

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Deputation meeting – 23rd March 2022 @ 3pm

Kingswood Heights Residents Association

Deputation attendees – Anna Quinn, Sharlene NiCinneide & Peter Fitzpatrick.

Elected Members – Cllr. Teresa Costello, Cllr. Liam Costello, Cllr. Charlie O'Connor & Cllr. Cathal King.

Apologies received from Cllr. Mick Duff.

Council Officials –Fionnuala Keane, Brian Carroll, Margaret Farrell & David Fennell.

Cllr. Teresa Costello presided.

Items discussed:

1. Tennis Courts.

The group state that they are grateful for the €20,000 that has been allocated for improvement works to the Tennis Courts in Kingswood. The group's main question is to ask what this allocation can be spent on.

David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Environment, Water & Climate Change department replies to the group to say that the money allocated is for the upgrade of the Tennis Courts. Essentially for the surface of the courts, to bring them back to use as Tennis Courts. D. Fennell states that there are a number of issues that need to be addressed including: removal of trees at the side where the steps are, vegetation being removed around the fence line, recent damage done to the fence; but this will be addressed separately to the allocation for improvement works on the courts.

The group ask if a Tennis Club has been identified to manage the use of the Tennis Courts. The group do not feel that Tennis is a popular sport in the area and that consideration should be given to this before resurfacing is carried out. The group also suggest that before improvement work are carried out, the courts are properly secured with proper gates that lock and a suitable fence to prevent Anti-Social Behaviour.

Cllrs. King, Sinclair, O'Connor and Costello add to the discussion.

David Fennell replies to the questions confirming that:

- The €20,000 would not be used to repair the boundary and maintenance programme money would be used for this issue, the suggestions given at this meeting would come with a significant capital cost.
- Mr. Fennell is not aware of any Tennis Club that has come forward or willing to take on the area. If a group is not identified, alternatives can be explored.

- Some of the vegetation has been removed in the past. There are underground services at the location so proper investigations would have to be done before roots etc could be removed completely.
- The Council are now at the stage of getting the courts back into a reasonable condition so that some activities can take place on the space.
- The gates will be put up again. If there is no group available to manage the availability of keys to the courts, the gates may remain unlocked.
- A tarmac surface similar with the one already there will be used for resurfacing. Moving towards a multi-use material would cost significantly more.

2. Commitments given.

1. Reevaluate plan for resurfacing of the Tennis Courts. Residents are requesting a similar surface found in a MUGA. Sports Pitch Strategy, the upcoming SLO for a Sports Hub and the availability of funding will need to be examined – David Fennell.
2. Bushes and vegetation to be removed – David Fennell.
3. New gates to be installed – David Fennell.
4. Repairs to the damaged fence to be carried out – David Fennell.