

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 28th June 2017 @ 3pm

Deputation Group: MacUilliam Community Action Group

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Brian Leech Cllr. Dermot Richardson Cllr. Louise Dunne Cllr. Charlie O'Connor	Cllr. Martina Genockey Cllr. Cathal King Cllr. Nicky Coules
Deputation:	Samson Akinsanya Ann Boggins Fadeke Busari Ann Adebessin Tyna West	
Council Officials Present:		
Willie Purcell	Land Use Planning & Transportation	
Jimmy Morrissey	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Marie Kavanagh	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Tony Shaw	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Keith Purdy	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Mary Maguire	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Nicola Lawler	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Oisin Egan	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Eamon Hartnett	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Janice Joyce	Housing, Social & Community Development	

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Brian Leech.

Cllr. Brian Leech states that he is unhappy that there is no Community Centre in the MacUilliam area. In 2003, an initiative for Tallaght West to be a safe and healthy place was put in place. The plan to provide 700 units as a mix of both public and private housing was adopted along with the provision of community amenities. Due to the economic downturn the project came to a standstill with 380 units in the area and South Dublin County Council owning the majority. At present there are 28 infill units being constructed. In 2008, An Cosán and Barnardos completed a needs assessment of the area and the same issues are still there; anti-social behaviour, racism, a need for speed ramps and incidents of illegal dumping.

Item 1: Litter & Illegal dumping in the area and the need for Litter Bins in the 2 Play Areas.

Ms. Ann Boggins from the group explained that dumping levels are at the stage where everyone is dumping rubbish where the kids play. Residents are cleaning the playground on a daily basis so kids can play in the area. Some residents are putting bins out by Barnardos knowing that they weren't paid for and they are being kicked over. This is a constant issue for the group!

Ms. Boggins asks what can be done to make people pay for their bins & rubbish.

Ms. Boggins also says that some residents are at the stage of dumping construction materials from home refurbishments in the estate and October sees a lot of household items being dumped e.g. baths, showers etc.

Ms. Boggins states that Mr. Tony Shaw from the Housing, Social & Community Development department has been notified and he has dealt with residents in the past. There are also blockages to pipes due to residents dumping oil down shores.

Item 2: Speed Ramps required in the estate

Ms. Boggins told the meeting that the Avenue is a straight road that has a left and right turn off. It's a wide road and a lot of cars are coming into the estate to do wheelies.

Ms. Boggins asked if it is possible for ramps & a roundabout to be put in place.

Ms. Boggins also explains that cars are also parked with no Tax, Insurance or NCT and cars are consistently parking on footpaths. This is a safety concern as residents cannot see children coming onto the street if they are reversing or driving out of their gardens. Due to the construction of the 28 infill units, Lorries are entering the estate. However they are entering at the wrong entrance and this is causing problems for cars coming in and out of the estate with gravel and material being left on the road. Lorries are not clearing up the mess left behind and neither is the construction company that are building the houses.

Ms. Boggins asks could a spotter go ahead of the Lorries that are entering the estates because there is a huge concern that there will be an accident in the area as kids are finished up from school this week.

Mr. Shaw of the Housing, Social & Community Development department responded to say that there is a new initiative that is being implemented where an Estate Management Officer and Litter Wardens will come to a house together to look at litter/dumping issues. Mr. Shaw also recommended that residents should call the Environmental Health Officer to report these issues for investigation.

Mr. Oisín Egan of the Environment, Water & Climate Change department replied to the group to say that there is a schedule of maintenance for the area where Council Staff from the Public Realm/Environment Section pick litter from open spaces on a fortnightly basis to allow grass cutting to take place. His department also receives calls to go out to the estate to deal with dumping in the area at least once or twice a

week. Mr. Egan's states that the issues with the Lorries would be for Planning Enforcement and a notice could be issued to the developer to keep roads swept and clean.

Ms. Boggins said that the bins are left in the same area on a regular basis and asked could SDCC put CCTV on the public path where they are being left? Ms. Boggins stated that the smell coming from both the bins and people's back yards is a major issue at the moment with the hotter weather and that not all residents are cooperating with what the group are trying to do in the area.

