

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 28th March 2018 @ 2pm

Deputation Group: Ferncourt Residents Association

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Paul Foley Cllr. Rob Russell Cllr. Charlie O'Connor Apologies: Cllr. Francis Noel Duffy
Deputation:	Rita Heavey, Lisa Kenny & Rosalyn Fay.
Council Officials Present:	
Leo Magee	Environment Water & Climate Change
Eamon Harnett	Environment Water & Climate Change
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development
Carol McDonnell	Housing, Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Paul Foley.

Agenda:

Items discussed:

- 1) Upkeep & maintenance of Ballycragh Park.
- 2) Playground at Ballycragh Park.
- 3) Commitments given at Deputation meeting.

1. Upkeep & maintenance of Ballycragh Park.

The group state that the condition of Ballycragh Park has deteriorated recently and it has become a forgotten park. The groups says that there appears to be issues with cleaning, cutting of hedges, grass cutting & emptying of bins. The group state that there is a good Community Centre at the park and that it deserves to have a good park as well. The group state there is a major problem with dog fouling with some dog walkers not cleaning up after their own dogs and the group note that there has been a visible increase in incidents. The group also state that there is a rodent issue and the pond needs to be cleaned up.

Mr. Leo Magee from the Environment, Water & Climate Change department replies to the groups questions to state that the park is regularly discussed at the Terenure Rathfarnham Templeogue Area Committee Meeting and commitments have been given to improve the standards of what South Dublin County Council (SDCC) does. The Gateways scheme had allowed for more clean ups to take place but this scheme has ended and SDCC now has to revert back to using General Services staff for clean ups and the availability of that resource is now stretched. Mr. Magee explains that various works have been completed including a new entrance at the top end of the park. His department will look at the pond to see what can be done there and that desilting may help improve the appearance. Mr. Magee explains that there is a specialist contractor in place to deal with the rodent issue and states the feedback from the contractor is that the rodent problem is not a case of infestation. The program will continue until the contractor advises that there is no need. Mr. Magee explains that the grass cutting schedule will be starting soon. There is a need to improve pathways and instruction is given to operators that machinery should be operated in a way that doesn't leave grass cuttings on the pathways. Mr. Magee states that the litter bins in and around the park are checked daily and any bins that need to be emptied are emptied. Mr. Magee says that he would be happy to listen to any requests regarding bins and he would see what could be done.

Eamon Harnett from the Environment, Water & Climate Change department states that in relation to the rodent issue, he met the contractor at the end of February and extra bait boxes in place and the situation is currently being monitored. Extra boxes will be put in the park if necessary. Mr. Harnett explains that the use of litter bins in the park with domestic rubbish is resulting in them being full the whole time. The design of the bin is to be changed to dissuade people putting domestic waste in the litter bins but this is not always possible. Mr. Harnett will also be talking to the Foreman asking them to cut the grass in a neater fashion.

The group ask if it is only the bins checked on a daily basis or if the rest of the park is checked for rubbish on a daily basis.

Mr. Harnett confirms that it is only the bins checked on a daily basis and that it is not possible to do a daily rubbish pick for the rest of the park.

Mr. Magee states that once the grass cutting schedule starts, litter picks will be done. The grass will be cut every fortnight.

The group ask would it be possible to get the grass edged as the grass is growing out onto the pathways around the park.

Mr. Magee says that edging is a regular request and is a job that SDCC do. The job will probably have to be done later in the year.

2. Playground at Ballycragh Park.

The group state that the surface of the playground is dangerous. The group state that ideally a bouncy material is required and the fencing surrounding the playground also needs to be replaced. The current fencing is not suitable and there is usually damage done at the weekend. The group also state that the three gates to the playground don't close properly.

Cllr. Foley explains that the playground was originally designed for younger children. Some of the equipment in that playgroup is not age appropriate and is more suitable to an older crowd and will therefore bring in that crowd. A Part 8 process will take place in Dodder Valley Park. Cllr. Foley states that he will be suggesting that a section of the playgroup should accommodate older children. Some of the equipment could be moved out of Ballycragh and make the playground one for younger kids.

Mr. Magee replies to the group agreeing that the fencing for the playground is not great and is difficult to maintain. SDCC would be prepared to replace both the fencing and the gates but this will not be done in this year's budget. Mr. Magee proposes putting new fencing & gates onto the Improvement Works Programme for next year and will maintain what is there in the meantime. Mr. Magee states that he was unaware of any issue with the surfacing and it will be something that he will examine.

Eamon Harnett will meet with the group to identify the issues on the gates.

Commitments given:

- 1) Look at edging the paths in Ballycragh Park later this year by scraping with a mini-digger – Leo Magee.
- 2) Continue to monitor the rodent problem to ensure it doesn't get any worse – Eamon Harnett.
- 3) Will propose replacement of gates and fencing around playground but it will have to be done as part of next year's budget – Leo Magee.
- 4) Will examine an issue reported about the surfacing in the playground – Leo Magee.
- 5) Entrance & exit of the park to be looked at. Site meeting to be held with the group - Eamon Harnett.