

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 25th October 2017 at 4pm

Deputation Group: Stocking Wood Residence Association

Councillors Present:	Cllr D O' Donovan Cllr P. Foley Apologies from: Cllr. Francis Noel Duffy Cllr. Dermot Looney Cllr. Paula Donovan
Deputation:	Mark Lynch Teresa Mc Cormack Karen Gleeson
Council Officials Present:	
Gerry Fitzgibbon	Housing Social & Community Development
Sonia Lavelle	Housing Social & Community Development
Eamon Harnett	Environment Water & Climate Change
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development
Carol McDonnell	Housing, Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Deirdre O' Donovan.

1) **Issues at halting site on Stocking Avenue.**

The group highlighted issues arising from around the Halting Site on Stocking Avenue as follows:

- Illegal dumping
- Rat infestation - very high levels of rats
- Cruelty to animals
- A recently deceased horse

Mr. Gerry Fitzgibbon from the Housing Social & Community Development department advised that a considerable amount of money is spent on clean ups in this area and these clean ups will continue as necessary, however in order for any convictions to be made, evidence must be found at the scene of the illegal dumping. Mr. Fitzgibbon also explains that SDCC now have two CCTV camera's covering the whole halting site. Another proposal that was made through the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was to provide a refuse collection and for Stocking Hill halting site to be one of the pilot sites. Any provision of a service will be dependent on the tenants signing up to the service.

The group ask if the CCTV cameras are working and enquire regarding the issue of rubbish collections and the reluctance of collectors to go on this site.

The group enquired regarding the ownership of the land and health & safety issues as several times horses have come from the fields and come into the Stocking Wood estate.

Mr. Fitzgibbon advised that he will report the dead horse situation to contractor engaged and advised the group that with regard to the mistreatment of horses, residents should contact the DSPCA. Mr. Fitzgibbon states that he is uncertain as to the ownership of the land but will have that checked out. Mr. Fitzgibbon also explains that his department do not round up horses and that a contractor is engaged by SDCC. A list is sent to the contractor on a weekly basis identifying the location of horses that should be removed. Support from Gardaí is often requested by the contractor but this is not always available.

Cllr Foley asks if the location has been reported to the contractor recently and if not, can the arrangements be made for the location to be reported again.

Mr. Fitzgibbon confirms that he will check previous reports and report on the location to the contractor.

Cllr. O'Donovan asks if there are issues for refuse collectors entering the halting sites and if the additional CCTV installed has had an impact on the issues happening at the site.

Mr. Fitzgibbon confirmed that CCTV cameras are working and issues with rubbish collector are being addressed and that it is the intention that the tenants will pay this Council for the collection of rubbish.

The group ask about the continuing problem with vermin and states that the issue has been at this level for the last two years.

Mr. Fitzgibbon replies to say that there is a contractor used for pest control in that area and they will be asked to examine the area, review and see what else they can do about the issue.

The group ask for a commitment in relation to the horse issue.

Mr. Eamon Harnett from the Environment Water & Climate Change department will meet with the group on site regarding the issues discussed.

2) Dumping of rubbish on Stocking Avenue.

The group asked if there is a rubbish action plan for Stocking Avenue and about the provision of signage as a deterrent to dumping.

Mr. Harnett advised that clean-ups take place on a regular basis every 2/3 weeks, advising that particular areas can be targeted and he will arrange to have this looked at, he will also talk to the Councils Enforcement Section regarding temporary CCTV for the area and also provision of signage as a deterrent.

The group feel that though SDCC clean-ups take place, without CCTV these clean ups are a waste of money and the situation is not acceptable. The group highlighted a piece of land (a broken wall on the boundary of the halting site) which appears to be a dumping ground and ask why this area has been left like it is.

The group ask about the waste ground at that area and if there is any way that it could be improved.

Cllr O'Donovan suggests that the area could be developed into a green space.

Mr. Harnett will meet with the group to identify the areas affected.

3) Maintenance of green area on Stocking Avenue.

The group explained, that as a result of this area not been taking in charge by SDCC, the area is left in limbo.

Mr. Fitzgibbon reported that in order for an area to be taken in charge by SDCC all issues must be in order, he advised that he will liaise with Land Use Planning & Transportation department to ascertain and establish issues regarding this matter.

Cllr O'Donovan asks for the group to email her with the numbers for the Public Lighting Columns to be fixed.

The group ask if there is a limit on the amount of time that the receiver can take to bring services up to the standard so that the area can be taken in charge by the Council.

Mr. Fitzgibbon suggests that the group check with the SDCC's Bonds & Contributions section of the Land Use Planning & Transportation department if an existing bond for the estate is in place.

Cllr. O'Donovan to check through Members Rep if there is a bond in place.

4) Commitments given at Deputation meeting.

- 1) Mr. Eamon Harnett to arrange a site meeting with residents to discuss loose horses & ownership of the field, the broken wall beside the halting site and the vermin problem.
- 2) Mr. Gerry Fitzgibbon to check with Land Use Planning & Transportation department about the taking in charge of Stocking Wood and then contact residents.
- 3) Mr. Gerry Fitzgibbon to liaise with Cllr. O'Donovan about possible development of the green space beside the halting site.
- 4) Mr. Eamon Harnett to contact the Councils litter enforcement section about use of the mobile CCTV unit in the area and installing signage to deter dumping.
- 5) Cllr. O'Donovan to check through Members Rep if there is a bond on Stocking Wood in place.