

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 24th January 2018 @ 2pm

Deputation Group: Tallaght Community Council

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Charlie O'Connor Cllr. Brian Lawlor Cllr. Kieran Mahon Cllr. Ronan Mahon Cllr. Emma Murphy Cllr. Mick Murphy Cllr. Dermot Richardson Apologies: Cllr. Louis Dunne Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan Cllr. Mick Duff Cllr. Francis Noel Duffy
Deputation:	Gerry Stockil Tara De Buitlear John Kiberd Walter Butler Donie Anderson
Council Officials Present:	
Elaine Leech	Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development
Suzanne Furlong	Environment Water & Climate Change
Michael Glynn	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development
Carol McDonnell	Housing, Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Charlie O'Connor.

Agenda:

- 1) Signage for Dublin Mountain Way.
- 2) Public Realm Upgrade of Dublin Mountain Way.
- 3) Cattle grids & associated signage in rural Tallaght.
- 4) Commitments given at Deputation meeting.

The group ask that their dissatisfaction that all items listed on their application have not been included in the agenda, be noted in the minutes.

1. Signage for Dublin Mountain Way.

The group request that South Dublin County Council (SDCC) recognise the asset that is the Dublin Mountain Way and signpost it as a ready to go tourist/recreational trail in Tallaght. The group also request the installation of at least one tourist road sign that would have the same specifications as the Tallaght Stadium and Basketball Area signs on the N81 and request the replacement of the yellow man marking signs (steel or wood) to clearly signpost the first mile. The group state that this is a repeat of the request made at the March 2017 Deputation meeting.

Elaine Leech of the Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development department replies to the group stating the four Dublin Local Authorities & Fáilte Ireland have carried out an orientation audit on the Dublin region in conjunction with the National Transport Authority. This audit is looking at developing an orientation strategy for the Dublin region where there will be consistency across the Dublin region in relation to signage. The audit asked that SDCC identify all the tourist attractions within the county. This audit is now complete and the next stage involves an orientation strategy which Fáilte Ireland are coordinating.

In relation to the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, Ms. Leech explains that SDCC are awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanála.

Regarding the Heritage Trail, Ms. Leech explains that the scheme is about to go out to tender. The starting point is proposed to be in Sean Walsh Park and there will also be a number of interpretive panels at different locations including Sean Walsh Park.

The group clarifies that what they are specifically asking for is one sign, situated on the N81, sitting on the same posts that signpost Tallaght Stadium. The group explain that the NRA sign standard is what they are requesting.

Ms. Leech replies to say the view had been of the overall plan for the Tallaght area, but taking on board the specific request, she will discuss it with the Land Use Planning & Transportation department and then refer back to the group.

2. Public Realm Upgrade of Dublin Mountain Way.

The group explain the interest in the Dublin Mountain Way and the group feel that the project has been underexploited. The group state that minimal investment could lead to an increased footfall into the area. The group had been informed that there was a budget allocated specifically for the Dublin Mountain Way from Sean Walsh Park to past Kiltipper Woods. The group ask what the total budget and the timelines from design to delivery.

Ms. Suzanne Furlong from the Environment Water & Climate Change department replied to the group, clarifying the information with regard to the budget allocation mentioned above. A previous commitment had been given by public realm operations and maintenance to the Litter Mugs group. These works include improving some of the existing footpaths within the area around the lakes at Sean Walsh Park. These have been included in the improvement works programme for 2018 which are currently being presented at the Area Committee Meetings and will go before the Tallaght Area Committee Meeting (ACM) in February to then be approved at the March Full Council Meeting. The budget will only be confirmed at that time but it is estimated to be in the region of €30,000. If passed by the Elected Members the plan would be to progress the works this year. These works are not proposed for the entire two kilometres that the group refer to, but is concentrated at the starting point of the Dublin Mountains Way.

Ms. Furlong explains that an allocation of €750,000 was also received in relation to Kiltipper Park. There is also a plan to examine the entrance to the Dublin Mountain Way at Sean Walsh Park over and above the existing footpaths that will need to be upgraded.

The group would like to be informed of any information on the scheme that can be shared with them.

Ms. Furlong replies to say that the Kiltipper Park part is still at the Design & Planning Stage but will be subject to a Part 8 process at which point it will be presented to the Elected Members and a full public consultation will ensue; including members of Tallaght Community Council.

3. Cattle Grids & associated signage in rural Tallaght

The group explain that the case had previously been made for the installation of cattle grids. The group state that the cattle grids assist in keeping the sheep on the hills and have been utilised by other County Councils such as Kildare, Laois, Mayo & other counties. The group are looking for SDCC to use the best designs possible. The group would like to be updated on the current standing of their request.

Mr. Michael Glynn of the Land Use Planning & Transportation department replies to the group to say that to his knowledge there had been no further discussion at County Council level in relation to this issue. The item was discussed later at a Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meeting and the Council clarified that the position is still that SDCC are not in favour of the installation of cattle grids. Mr. Glynn stated that there appeared to be a lack of a design standard and there is a concern for public safety i.e. cyclists & walkers. This could lead to SDCC being exposed to liability in the long term. It was agreed at the SPC meeting that a working group could be put together between Residents and SDCC staff. Solutions could be discussed further or a meeting could take place on site.

Cllr. Mick Murphy states that the working group has been formed and that Cllr. Paula Donovan is the coordinator. The group have contacted the main builder of cattle grids in the UK about standard designs.

Cllr. Emma Murphy states that the issue was raised at the Rathfarnham Templeogue Terenure ACM as recently as November

Cllr. Ronan Mahon explains that the issue was also discussed at the Council's Annual Budget Meeting last October.

The group appreciates the support it has received from the Elected Members and do not see this request for cattle grids as complicated as these grids are effective elsewhere. The group state their disappointment that the Council Officials are not up to date with the subject. The group state that the issues raised as a reason not to install the cattle grids do not hold water and that Tallaght Community Council will continue to support the process until the cattle grids are in place. The group explain that Tallaght has both rural & urban areas and the group stand firmly behind both areas. The group want a firm timeline on the delivery of cattle grids. The group also state that there are 5,000 people identifying as rural in the county.

Cllr. Dermot Richardson asks if a design is available, is this an Executive decision being made?

Cllr. Kieron Mahon states that the development of the Dublin Mountain Way should be a key selling point for the county.

Cllr. Mick Murphy states that the cattle grids are an unusual request for this Council, despite this, a standard does exist which the working group have found.

The group state the submission made previously had the support of the cycling council.

Mr. Glynn confirms that he will take all comments on board and report back to management.

Commitments given:

1. Specific signage request to be discussed with the Council's Land Use, Planning and Transportation Department and will refer back to Tallaght Community Council - Elaine Leech.
2. Kiltipper Park at Design and Planning Stage – will refer back to Elected Members and Tallaght Community Council when completed – Suzanne Furlong.
3. Site meeting offered as part of the agenda of working groups and the report to be brought to Management – Michael Glynn