

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 28th June 2017 @ 4pm

Deputation Group: St. Andrews National School Parent Teacher Association

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Liona O'Toole Cllr. Gus O'Connell	Cllr. Paul Gogarty Cllr. Ed O'Brien
Deputation:	Rev. Scott Peoples Ms. Avril Rankin Ms. Aileen Blackwell Kelly	
Council Officials Present:		
Willie Purcell	Land Use Planning & Transportation	
Helena Fallon	Land Use Planning & Transportation	
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Janice Joyce	Housing, Social & Community Development	

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Liona O'Toole.

The group explains that they are seeking to work with South Dublin County Council (SDCC) to improve access routes to schools in Lucan, specifically those schools on the Old Lucan Road. The aims of the group for this deputation meeting is to encourage parents/children to use alternative methods to get to school rather than using cars. The group have identified a number of areas that concern them.

Item 1. Pedestrian crossing improvements at Lucan Road/R136 (Woodies Junction).

The group are well aware of the changes that are being proposed for the junction at Woodies. It has come to the groups' attention that any changes to this junction will not be considered until September at the earliest. The group consider this an extremely dangerous junction for the children to cross and have concerns with cars breaking the lights & the number of crossings that children have to use. The group would like SDCC to progress the pedestrian crossing changes earlier to the larger scheme that is being undertaken. The group also enquire about the possibility of a School Warden being put at the location.

Helena Fallon from the Land Use Planning & Transportation department replies to the group explaining the plan for the layout of the new pedestrian crossing. Ms. Fallon says that the new crossing will be made much simpler for users and the plan will be going to the September Lucan Area Committee Meeting (ACM) for noting.

The group ask how long it will take for actual changes to the location to happen.

Ms. Fallon replies to say that depending on what happens at the ACM & with the National Transport Authority (NTA), it will be at least six months from the initial meeting before any site works.

Cllr. Liona O'Toole asks if providing a School Warden at the location is something that can be looked at.

The group ask if introducing a continental model of lighting at the Woodies/Matthews end left turn is something that can be considered.

Mr. Willie Purcell of the Land Use Planning & Transportation department replies to say that traffic lights will be installed in line with the legislation. Mr. Purcell also addresses the group's initial question regarding incremental improvements to the operation of the traffic lights to say that he will be able to look at certain aspects of the workings of the traffic lights but he cannot favour one sector of society for the benefit of others. Mr. Purcell's section can look at maximising the efficiency of the lights and if necessary adjustments can be made.

The group ask if the "express route for traffic leaving Lucan Village" that had previously been discussed is still being pursued as an option.

Ms. Fallon replies to say that as the bus lane is already there, there would not be enough room to provide another lane.

Cllr. Gogarty proposes that a Headed Item goes to the Traffic Management Meeting (TMM) for September so that temporary measures can be looked at to alleviate breaking of lights etc. until the final plans for the area are agreed.

Mr. Purcell confirms that the Traffic Section will be looking at the operation of the traffic lights in the intervening period.

Mr. Purcell also states that interviews for Traffic Wardens had recently taken place and he would mention the need to the Senior Staff Officer in charge of assigning Traffic Wardens to locations.

2. Footpath & cycle path improvements along Lucan Road.

The group explain that from the Woodies Junction to Lucan Village there two secondary schools and 3 primary schools which accommodate just under 4000 children who start school between 8.30am & 9am each morning.

The group describe how the path on the north side of the road is in good condition in certain parts but very narrow and undulating in others. There is also a bus lane in the mornings on that side and the group have noticed that buses are travelling at excessive speed and private cars are dipping in and out of the bus lane. The group have also seen the Armed Response Unit/Garda travelling at high speed at this part of the road. The group want contact to be made with these road users and the Council to make the path safer. The group think that one solution would be to put the path inside the wall, although they understand that this may have a huge cost implication.

On the south side path, the group explain that there are various businesses operating and a number of entrances to estates where the children have to cross the roads. The group are unsure as to what solution they should suggest for this side of the road as most of the area is in private ownership. The group do not feel that parents would let their children use cycle lanes which are on these roads. The group would like the Council to consider utilising the dual purpose paths that can be seen in other parts of Lucan, where the walking path and cycle path are run side by side.

