

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 22nd June 2016 @ 4pm

Deputation Group: Rathfarnham Woods Residents Association

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan Cllr. Paula Donovan Cllr. Enda Fanning Cllr. Pamela Kearns	Cllr. Sarah Holland Cllr. Francis Duffy Cllr. Paul Foley Cllr. Emma Murphy
	Apologies: Cllr. Anne Marie Dermody Cllr. Ronan Mahon Cllr. Mick Duff	
Deputation:	Pat Hanratty, Mary Cuneen, Tom Sexton & John Cribbin	
Council Officials Present:		
Leo Magee	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Máire Ni Dhomhnaill	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Oisin Egan	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Caitriona Lambert	Land Use Planning & Transportation	
Michael Glynn	Land Use Planning & Transportation	
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Pamela Hughes	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Lindsay Gahan	Housing, Social & Community Development	

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan.

Item 5 & 3 - Public Lighting & Planting of Trees

Pat Hanratty asks could lighting be changed to LED lighting. Some of the lighting columns are blocked by trees and there had been a bag snatched in the area recently.

Caitriona Lambert said that she would recommend removal of the trees, however that was not her area of responsibility. If there was work being done on the upgrading of lighting, work would be carried out in conjunction with Public Realm. There would need to be agreement on what trees would be removed.

Máire Ni Dhomhnaill stated to the Group that a survey for the Rathfarnham Woods area had been completed.

Caitriona Lambert said that she would have to discuss the plan with Máire Ni Dhomhnaill. She explained that the area could be a viable candidate and the works could be done within a year but there is no commitment at this stage.

John Cribbin agreed that the survey had been done but said that no work had been carried out since the survey had been completed. There is an issue of safety at No. 12 & 13 where a survey had been carried out on overhanging trees.

Máire Ni Dhomhnaill explained that there is a new Tree Policy in place and Rathfarnham Woods is on the 2016 program. An inspection has taken place in the area and there are concerns about the amount of work that will have to be done. There is a plan for a separate inspection and trees are to be tagged in the Park. It's estimated that 40 trees will be removed and pruning carried out on 50 other trees. This work will have significant impact on the area. A public meeting with residents about the plan may be a good idea because of the significant work that will have to be carried out.

Pat Hanratty asks when this Public meeting would happen.

Máire Ni Dhomhnaill explained the process of Tree Removal to the Group. The trees would be cut to a meter high, a stump grinder would then be used to remove the stump and then the Roads Maintenance section would look at the footpaths.

Cllr. Sarah Holland stated that the consultation process would be productive.

Cllr. Paul Foley explained that the inspection process has moved on a lot in recent years and the Council had a substantial database on trees. Inspections should only happen once. He also stated that it was rare to hear complaints about the process and hopes that management address the issue.

John Cribbin stated that he was looking forward to hearing the feedback.

Cllr. Pamela Kearns stated that she was on the SPC. There is a lot of trees on the list and this will lead to a huge change in the area. Cllr. Kearns asked if this list could be circulated to the Group prior to any Public meeting.

Pat Hanratty asked that the list not be circulated as it would be emotive.

Máire Ni Dhomhnaill explained that the Stump Removal could be done very quickly after the trees are removed.

Cllr. Duffy asked, that if all the trees in the area were taken down, what would be the process of replacement.

Tom Sexton stated that the residents wouldn't want to wait after these works for replacements.

Máire Ni Dhomhnaill replied to say that it could take between three and five years but the Council would not replace trees in areas where it was not suitable, such as areas beside street lights.

Cllr. Paula Donovan said that the Living Trees policy should be implemented and asked if there was innovative solutions available.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan stated that these issues being discussed about trees in South Dublin County Council was common. There is a new system in place which is a better way to deal with something that is a county wide problem.

Mary Cunnen states that there is a lot of cars using the estate and this means there are a lot of pedestrians in the estate. The issue of footpaths, trees and lighting needs to be addressed from a Health & Safety point of view.

Cllr. Emma Murphy said it was good to see the rejuvenated Residents Association and asked the Group if there had been much objection in the area.

Pat Hanratty replied to say that there had been positive vibes and that the majority of residents had got on board.

John Cribbin said that the Group weren't anticipating any issues regarding trees and asked if the overhanging trees be dealt with.

Cllr. Paul Foley stated the complete package from the Council has to be presented to the Residents. Only propose what they will actually deliver.

Item 1 & 2 – Road condition & Footpaths

Tom Sexton queried about the conditions of footpaths and capping of walls.

Oisin Egan replied to say that the plan was to come back and complete the work at the particular location.

Leo Magee stated that the capping of walls should be completed before the end of July.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan asked about the general road condition for the estate and asked what the plan was.

Michael Glynn replied to say that the Road Works programme was in place. There is some funding available for Rathfarnham Woods and the work should be done before the September meeting that was being discussed. The tender will be done shortly but the works will not cover the whole of the estate.

Pat Hanratty said that this is good news for the area.

Councillor Sarah Holland asked if the tree removal would impact the works.

Michael Glynn replied to say that the trees would not have impacted on the condition of the road and that the footpaths would be reviewed in conjunction with the trees and extensive repairs would have to be carried out a number of locations due to trees lifting the paths.

Item 4 – The Park

Pat Hanratty highlighted the following areas:

- (a) The pond is in very bad condition.
- (b) Overgrown areas.
- (c) The area by the fallen tree in front of Rathfarnham Castle is very untidy.
- (d) The Playground is in bad condition.
- (e) Solar bins are needed to deal with Foxes.

Leo Magee stated that the bins had been trialled in other areas but had not worked out. They were very expensive and prone to repeated vandalism. They could look at the location but the bins cost €5,000 each, which is ten times the cost of a normal bin. Can look at alternatives and suggestions.

Mary Cunnan stated that the bins that are currently there are not adequate.

Leo Magee said that the Council may install more bins in the area.

John Cribbin said that the entrance of Rathfarnham Wood and beside the playground would be the best locations.

Cllr. Paula Donovan said that she had spoken with the Director and submitted a motion to the July Council Meeting. The Director has given a commitment that they will request a report from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. The Area Committee Meeting could highlight a pilot scheme for Rathfarnham Wood.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan asked for an update on the pond.

Leo Magee replied to say that there is nothing concrete to say on the issue but a site meeting could be organised and agreement could be reached on some short term solutions. A bigger plan for the area is required.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan asked that the commitment of a site meeting be given.

Leo Magee agreed that he would contact the Group to arrange the meeting.

Pat Hanratty asks if the fallen tree is being deliberately left there.

Oisín Egan confirmed that it was with the plan to increase biodiversity in the area.

Leo Magee said that they could look at the area of the fallen tree again during the site meeting.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan asked that where there is an agreement on timelines, that they be circulated to everyone else.

A meeting in September will take place regarding the trees.

The lighting issue will also be looked at.

Pat Hanratty thank the Councillors and Council Officials for the opportunity to speak on the issues.

Meeting ends.

