

Sandymount & Merrion Residents Association (SAMRA)
Minutes from Committee Meeting dated 13th March 2023

Attendees: David Turner (Chair/interim Secretary), Joan MacArthur; Kristin Hadfield; Karl Anderson; Margaret Brindley; Jeremy Humphries; Liam Handy

Apologies: Mark Wheeler; Niall McElroy; Irene Duffy Lynch; PJ O’Gorman;

Welcome and Agenda Overview – Chair

Progress – over the period

- SHIP Study (Sustainable & Holistic Management of Irish Ports) – research study by Queens Belfast on behalf of EPA and Marine Institute for the Irish Government – CONCLUDED after 3 years of work. SAMRA has provided inputs and also this piece of work has proved to be a good piece of intelligence on Dublin Port intentions and useful for building relationships.
- South Georgian Core Residents Association attendance at their AGM (DT)
- Website Development (JH/KA/KH/DT)
- Covanta Grant Application (NMcE)
- Pedestrianisation Discussions initiated (DT)
- Task Force (Strand) next steps clarified – leadership still to be determined (DT/NMcE)
- Media Article interview (Dublin Enquirer) - Plans for Sandymount Flood Defence (DT/NMcE)

DISCUSSION AREAS

- **AGM** –
 - review of Draft Action Plan, contributions collected and plan updated. Re-forward to ALL Action DT
 - Request for declaration with regards to 2023/4 Committee : **Action ALL by 14th April**
- **WEBSITE PROJECT** – WIXsite overviewed, a huge step forward for SAMRA and thanks to Jeremy and Karl
 - REMAINING STEPS
 - Document and link transfer from samra.ie continuing **KA/DT**
 - AGM Communications & advertising comms to reference SAMRA.ie **DT**
 - WIXsite verification steps to be completed to enable payment acceptance **JH**
 - WIXsite to be mapped to samra.ie **JH**
 - Linkage of WIXsite Subscription process direct to SAMRA Bank Account **JH**
 - Add Content by Sub-Committee area **KA/DT**
 - Social Media linkage - Facebook/Twitter/Instagram **KA**
 - BENEFITS
 - Elimination of need to use PayPal and associated costs
 - Elimination of need for separate Membership database (Excel) and 2 interfaces
 - Streamlining of Membership process by direct use of the WIXsite functionality
 - Website updates and maintenance now possible using SAMRA Committee capability
 - Annual cost reductions of IN EXCESS of €1k expected
- **SAMRA Call for Task Force -:** (SEAC Motion 5-James Geoghegan) – received ALL PARTY SUPPORT. The Terms of Reference are in the process of being drafted for the April SEAC with

diverse agency engagement (Active Travel Programme, the Transportation Planning Office and the Flood Projects Office). This evidences progress HOWEVER, (Ref SAMRA letter regarding independence of Task Force leader) – selection of Task Force leader is now the critical requirement. **Monitor Action DT**

- GRANTS –
 - Covanta submission closure date 30th May; NewsFour publicity 17th April. SAMRA Application is in progress **Action NMcE**
 - AVIVA submission closes 31st March, **Action M.Brindley/Mark Wheeler**
 - Committee recommendation : Village Green Notice Board rejuvenation; Graphic Design; Electronic option ??

BY SUB-COMMITTEE (Reports by Exception)

- **Planning & Development : NMcE**
 - **Planning Application** : There are no new areas of interest to SAMRA
 - **Village Plan** – Covanta Proforma creation **Action NMcE/Sub-Committee**
 - “Planning Objective Criteria” for SAMRA - Future meeting agenda item : **Action DT**
- **Membership : KH**
 - As one measure to address SAMRA’s Committee demographic mismatch it was agreed that we are going to target a Youth Member. A key opportunity lied ahead of the forthcoming AGM.
 - Membership Section to be added into the Tri-Fold **Action KH**
 - **Membership Fees Discussion** : a view is emerging that the current level of the Family Category is too high and may be inhibiting new members from joining. The Committee agreed to defer a full discussion to the next meeting. Any recommended changes need endorsement at the AGM. Current Fees structure : Family €40; Individual €30; OAP/Student €10. Request for Committee to consider this question for the April CM. **Action : ALL**
- **Transportation & Access :**
 - **Traffic data** – data is being collated by DCC and sample spreadsheet and short term analysis provided as reassurance.
 - **Cycle Route Court Hearing** - no new information
 - Line up work has been started (B Hanney/D Turner meeting)
- **Flood Defence/Sewage Discharge :** no update available
- **Pedestrianisation –**
 - Further to a request from SAMRA, it has been agreed DCC are to consult further with businesses and develop an evolved approach for 2023, building on previous experience and success, from both this Sandymount site and elsewhere in the city.
 - Pedestrianisation at the NE side of the Village Green took place over the last 2 years, following extensive consultation with residents and businesses by DCC. Whilst it was widely applauded by residents as a success and the majority of the original