Mr. Purcell replies to say that this subject has been addressed at a number of ACM's over the last four meetings. The Council are actively working on one of the bridges over the N4 which joins Willsbrook to Woodville. It is proposed to put a cycle path/footpath across the bridge and it would be hoped to carry this to the roads network both north & south. This will give cyclists an alternative route when travelling from south of the N4 towards the Old Lucan Road. For bus lanes, Mr. Purcell explains that a road width of 9m is required, 3m for the bus lane and a minimum of 3m for the vehicle lanes in both directions. Another bus lane would require a further 3m. Mr. Purcell welcomes the suggestion of a safe walking cycle route at St. Edmundsbury but does not see that happening in the short term and to his knowledge the wall on the north side is protected. The Land Use Planning & Transportation department have been surveying the footpath on the north

side of the road and part of the problem is the height of the footpath. One of the ideas put forward is to build up a 2m wide footpath with a row of bollards on it. This would give the pedestrian a sense of space & protection between them and buses/taxi's using the bus lane. On the south side of the road, work will need to be done on the existing footpath to maintain the 9m road width. The design documents are being put in place for improvements on the road, the next stage is to establish funding. There was works taken out at the Ballydowd entrance (beside the shops) and that area is now completed.

The group ask if the Council could talk to Coláiste Phádraig about providing a right of way through the back of the school as this would be a route that could be considered for the walking bus and eliminate the need to cross a number of junctions on the south side of the road.

Mr. Purcell replies to say that a separate piece of research would need to be carried out to establish taking in charge history to see if any of that area that is still public. The school have a gate there so there would need to be a separate discussion about that. A discussion can take place with the Department of Education and we can see where it goes.

Ms. Fallon explains that there will be further public lighting provided at Willsbrook Park on the south side, there is a delay in installation as a bat survey is currently being carried out. If the public lighting is provided it will make a big difference to cyclists in the winter months as they will be able to travel through the park and over the bridge.

The group state that this is a good route once there is access to Coláiste Phádraig.

Ms. Fallon advises the group to contact Coláiste Phádraig directly about using the school as a route.

Cllr O'Toole asks what the group should do about speeding buses.

Ms. Fallon replies to say that Dublin Bus are very responsive to complaints of this nature and that the group should contact Dublin Bus directly with specific details of incidents.

Cllr. Gogarty asks if the road outside St. Andrews can be made a 30kph zone.

Mr. Purcell replies to say that if the Councillors bring a proposal, it will be looked at.

The group ask how long the proposals on for the north side of the Lucan road will take.

Mr. Purcell responds to say that these proposals are only at drawing stage and the next step would be to discuss them with his Director of Service. If the Director approves them it will then be a case of presenting the proposals to the Elected Members to identify a source of funding.

3. Proposals to redesign junction of Lucan Road/Chapel Hill.

The group discuss the necessary changes to the junction and the footpath at the old St. Andrews school. The footpath slopes to the road and is very narrow, St. Mary's car park increases the use by pedestrians at this junction and there are two sets of lights in order to facilitate crossings and the group would like that rationalised to make the junction more user friendly. There is also the issue of very large Lorries using this location. The group ask if there is anything that can be done to curtail the use of Lorries at the location, especially during school times. The group have, over the years, reported to the Garda Síochána, at least two dozen drivers who have broken red lights at the junction. The group state that funding should be made available to undergo certain safety measures including the provision of a footpath on both sides of Chapel Hill.

Ms. Fallon replies to say that while the Council are working on the cycle and pedestrian facilities from Willsbrook to Woodville, the next step after that scheme would be providing a cycle path and pedestrian facilities on the Old Lucan Road possibly as far as Lucan Village. Ms. Fallon would consider this of high priority. There are two things that could be done at the location, either improving the footpaths on the northern side, this would help alleviate the incidents with buses or alternatively, the Council could shorten the bus lane, this option would have to be looked at with Dublin Bus and the other authorities. Shortening the bus lane and putting in cycle approved measures or the previously discussed shared measures could be considered. It is early days but this scheme would be looked at within the next year or so.

Ms. Fallon also states that the issue of drop offs on the north side footpaths is really an issue for the Guards.

4. Commitments given at meeting.

Mr. Purcell to mention the request for a Traffic Warden at the Woodies Junction to the Senior Staff Officer in charge of assigning Traffic Wardens to locations.