Mr. William Purcell from the Land Use Planning & Transportation department responded to say that the HGV/Lorry route is defined in the planning permission. Mr. Purcell advised residents to take the vehicle registration number and report to SDCC immediately and take a photo of the vehicle if possible.

Mr. Purcell also stated that roundabouts and ramps are easy to provide and implement if funding was available but that parking on footpaths is an issue for An Garda Síochána. SDCC do not want to put barriers or bollards on the footpaths.

Cllr. Nicky Coules addresses the meeting and states that the issue with Lorries is the responsibility of the council and that residents need to phone SDCC all the time to report this. Cllr. Coules also states that the standard of road sweeping is very poor and that there is a multitude of problems in the area, in particular anti-social behaviour. The standards in the area needs to be lifted so residents can take pride and have some community spirit.

Cllr. Martina Genockey advised that in relation to ramps, a budget is given to them each year and she will support the installation of ramps and is willing to prioritise ramps for this area. Cllr. Genockey asked could the roaming camera be brought to into the area at some stage as dumping is blatant there and maybe it could go to a spot where people will get caught and this will stop them dumping.

Cllr. Cathal King stated that it is an obligation of the developers to clean up. This is not a planning issue as permission is through a Part 8, so issues should be going through the Housing department and they should be enforcing the routes and clean up. Cllr. King agreed that the litter in the area is worse than ever and that CCTV in the area would be good but stated there is no particular blackspot, it's just everywhere. Cllr. King stated that the mind-set of the residents needs to change. Cllr. King suggested another clean up over the summer as a way to aid in enhancing the community spirit in the area and advised that the Environment department will assist in this by providing litter pickers, bags etc.

Cllr. King also states that the houses were not built in the area because the then Council voted to use the €1.5m for housing to invest in MUGA's (Multi Use Games Areas) for the area.

Cllr. Louis Dunne stated that she was supporting everything that has been said at the meeting and that community buy-in is needed, unless there is buy-in, there is no point in doing anything. Cllr. Dunne also said that it is very important that there is a residents association in the area and that funding for a community day will bring back community spirit.

Item 3 – Anti Social Behaviour in the Area

Mr. Samson Akinsanya from the group thanked SDCC for all the work they have been doing in the area but stated that issues of anti-social behaviour and graffiti in the Astro Park is a problem. Burglaries are a problem over the last two years with the main break-ins happening between 11am – 12 noon with over 20 break-in's over a 2-3 week period. His home in particular had a broken window and when he called SDCC, a man came out and looked at the window and nothing has happened to replace it in over a year. Mr. Akinsanya also spoke about tyres being slashed on cars and broken windows being a major issue. A lot of residents are taxi drivers and it has gone to the stage where insurance companies are saying they won't insure the cars for window damage. An Garda Síochána have been contacted in relation to this but they come out to the estate but because the group of people doing damage are underage, the guards cannot do anything about it. This gives rise to teenagers coming and going freely with no one to stop them of being involved with anti-social behaviour. There has been threats to residents and taunting them that nothing will be done if they cause any damage.

Mr. Akinsanya asks, who can residents report this to, as some of the people involved don't live in MacUilliam and the residents cannot identify them. Cars are also racing around the estate at night time causing noise pollution and residents cannot sleep. They are also using bikes around the Astro where children from the age of 2 go down and watch. Throwing eggs at houses has also become a problem. Residents feel this behaviour is dangerous and are afraid that someone will get injured.

Item 4 – Abandoned Cars and issues with parking in the estate.

Mr. Akinsanya stated that there are a number of abandoned vehicles in the estate. If people see them parked there for a number of weeks/months they break into the vehicles and joy ride them around the estate. They then park them on the green area and burn them out. People could also use them to commit other crimes. Residents are afraid to tell people where they live when engaging in work or social events outside of the area because of the bad reputation it holds.

Cllr. Leech asked what the community policies in relation to quad bikes and what are the by-laws in relation to this?

Mr. Keith Purdy of the Housing, Social & Community Development department responded to say that there are a number of initiatives in the area including a fortnightly clinic. He has been attending the clinics over the past 18 months and only 2 residents have attended. The Anti-Social unit were informed that people felt there would be repercussions if they were seen attending these clinics so they moved the clinic to Ard Mor but this has not improved the number of people attending. Leaflet drops were done by the Anti-Social unit to inform residents of the change.

