

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time 23rd January, 2019 @ 3pm

Deputation Group: Mount Andrew Residents Association

Councillors Present	Cllr. Ruth Nolan & Cllr. Madeleine Johansson.
Apologises	Cllr. Danny O'Brien & Cllr. Liona O'Toole.
Deputation	Peter Heynen & Karen O'Brien.
Council Officials Present	
Caitriona Lambert	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Brenda Shannon	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Olive Harrington	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Deirdre O'Riordan	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Brian Carroll	Housing Social & Community Development
Carol McDonnell	Housing Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Madeleine Johansson.

Items discussed:

- 1) Anti-Social behaviour in Mount Andrew Place at the pedestrian entrance from Ballyowen Lane.
- 2) Lighting at the pedestrian entrance to Mount Andrew from the N4.
- 3) Cars abandoned in Mount Andrew.
- 4) Issues with trees at Mount Andrew Grove and Close.
- 5) Commitments given at Deputation meeting.

Item 1 - Anti-Social behaviour in Mount Andrew Place at the pedestrian entrance from Ballyowen Lane.

The group describe the location, which is a cul de sac at Mount Andrew Place with a pedestrian entrance that leads out onto Ballyowen Lane beside the park. The group explain that there have been issues with Anti-Social Behaviour at the location for a number of years. There are groups gathering under the trees, general Anti-Social Behaviour and drug taking. The area is also being used as a drop off point for drug dealers. The issue has been raised at the Local Policing Forum. The Guards have committed to increasing patrols but the issues have continued for a number of years. The group explain the different incidents of damage that has been done to their cars & properties and other incidents of intimidation to residents.

Ms. Deirdre O'Riordan, Executive Parks Superintendent, Environment, Water & Climate Change department explained to the group that the open space was never taken in charge by South Dublin County Council (SDCC). This means that the area is not SDCC'S responsibility. Ms. O'Riordan also explained that even if an open space is taken in charge by the Council, it would still only take in charge or maintain up to the boundary wall. The wall is the responsibility of the land owner.

Cllr. Nolan asks if the land owner can be traced down and be contacted on behalf of the residents.

Ms. O’Riordan explains that the Residents could do that through searches in Land Registry.

Ms. Olive Harrington, Executive Parks Superintendent, Environment, Water & Climate Change department advised the group to go to the Property Registration Authority on Chancery Street. Ms. Harrington also instructed the group to establish who owned the land where the trees are beside the wall as this will also be an issue.

Cllr. Nolan asks for clarification if SDCC had recently cut back these trees.

Ms. O’Riordan confirmed that it wasn’t a SDCC tree cutting crew that cut back the trees.

Cllr. Johansson suggests to Cllr. Nolan the item be brought to the Lucan Area Committee Meeting.

The group ask if they can identify the land owner, is there a process in place for SDCC to take the land in charge.

Ms. O’Riordan explains the taking in charge process to the group.

Item 2 - Lighting at the pedestrian entrance to Mount Andrew from the N4.

The group explain that the path in question is extremely dark at night and that at the N4 side there is a pedestrian entrance. There is a bus stop and a pedestrian footbridge just beyond the pedestrian entrance. The group explain that there is no lighting on the path. The only lighting column near the area is facing out onto the N4. This area is a safety concern for residents and they would like some lights installed along that pathway.

Ms. Caitriona Lambert, Senior Executive Engineer, Land Use Planning & Transportation department explains that this issue has been raised before and that the situation has not changed. Ms. Lambert states that the open space and the path that runs through the open space have not been taken in charge by SDCC. Ms. Lambert suggests that the group approach the land owner and ask them to put forward plans to transfer the lands into the ownership of SDCC. Only then could SDCC begin to maintain the location.

Cllr. Johansson again suggests that if the group are not successful with the land owner that the Elected Members can raise the issue at the Area Committee Meetings.

Item 3 - Cars abandoned in Mount Andrew.

The group give some examples of different vehicles that have been abandoned in the estate. Reports have been made through the Fix My Street app and to the Gardaí. The group want to identify who is responsible for removing these abandoned vehicles and what is the process to get vehicles removed. The group state that the abandoned vehicles are also a safety issue and the problem has been ongoing for a number of years.

Ms. Brenda Shannon, Administrative Officer, Environment, Water & Climate Change department replies to the group to say that SDCC's Enforcement & Licencing section deals with abandoned cars under the Waste Management Act. Ms. Shannon advises the group to report incidences of abandoned vehicles to customer care, for the attention of Enforcement & Licencing, for investigation and determination of the appropriate course of action.

Ms. Shannon explains to the group that any vehicle reported will be examined by one of SDCC's Litter Wardens who will determine if the vehicle has been abandoned. There will be a registration check carried out to determine who owns the vehicle. If the owner is identified they are given the opportunity to move the vehicle. If the owner cannot be identified SDCC can take ownership of the vehicle. The vehicle will be removed and disposed of. The process can take six weeks but sometimes longer.

Item 4 - Issues with trees at Mount Andrew Grove and Close.

The group gives the locations of the trees that they think may be a different species from others planted in the estate. The group explain that these trees are very tall and these trees and their roots are causing issues. The group state that the roots of these trees may be causing the sewage issues currently being experienced in the area. The trees are also blocking light coming into the houses and some residents are also claiming that the trees offer shelter helping burglaries in the area. The group also give examples of damage done by the roots of trees with footpaths cracked and manhole covers also affected. The group are asking to have the trees pruned and to have the trip hazard & sewage issues caused by the tree roots fixed.

Ms. Harrington replied to the group to say that pruning had taken place to remove the lower canopies in the last year. Ms. Harrington agreed to meet the group on site to identify where the issues were in relation to blocked drains. Ms. Harrington explains the SDCC Tree Policy regarding works on trees. Ms. Harrington also explained that the locations where footpaths had been affected would be referred to the Roads Maintenance department.

The group give the house numbers affected as Number 1 to 8 Mount Andrew Close.

Commitments given:

- 1) Area described in Item 1 is not in charge of South Dublin County Council. Residents to find land owner and look at possibility of taking in charge when the land owner is identified.
- 2) Area described in Item 2 is not in charge of South Dublin County Council. Residents to find land owner and look at possibility of taking in charge when the land owner is identified.
- 3) Residents to report incidences of abandoned vehicles to customer care, for the attention of Enforcement & Licencing, for investigation and determination of the appropriate course of action. – Brenda Shannon.
- 4) Site meeting to take place to look at blocked drains and footpaths at 1-8 Mount Andrew Close in the next six weeks – Olive Harrington.