

For Issue

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)
Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 7th November 2022

Attendees: David Turner (Chair/interim Secretary), Joan MacArthur; Niall McElroy; PJ O’Gorman; Mark Wheeler; Karl Anderson; Jeremy Humphries

Apologies: Irene Duffy Lynch; Liam Handy; Kristin Hadfield; Margaret Brindley; Dr Patrick Smyth; Michael Duncan

Welcome and Agenda Overview – Chair

- **Key Activities/Events** – over the period
 - EPA Formal Complaint regarding the sewage discharges to Merrion beach
 - Facebook administration access achieved
 - Glass Bottle update

NEW TOPICS - DISCUSSION

“Sandymount Ideas” – Vision (Niall McElroy)

- The Grafton Architects proposal was overviewed, with inputs from absent committee members. It was agreed that it was an excellent piece of work with the following key points agreed :
- **It was agreed to proceed with the project and take the next steps**
 - Need full community engagement as part of the process, to be managed by SAMRA with Grafton Architects support, potentially an EGM to ensure clear focus and time available, given the significance
 - Meet with Councillors for lobbying, as per current plan
 - Get the funding process aligned before moving forward

BY SUB-COMMITTEE (Reports by Exception)

- **Planning &Development : NMcE**
 - **Planning Application** : There are no new in the area of interest to SAMRA
 - **Sandymount Ave apartments** – ABP meeting scheduled for 1st December **NMcE**
 - **Glass Bottle Site** : an update meeting was held with the developer 4th November. SAMRA will continue to monitor progress paying particular attention to the developers commitments on (1) Transportation Access and (2) Environment
 - **City Development Plan (CDP)** – final drafting between Councillors and the DCC Executive is in progress for adoption and publication by end of November
 - **Pedestrianisation** – following completion of the arrangement for 2022 (Easter-Halloween midnight Thursday/Sunday) – this will be a near-future agenda item
- **Transportation & Access :**
 - **Bus Stops** : Two have been inserted into the area to date at Sandymount Avenue and Seafort Avenue. These have been carried with little or no communication with Councillors and zero to residents and there are concerns about the very poor

For Issue

workmanship and quality of finish, leaving trip hazards for pedestrians. There is an ongoing action feeding these concerns into the SEAC meeting via Dermot Lacey **Action : JH**

- **Footpath parking** : Letters to all councillors have been sent. There have been no further replies **Action KH**
- **Water Works – Strand Road** :
 - Available updates from Irish Water to Councillor led questions have been communicated across SAMRA members as mailshots
 - Request made to Councillors from SAMRA for SEAC representation to consider data collection in the Tritonville Road area (pollution and traffic count) to allow analysis of diverted traffic flows, as planned during now suspended cycle routing deliberations
- **Membership : PJOG**
 - A meeting of the sub-committee has developed an approach for increasing the membership drive. A letter has been drafted and the approach going forward will be to engage primarily with a list of selected groups which is being compiled. The website updates will be crucial to facilitate this with easy access
 - It has been agreed that the Treasurer will take responsibility for the database and streamline the process of subscription collection to database update
 - Membership is slowly increasing currently standing at 206
 - Kristin Hadfield will take the lead on the Membership SC going forward
- **Flood Defence/Sewage Discharge : DT**
 - **Sewage Discharge to Merrion Beach** : The previously agreed action was completed and a formal complaint was submitted to EPA on 4/11. This was submitted personally on-line but as a SAMRA complaint. Details have been forwarded across the Committee.
 - The councillor recommended action to set up a meeting with OPW Patrick O'Donovan regarding expediting the Strand Rd enhanced flood defences project is in progress via dialogue with James Geoghegan
 -
- **Website/Facebook/Social Media – Karl**
 - Facebook
 - administration access to the original SAMRA Facebook page was achieved thanks to combined support work by Sarah Staunton, 121IT Services (Geraldine), Anne Baenziger
 - There are 949 followers against the original account. It's a clear opportunity now to leverage SAMRA activities across this relatively large following and as an opportunity to expand membership
 - New Administrators : DaveT, Karl Anderson and Anne Baenziger who has agreed to give specialist support as needed
 - A key action is for all available committee members to become sufficiently adept to enable posting **Action – to organise a training event**
 - Website
 - Administration access was extended to Karl
 - Forward updates to existing site **Action : Karl**
 - The agreed plan is to update the current website as a first step and then consider transfer to a new platform (e.g. Wix.com) **Action Karl/Jeremy**