challenges and concerns were resolved, it is clear that there is still more to do particularly in the area of short term parking and business access. SAMRA believes that with consultation and creativity, it should be possible to overcome these issues, so that it can be a “win-win” for all. Reference is made to the DCC / SAMRA meeting and letter of 4th June 2022, which outlined possible options. SAMRA supports the need for further consultation and will offer support to DCC in their efforts. **Action DT**

○ **Community**

- **Fun Day** : Following consultation within the Committee the conclusion reached was to suspend for 2023

- **Yeats Day** (13th June 11-12pm)
 - SAMRA will now take the overall accountability with Joe Lynch providing the lead on behalf of SAMRA working with Anthony Jordan and with support provided by DCC. **Action DT/Joseph Lynch**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AOB

- Reference to Correspondence : John O’Neill complaints to DCC regarding the state of the Strand Road facilities, echoing SAMRA previous concerns. Also, providing a proposal for Strand Road Baths. It was suggested to him that he may be interested in taking a Project Lead role, or co-option to the Committee. The topic deferred to a 1:1 initially with DaveT and as a potential agenda item in April. **ACTION DT**

- Proposed legislative change to Planning process, affecting rights of RAs to object : deferred to agenda item in April : **ACTION Irene Duffy Lynch / Joan McArthur**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:
Proposed Monday 3rd April 2023

SAMRA Actions Log

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
New Actions from Latest Committee Meeting			
1.	AGM – Plan of Actions	DT/ALL	To be implemented as per updated plan issued with minutes of 13 th March Committee Meeting
2.	Planning Criteria	NMcE	Discussion/Re-fresh required
3.	Village Plan – Covanta application	NMcE	To be issued to Committee
4.	Sewage Discharge to Merrion Beach	DT	Appropriate response to EPA/Irish Water, further to closed complaint process
5.	AVIVA – funding application	MW/MB	Closing date 31 st March
6.	Forward John O’Neill proposals	DT	Done and DT to meet on a 1:1 basis
7.	Yeats Day – confirm ownership with TT	DT	Decision reversed as per minutes of 13 th March. Ownership now lies with SAMRA for 2023 with lead on behalf of SAMRA to be with SAMRA member Joseph Lynch, who will liaise with Anthony Jordan
Ongoing Actions			
8.	Jack Torpay	DT	To request broad attendance a future events
9.	Facebook organise a Committee Training session to enable ALL to post	KA	
10.	Membership & Subscription alignment – to streamline the process	JH	
11.	Pedestrianisation		Future Agenda Item
12.	Bus Stops – lack of Planning	JH	Representation into SEAC via Councillors
13.	Membership Drive – News4 Ad	PJOG	

No.	Action	SAMRA Lead	Latest Status
14.	Membership Drive – proposal to be emailed across Committee	PJOG	Way Forward - Meeting with local groups
15.	Pavement Parking Report	KH	Set up Meeting with DCC/Councillors
16.	Martello Tower	DT / IDL	Reinvigorate the conversation and maintain SAMRA connected interest
17.	Task Force - Further meetings with local TDs to be arranged.	DT	Consider meeting with IW
18.	Martello Tower	NMcE	An update on the contact between DCC and the owner is to be pursued.
19.	SAMRA - 12 Month Priorities	DT/ALL	Input and present back for confirmation
20.	Lorna Kelly Memorial Plaque/Bench – Village Green	MB	
21.	Groups to be approached as a more efficient way of gathering new members	Membership SC – PJ	
22.	Strategy Note	Strategy SC	
23.	Strategic meetings : Jim O’Callaghan	DT	
24.	Strategic meetings : Ivana Bacik	DT	
25.	Letter of thanks to Fun Day Donors	DT	
26.	Future YEATS Day Events	DT	Email to JL
27.	Membership SC – potential use of WhatsApp for greater connectivity	DT	Zoom meeting with David Kelly to glean his similar experience
28.	Forward Calendar template set up	MB / ALL	
29.	Odour detectors – future agenda item	JH	

