

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time: 26/02/2025 @3.00pm

Deputation Group: Lucan Harriers

Deputation Group attendees: Fiona Hegarty, Katriona Power, Tony Finlay, Keith Gallagher, Marcin Ceomik.

Elected Members in attendance:

Cllr Liona O'Toole (Chair), Cllr Caroline Brady, Cllr Vicki Casserly, Cllr Helen Farrell, Cllr Madeleine Johansson, Cllr Jaqueline Sheehy, Cllr Joanna Tuffy

Council Officials: David Fenell (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Sharon Conroy (Senior Executive Officer, Environment, Water and Climate Change), Laura Leonard (Senior Executive Officer, Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development), Sean Redmond (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Fionnuala Keane (AO, Community Dept), Catherine White (SSO Community Dept), Alison Somerville (SO Community Dept), Brian Carroll (SSO, Community Dept)

Cllr Liona O Toole presided

Items Discussed

Item 1 – Request resolution date on drainage issue, fence relocation, removal of overgrown area of green space, and surface cleanse of track.

Commitment given:

David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, replied to the group's query.

(Maintenance issues). The Manager agreed to schedule a meeting with a proposed date of Friday, 28th February 2025, if suitable for the group. He proposed walking the periphery of the track with members, looking at the drainage issues, and agreeing on the area of the walking/jogging track and fence. He noted that the Council would cover the cost of the drainage issues in this regard.

Regarding the Urban Fox issue, D Fennell commented that he was not sure what the best solution to this problem would be, and it is not straightforward. This could be discussed at the meeting later in the week. It was noted by Cllr Tuffy that any deterrent to keep the Foxes away should be humane and in line with animal welfare. S Conroy suggested that the group contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Sean Redmond, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Capital Projects, replied to the group's query on re-surfacing. He advised that re-surfacing of the club track would be taking place on a date to be confirmed in the Spring during better weather. His colleagues will update the club once a date is confirmed.

Item 2 – Query on obtaining a long-term track lease for Lucan Harriers.

Commitment given:

Sharon Conroy, Senior Executive Officer, responded to the group's query.

The Manager confirmed that the licence agreement will remain a one-year lease. This arrangement enables the council to effectively oversee maintenance and health and safety matters. She further stated that the council will continue to engage and collaborate with Lucan Harriers Club representatives. Additionally, she agreed to review the management licence, specifically regarding its financial provisions, to determine whether a clause could be introduced to provide greater assurance and security for Lucan Harriers members in the future.

Item 3 – To discuss the benefits of obtaining a lease versus current situation whereby the organisation carries out clubhouse upgrades.

Commitment given:

Laura Leonard, Senior Executive Officer replied to the groups query.

The manager said that securing a lease provides clubs with a stable foundation, a long-term vested interest, and leverage for investment. Additionally, it was noted that the council is not responsible for the day-to-day management of the clubhouse.

The clubs must reach a mutual understanding regarding funding and maintenance, and a draft agreement should be reviewed with each club's solicitor. Legal advice was recommended to ensure that each club's interests were adequately protected.

It was noted that not all clubs are approaching this matter with the same level of urgency. It was suggested that one club could take the lead in moving the process forward. F. Hegarty confirmed that she had taken the initiative in drafting a trust agreement. S. Conroy requested a copy of the draft so she could share it with the other clubs and help advance the discussion. This proposal was agreed upon.

F Hegarty asked if it would be possible that while this process is in train, grants could still be applied for and granted in a manner that would allow work to take place at a future date.

The meeting ended as there was no other business.