For Issue

- **Community**
 - **Jack Torpay Award (DCC Sean Moore Awards Event)** : A prioritised listing of nominations was presented to the Committee for discussion. This had pre-networked with Tidy Towns and circulated to the Committee. Option 1 was selected. **Action DT - to communicate with Dermot Lacey for Trophy engraving and make arrangements for the individual to attend**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **An Garda Siochana AGM – Neighbourhood Watch** : Invitation to SAMRA and TT Committee representative to attend. (Niall to attend on behalf of SAMRA; Maxine from TT : [15th November at 19:30 in the Vavasour Suite in the Aviva Stadium, enter by gate A, Lansdowne Road](#))
- **An Garda Siochana – Youth Awards Nominations** – Closes 11th November. Proforma has been previously circulated across the committee and communicated as a mailshot across SAMRA members.

AOB

- Proposal from resident Peter Haran to provide a funding route to facilitate grant payments for the Wren Dance event. This was considered but due to governance complexities envisaged, this was not supported. **Action Response to communicate SAMRA's position : DT**

PROPOSED DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Monday 5th December

SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting			
1.	Pedestrianisation		Future Agenda Item
2.	Bus Stops – lack of Planning	JH	Representation into SEAC via Councillors
3.	Membership & Subscription alignment – to streamline the process	JH	
4.	Facebook organise a Committee Training session to enable ALL to post	KA	
5.	Website Update	KA/DT	To facilitate subscription, publicity, profiling
6.	Jack Torpay	DT	Communicate selection to DL
7.	Wren Dance facilitation	DT	Communicate committee position not to support the proposal
8.	Fun Day	DT	Future Agenda Item
Ongoing Actions			
9.	Membership Drive – News4 Ad	PJOG	
10.	Membership Drive – proposal to be emailed across Committee	PJOG	Way Forward - Meeting with local groups
11.	Pavement Parking Report	KH	Set up Meeting with DCC/Councillors
12.	Martello Tower	DT / IDL	Reinvigorate the conversation and maintain SAMRA connected interest
13.	Flood Defence progression - meeting with Patrick O'Donovan TD and Minister of State for the Office of Public Works	NMcE	
14.	Task Force - Further meetings with local TDs to be arranged.	DT	Consider meeting with IW

For Issue

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15.	Martello Tower	NMcE	An update on the contact between DCC and the owner is to be pursued.
16.	SAMRA - 12 Month Priorities	DT/ALL	Input and present back for confirmation
17.	Lorna Kelly Memorial Plaque/Bench – Village Green	MB	
18.	Groups to be approached as a more efficient way of gathering new members	Membership SC – PJ	
19.	Strategy Note	Strategy SC	
20.	Strategic meetings : Jim O’Callaghan	DT	
21.	Strategic meetings : Ivana Bacik	DT	
22.	Letter of thanks to Fun Day Donors	DT	
23.	Future YEATS Day Events	DT	Email to JL
24.	Membership SC – potential use of WhatsApp for greater connectivity	DT	Zoom meeting with David Kelly to glean his similar experience
25.	Website development	KA/JH/DT	To call meeting to set up plan forward
26.	Forward Calendar template set up	MB / ALL	
27.	Odour detectors – future agenda item	JH	
28.	Dublin Democratic Planning Alliance (DDPA) – a.Request for map of SAMRA physical boundaries required	LK	