Ms. Boggins responded to say that people will not go to Ard Mor to report incidents. It is at the stage where no one will make deliveries to the estate from Friday to Sunday. Last weekend Ms. Boggins witnessed up to 150 children fighting with knives in the estate, a car also pulled up and decided to reverse into oncoming traffic. The Guards were called but they did nothing.

Mr. Purdy offered to meet in private to discuss the issues and deal with council tenants involved.

Cllr. Dunne stated that abandoned cars registration number should be taken and reported to the guards. It is known to Councillors that people from Ard Mor are going into MacUilliam and they should discuss this with their local representatives as well as reporting the issue to the Anti-Social Unit. The Anti-Social Unit are good at dealing with these issues and building files on people to speak to them. Residents should use these avenues to deal with issues.

Cllr. King states that he was at an event where kids from MacUilliam were afraid to say where they came from and he found it heart-breaking to learn this. Cllr. King suggested a change in location for clinics to Brookview or Jobstown might benefit the residents more.

Cllr. Dermot Richardson stated that it is a minority of people who are causing the anti-social behaviour and something has to be done drastically and that action needs to be taken before someone is killed.

Cllr. Coules encouraged residents to report anti-social behaviour to SDCC and the guards.

Mr. Purdy states that the location of clinics will change again. With the residents assistance in identifying the people causing issues they will be dealt with.

Item 5 – Request for Community Facility in the Area

Cllr. Leech asks how do Councillors go about getting a community facility in MacUilliam or how do they qualify for a facility.

Mr. Jimmy Morrissey of the Housing, Social & Community Development department responded to say there is already a community building in the area. Barnardos are the primary tenant in the facility and there is an agreement in place that a private room would be made available for community meetings. Mr. Morrissey is willing to engage with the new manager of Barnardos to enforce the agreement and will provide community support through the Community Development team. The MUGA that was put in place for example in MacUilliam was the only one destroyed. The Ard Mor site can also be utilised. Brookfield is also part of the area and this too can be used. Residents should try and utilise what is already in the area. Mr. Morrissey also said that if residents wanted to do a community activity in the coming weeks he would help provide funding.

Cllr. Leech doesn't think Barnardos will like teenagers/youths using the facility. Cllr. Leech would like a place for the young people to meet.

Mr. Morrissey replies to say that the Brookfield Centre is there for this catchment area. The youth service is also based there for the whole community to utilise. The solution is not to build something else. Residents should use the assets that are there and this is a more realistic approach. If the capacity of these buildings are met then another approach can be looked at.

Cllr. Louise Dunne states that facilities are not the issue and suggests the possibly the publication of a booklet of what facilities are in the area could be issued to inform residents of what's on offer.

Cllr. King states that it is not sustainable to build community centres in each estate, it is more important to utilise what is already there. There is a play space, swimming pool etc. in the area to be utilised by residents.

Ms. Boggins states that residents are not looking for a resource centre

Cllr. Leech stated that the youth in the area need to be encouraged to use the facilities already in place

Mr. Akinsanya suggested that with cars and bikes racing on a regular basis could a notice board be put up to say no parking etc.

Cllr. Coules said that residents should encourage people to play in the field and green spaces rather than on the road. There is an issue with the location of the park as it is very close to the road, could people use the field behind the park to play.

Cllr. King suggested erecting goalposts in the "Wild Flower Meadow"

Ms. Boggins states that the residents have goal posts but need permission to put them in the Wild Flower Meadow.

Mr. Shaw explained that there was a strong residents association in the area but this has dissolved and Ms. Boggins has been dealing with issues on an individual basis. Mr. Shaw recommended that a new residents association be established and meet monthly.

Ms. Nicola Lawler of the Environment, Water & Climate Change department will get CCTV assessed for the area but it's easier to get car registration numbers rather than facial recognition. People also need to come forward to report the issues. There has been 32 reports of abandoned cars and all reports of abandoned cars should come through SDCC.

Ms. Marie Kavanagh of the Housing, Social & Community Development department stated that Architects have contacted the construction company and advised the contractor that Lorries etc. need to clean the estate on a regular basis to ensure that there is no mess left in the estate.