a lifetime. Not all of them will meet tenant's needs. ➤ We do not have set standards in this country. EU standards are similar to the British standard so that has been put in our spec. Fairly confident that once a reputable dealer is found we will get good quality caravans. ➤ Successful candidates will have contract for 2yrs with a possible extension if they provide the right quality. ➤ Statement – Irish caravans are not up to the same standard as the British ones. In Britain they have 2-3bed Chalets with top quality insulation, heating & boilers. Lifespan of 20-30yrs and you can get loans to purchase them. DCC needs to look at providing these for families instead of caravans. ➤ Statement - €30,000 is not enough to reach the British standard spec. ➤ Modular Housing to be looked at when standards and specifications are regularized. ➤ DCC can only work with the funding provided by the Dept. Provision of Chalets could be reviewed at the end of the pilot.
6.	Agenda items for next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ P.T may not be available for next meeting but his replacement will attend and their contact details will be sent out in advance to all members. P.T will also be in touch with Waste Management to arrange a meeting. ➤ P.T will be on leave for a month but normal service will be maintained within TAU during his absence. ➤ 12th November proposed as date for meeting with Waste Management. ➤ Request for letter to be sent to tenants RE dumping. P.T felt that letters have been issued before and had no effect. TAU staff are working on individual complaints – PEO and Operations Manager are dealing with those and evidence has been sent to Waste Management.
7.	A.O.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of attendance is causing frustrations. More should be done by existing members to encourage attendance. ➤ Request for Minutes to be less detailed. ➤ People have given mixed responses to the idea of video/live streaming of meeting. Needs to be given more thought before definite decision is made.

Next meeting agreed: **Friday 10th December 2021 @ 11.00am via ZOOM**