For Issue

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29.	Flood Risk next steps to expedite DCC to initiate phase 1 construction and Phase 2 planning	SH	As per DCC position paper
30.	SAMRA Green Notice Board update	Tba	
31.	Establish Update SAMRA position paper to Pedestrianisation Report	Stephen Hurley	
32.	Beach erosion and sewage incident – forward plan required for public health hazard events	DT	
33.	Proposal as a future action to engage local schools for a new SAMRA LOGO Action supported but post AGM2022	tba	
34.	Post Meeting request – to send Committee Member photo (as required) for updating of website Committee details	ALL	
35.	Architectural Heritage	NMcE	Facilitation of Sandymount survey
36.	Cycle route	NMcE / DT	Write a position paper which addresses the Strand Road traffic whilst incorporating the Off-Road solution, combined with Flood Defence needs
37.	SAMRA Logo for use on letter heads – develop options around the Village green and circulate committee (8/12)	DT	Action transferred following EL departure from committee
38.	PA – YMCA sale application	NMcE/EL/LK	Establish status and consider SAMRA steps
39.	Secretarial Role candidates - Resource a Secretary for SAMRA	DT	Ongoing
40.	Communication & Media Needs of SAMRA (28/09)	DT/ALL	Agenda item

For Issue

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41.	Constitution Update (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
42.	Dublin Port Development Plan – reclaim land proposal by DP (08/12)	LK/EL	Circulation of a proposed letter to Committee
43.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.
44.	Engagement regarding Poolbeg Incinerator	TBC	No progress to report. Potential future actions: EPA meeting / review Notifiable Incidents report
Completed Actions (to be refreshed and deleted monthly)			
45.	Cycle route – Success/Failure Criteria	DT/Nmce	Pending High Court Decision
46.	Membership Data Gaps	JMcA/DT	
47.	Sandymount VDS Village Project Programme	DT/NMcE	To meet with DL and establish a way forwards
48.	DCC Dev Plan – biosphere protection	LK	Will request support if needed in drafting
49.	Pembroke Quarter – establish Sub-Committee	NMcE	
50.	DD Alliance – re-zoning list to be sought from Councillors	NMcE	
51.	Dublin Port 3FM : Media publication of SAMRA 31 st submission	DT/KA	
52.	Establish a Chair/Lead of Dublin Port 3FM sub-committee	DaveT	
53.	Response to DCC letter	SH/Flood Risk SC	Letter to DCC
54.	Glass Bottle Site - Point of Planning Legal clarification required	NMcE/LK	
55.	Footpath parking discussion – future agenda item	KH	
56.	Cycle Route announcement	DT/KA	Proposal made for single entity integration initiative across the 3 Strand scopes of work.

For Issue

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57.	Facebook account	DT	Awaiting contact with Anne Benzeiger
58.	Raw sewage spills to Merrion Beach ongoing and inadequacy of DCC action	SH / Sub Committee	Formal letter of complaint to EPA
59.	SAMRA/TT - responsibilities	DT/ALL	Input and present back for confirmation
60.	Pavement Parking	KH	Letters/representations to remaining 4 Councillors
61.	Christmas Carol – Sounds of the Sea	DT	To discuss with TT and put Ruth Dalton in contact
62.	Codling Bank Windfarm	DT/PJOG	Stakeholder Meeting to be set up
63.	The Living Street	NMcE	Concept to be overviewed with SAMRA Committee
64.	Glass Bottle Site	NMcE	Progress Meeting with Developer
65.	Pedestrianisation area – requested improvements	DT	Letter to be circulated to Main Committee CLOSED
66.	Village Plan – outline scope with Architects	NMcE	Awaiting response to enquiry
67.	“Pop-Up Gaeltacht” language speaking events - proposal	IDL	Advised that it will not be pursued
68.	FOI Requests	MB	In progress – awaiting responses
69.	Tom Clarke Bridge Grant	MW	Decision not to pursue
70.	Sandymount Apartments	NMcE	To prepare a SAMRA “Submission”