

## DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

**Date & Time** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 @ 3pm

**Deputation Group:** Rathfarnham Wood Residents Association

Councillors Present	Cllr. Mary Seery Kearney, Cllr. Yvonne Collins, Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan
Apologies	Cllr. Carly Bailey & Cllr. David McManus
Deputation	Thomas Sexton & John Cribben
Council Officials Present:	
Eamon Harnett	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Brendan Redmond	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Caitriona Lambert	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Michael Glynn	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Kevin Reilly	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Sheila Kelly	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Brian Carroll	Housing Social & Community Development
Carol McDonnell	Housing Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Mary Seery Kearney.

### **Item 1: Repair of wall at entrance to the Rathfarnham Wood estate.**

The group begin by explaining that the wall in question is directly at the front of the estate. There are two low walls opposite each other which are in a very bad condition. The damage appears to have been caused by trees that are adjacent to these walls, these walls are now unstable. The group explain that school children walk on these walls which causes an obvious danger. The group are in possession of an email that says the walls have been inspected by South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and that SDCC had committed to fixing them but that there has been no progress since then. The group ask for an update on the works.

Cllr. Collins, Cllr. O'Donovan & Cllr. Seery Kearney make contributions on the item.

Mr. Eamon Harnett, District Parks Supervisor, replies to the group to confirm that the stump of the tree adjacent to the wall will be sorted in the next few weeks. When the stump of the tree has been dealt with, his department will look at fixing the wall. This will be at some stage this year.

Commitment given: Tree stump removal; wall repaired this year, but prioritised given health & safety issues discussed that are urgent – Brendan Redmond & Eamon Harnett.

## **Item 2 - Upgrade of software on gate adjacent to No. 13 Rathfarnham Woods.**

Mr. Harnett explains that he has discussed the location with the contractor in charge of the automated gates and confirms that there have been some issues with the pedestrian gates at Rathfarnham Wood as well as the other gates around the park. The contractor has given a couple of solutions to fix the issues. One is an analogue solution, this would require pressing some buttons at the location or the other would be that the gates could be operated remotely. Mr. Harnett offers to meet the group on site at the location to discuss the solutions that would best suit the group.

A group outline their issues with the gates and request that a remote system be put in place.

Cllr. Collins, Cllr. O'Donovan & Cllr. Seery Kearney make contributions on the item.

Mr. Brendan Redmond, Executive Parks Superintendent, suggests that contact details for himself and the group can be exchanged.

Commitment given: Commitment to immediately address gate issue & keyholder options at site meeting. Technical issues to take into account issues of all users. Site meeting with residents to take place within next week – Brendan Redmond & Eamon Harnett.

## **Item 3 - Street lighting in Rathfarnham Wood.**

The group explain that this has been an ongoing issue that was addressed at their previous Deputation meeting. The group acknowledge that some improvement has been achieved due to the removal of some of the bigger trees in the area. The group give a list of other estates close to Rathfarnham Wood that have been updated to LED lighting. The group are requesting a fresh survey of their estate with the view to the installation of LED lighting.

Cllr. Seery Kearney, Cllr O'Donovan & Cllr. Collins make contributions on the item.

Ms. Caitriona Lambert, Senior Executive Engineer, Land Use Planning & Transportation department explains to the group that the age of the estate in question is the key issue. The other estates mentioned that have been upgraded to LED lighting were all built after 1990. All estates built within the county prior to 1990 are in a similar situation to Rathfarnham Woods as there is an issue with cabling that needs to be upgraded. SDCC is part of a National Group that are working to reach an agreement with the ESB to reach a solution to overcome the issue. SDCC are committed to upgrading the lighting columns in the county as it will help SDCC meet its Energy Saving Targets and the orange lights currently in use are obsolete and therefore cannot be replaced. Rathfarnham Wood has been identified as one of the pilot schemes.

There is a discussion regarding exposed cables in the estate.

Cllr. Collins & Cllr. Seery Kearney commit to sending photos showing exposed cables to Ms. Lambert.

Commitment given - There is an issue at national level. Rathfarnham Wood is prioritised as soon as this is resolved – Caitriona Lambert.

#### **Item 4 - Roads resurfacing in Rathfarnham Wood.**

The group state that only part of the estate has been resurfaced since their last Deputation meeting. The group had been told that the remainder of the works would be completed by the end of this year, but the group have not received any updates since September 2019. Some of the roads have fallen into a state of disrepair and the group would like the works in their estate prioritised.

Mr. Michael Glynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Land Use Planning & Transportation department replies to the group explaining that the works programmes for 2020 have been presented to all the Area Committees and Rathfarnham Wood has been listed for works. Mr. Glynn advises that all the works in the estate may not be completed this year. The areas surveyed and identified as in the worst state of disrepair will be prioritised. Mr. Glynn sees all resurfacing works in Rathfarnham being completed by the end of 2021.

The group request that the works are completed in one phase.

Mr. Glynn replies to say that a review could take place on the works once the weather improves and resurfacing restarts. The outcome of the review will depend on additional funding becoming available.

Cllr. Seery Kearney, Cllr O'Donovan & Cllr. Collins make contributions on the item.

Commitment given - Road resurfacing in Rathfarnham Wood is listed to be completed in a further two phases in 2020 & 2021. Maybe subject to review if additional funding becomes available – Michael Glynn.

#### **Item 5 - Request to install a Yield sign at the front of the estate.**

The group are looking for a Yield Sign to be installed on the kerb side.

Cllr. Seery Kearney, Cllr O'Donovan & Cllr. Collins make contributions on the item.

Commitment given: Clarification to be established regarding yield sign. Will bring to March Traffic Management Meeting but will circulate answer to elected members within 10 days of this meeting – Kevin Reilly.

#### **Item 6 - Commitments given at Deputation meeting.**

**Commitments given:**

- 1) Tree stump removal: wall repaired this year, but prioritised given health & safety issues discussed that are urgent – Brendan Redmond & Eamon Harnett.**
- 2) Commitment to immediately address gate issue & keyholder options at site meeting. Technical issues to take into account issues of all users. Site meeting with residents to take place within next week – Brendan Redmond & Eamon Harnett.**
- 3) There is an issue at national level. Rathfarnham Wood is prioritised as soon as this is resolved – Caitriona Lambert.**
- 4) Commitment to send on photos to C Lambert regarding exposed cables – Cllr. Collins & Cllr. Seery Kearney.**
- 5) Road resurfacing in Rathfarnham Wood is listed to be completed in a further two phases in 2020 & 2021. Maybe subject to review if additional funding becomes available – Michael Glynn.**
- 6) Clarification to be established regarding yield sign. Will bring to March Traffic Management Meeting but will circulate answer to elected members within 10 days of this meeting – Kevin Reilly.**