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30.	Dublin Democratic Planning Alliance (DDPA) – a.Request for map of SAMRA physical boundaries required	LK	
31.	Flood Risk next steps to expedite DCC to initiate phase 1 construction and Phase 2 planning	SH	As per DCC position paper
32.	SAMRA Green Notice Board update	Tba	
33.	Establish Update SAMRA position paper to Pedestrianisation Report	Stephen Hurley	
34.	Beach erosion and sewage incident – forward plan required for public health hazard events	DT	
35.	Proposal as a future action to engage local schools for a new SAMRA LOGO Action supported but post AGM2022	tba	
36.	Post Meeting request – to send Committee Member photo (as required) for updating of website Committee details	ALL	
37.	Architectural Heritage	NMcE	Facilitation of Sandymount survey
38.	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
39.	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

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40.	PA – YMCA sale application	NMcE/EL/LK	Establish status and consider SAMRA steps
41.	Secretarial Role candidates - Resource a Secretary for SAMRA	DT	Ongoing
42.	Communication & Media Needs of SAMRA (28/09)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
43.	Constitution Update (09/11)	DT/ALL	Agenda item
44.	Dublin Port Development Plan – reclaim land proposal by DP (08/12)	LK/EL	Circulation of a proposed letter to Committee
45.	Write to owner of Martello Tower requesting visit for SAMRA	DT / local councillors	Update provided by Dermot Lacey w/c 8 June.
46.	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)			
47.	Cycle route – Success/Failure Criteria	DT/NMcE	Pending High Court Decision
48.	Membership Data Gaps	JMcA/DT	
49.	Sandymount VDS Village Project Programme	DT/NMcE	To meet with DL and establish a way forwards
50.	DCC Dev Plan – biosphere protection	LK	Will request support if needed in drafting
51.	Pembroke Quarter – establish Sub-Committee	NMcE	
52.	DD Alliance – re-zoning list to be sought from Councillors	NMcE	
53.	Dublin Port 3FM : Media publication of SAMRA 31 st submission	DT/KA	
54.	Establish a Chair/Lead of Dublin Port 3FM sub-committee	DaveT	
55.	Response to DCC letter	SH/Flood Risk SC	Letter to DCC

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56.	Glass Bottle Site - Point of Planning Legal clarification required	NMcE/LK	
57.	Footpath parking discussion – future agenda item	KH	
58.	Cycle Route announcement	DT/KA	Proposal made for single entity integration initiative across the 3 Strand scopes of work.
59.	Facebook account	DT	Awaiting contact with Anne Benzeiger
60.	Raw sewage spills to Merrion Beach ongoing and inadequacy of DCC action	SH / Sub Committee	Formal letter of complaint to EPA
61.	SAMRA/TT - responsibilities	DT/ALL	Input and present back for confirmation
62.	Pavement Parking	KH	Letters/representations to remaining 4 Councillors
63.	Christmas Carol – Sounds of the Sea	DT	To discuss with TT and put Ruth Dalton in contact
64.	Codling Bank Windfarm	DT/PJOG	Stakeholder Meeting to be set up
65.	The Living Street	NMcE	Concept to be overviewed with SAMRA Committee
66.	Glass Bottle Site	NMcE	Progress Meeting with Developer
67.	Pedestrianisation area – requested improvements	DT	Letter to be circulated to Main Committee CLOSED
68.	Village Plan – outline scope with Architects	NMcE	Awaiting response to enquiry
69.	“Pop-Up Gaeltacht” language speaking events - proposal	IDL	Advised that it will not be pursued
70.	FOI Requests	MB	In progress – awaiting responses
71.	Tom Clarke Bridge Grant	MW	Decision not to pursue
72.	Sandymount Apartments	NMcE	To prepare a SAMRA “Submission”

