

## DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

**Date & Time:** 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 @ 4pm

**Deputation Group:** Knocklyon United Football Club

<b>Councillors Present:</b>	Cllr. Paul Foley Cllr. Brian Lawlor Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan	Cllr. Enda Fanning Cllr. Paula Donovan Cllr. Charlie O'Connor
	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. Ronan Mahon Cllr. Emma Murphy Cllr. Pamela Kearns	
<b>Deputation:</b>	Gary Dent Donal Skelly Noel Gaughran Derek McHugh	
<b>Council Officials Present:</b>		
Michael Hannon	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Suzanne Furlong	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Louise Crofton	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Mick McCartan	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Ita Kenny	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Carol McDonnell	Housing, Social & Community Development	

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Paul Foley.

- 1. Playing Pitch Allocations – Castlefield Park Pitches 108 and 108A &**
- 2. Future Developments – Castlefield Park.**

The Group explain that the Pitches were impacted by Flood Alleviation Works on the Castlefield Estate which necessitated the installation of a large Flood Relief Pipe through pitch 108. The Group appreciate the need for the works to take place and that the pitch had to be taken off the club for that purpose.

A decision was made in June 2016 to remove the licence for the use of the facilities located in Castlefield from Knocklyon United FC in order to facilitate the Ballycullen Flood Alleviation Scheme. (Clubhouse, Pitch 108 & temporary Pitch 108A)

The Group are requesting the immediate return of temporary Pitch 108A and also a commitment on the reinstatement & resurfacing of Pitch 108.

Ms. Louise Crofton of the Environment, Water & Climate Change Department reiterated to the Group that given the works associated with the Ballycullen Flood Alleviation Scheme, it was decided that no sporting activity would take place in the vicinity of said works. Correspondence has been sent to the club in relation to use of Pitch No. 5 in Tymon Park in lieu of temporary Pitch 108A.

The Group reply to say that provision of pitches at Tymon Park is not suitable as the venue is a sizable distance from their favoured location and suitable changing facilities & the opening times of the park are not adequate.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan addresses the meeting to say that at the meeting regarding the Castlefield Drainage Programme, assurances were given to the club that they would not lose out as a result of works being carried out. The issue has been raised twice at Area Committee level and there is still no solution.

Cllr. Paula Donovan asks the Managers to clarify the dates for full completion and reinstatement.

Cllr. Paul Foley asks if temporary Pitch 108A can be rolled back quicker than 108.

Ms. Crofton replies to confirm current works are scheduled to finish at the end of the calendar year and that any long term or future development of the location is for the recommendation of the Chief Executive.

The Group explain that any further delay in the reinstatement of pitches will result in the club being off those pitches for a total of three years.

Cllr. Paul Foley asks for clarity on the statement that any long term or future development of the location is for the recommendation of the Chief Executive. Cllr. Foley asks if the Chief Executive is considering not allocating the pitches back to Knocklyon United Football Club (KUFC).

Ms. Crofton clarifies that it had been agreed at Senior Level that no sporting activity would take place in the curtilage of the ongoing works, the completion date for construction is the end of the current year the long term development of this area is at the recommendation of the Chief Executive.

The Group refer to a signed agreement between KUFC and South Dublin County Council (SDCC) that states that KUFC have the use of Pitch 108 and the Clubhouse until 2023. The club took on lotto funding around 2008/09 and have some documentation in terms of usage of Pitch 108 until 2023 and the Group would like written clarification on the issue.

The meeting noted a request for a review by Senior Management and that the Group be contacted in relation to the review in early May.

Cllr. Foley sought a report from the Deputation meeting to be brought to the Area Committee Meeting.

Mr. Mick McCartan from the Environment, Water & Climate Change Department responds to the issues addressed by the Group. Mr. McCartan explains that the use of the pitches are a temporary letting on a year by year basis and having reviewed the file, he has not had sight of a 2023 agreement. Mr. McCartan will investigate that and would appreciate if the Group could forward him any paperwork that would prove that position. Mr. McCartan explains to the Group that SDCC appreciates the tremendous work that KUFC have done but unfortunately due to limited resources in the whole area these factors are coming to a head. Mr. McCartan explains that during the downturn, there was no land purchase in South Dublin and this has had an effect on clubs throughout the County. It is Mr. McCartan's understanding that the position regarding the future of the location had been made clear to KUFC by the Director at meetings that have taken place in the last year.

The Group dispute that this has been the message put forward in past meetings.

### **3. Reinstatement Elkwood Park, Knocklyon.**

The Group state that if the Chief Executive is looking at alternative plans for the Ballycullen location there needs to be a strategy on future development for KUFC as the club will not agree to being housed at Tymon Park. The Group dispute the background of the players of the club that has taken over the pitch at Elkwood Park, Knocklyon.

Mr. McCartan appreciates the Groups view regarding a strategy and explains that the Parks Technical Staff are currently formulating a 5 year plan on the resources available to Parks and this is an ongoing process. Mr. McCartan explains that as part of the process the clubs will be asked for submissions. Mr. McCartan also states that SDCC is satisfied of the background of the players from the other Football Club mentioned by the Group.

Cllr. Foley asks Management if KUFC were to put application in for use of Elkwood Park, would it be considered?

Mr. McCartan replies to say that the allocation is on a year to year basis and the use of Elkwood will be looked at.

The Group would like the results of any review of the Elwood location sent to them.

#### **4. Site request for an Astro Pitch at Kennedy's Field R137 Tallaght Road.**

The Group explain that they made an official request on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to locate an Astro Pitch at Kennedy's Field on the R137, Tallaght Road seeking to pursue the development of an All Weather Facility at that venue. The Club have not received a definitive response as to where this issue stands. The only correspondence received stated that "it is currently under consideration at Senior cross Departmental level". The Group would like to know where the request is at.

Mr. Michael Hannon of the Environment, Water & Climate Change Department explains that he had met members of the Club at Kennedys Field around 5 years ago. Since that meeting there has been an explosion of clubs requesting Astro type pitches and the land bank available is small. The outstanding issues of how to provide facilities to clubs will have to be addressed in the Parks Strategy document. As previously explained the various interest Groups including Sports Clubs will be asked for their submissions. The provision of All Weather Pitches will be part of the Park Strategy document.

The Group ask how long it will take to formulate the plan.

Mr. Hannon replies to say that it is hoped that it would be completed in a 12 month period but that this would be very ambitious. The process is due to start this year.

The Group ask if their current application, is being considered at interdepartmental level, is this part of the current plan being formulated.

Mr Hannon replied that the possible use of Kennedy's Field will be considered it is essentially an issue to be dealt with under the Parks Strategy document.

The Group ask if the financing of the build will be covered by SDCC or will it be in conjunction with clubs like KUFC who already have the funds available to build the facility.

Mr. Hannon replies to say that this would have to be looked at. At present the Council work with clubs through the Sports Capital Programme and that also includes consideration of the money clubs have managed to raise themselves.

The Group ask if there are any other lands available that would be suitable for the clubs project such as tying in with Schools for example. Would there be a fast-track option available.

Mr. Hannon does not think that using other Open Spaces would not be a realistic option but all options will have to be considered.

**Meeting Ends**