

## DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

**Date & Time:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 @ 3pm

**Deputation Group:** Jobstown Celtic Football Club

<b>Councillors Present:</b>	Cllr. Cathal King Cllr. Brian Leech Cllr. Charlie O'Connor	Cllr. Louise Dunne Cllr. Nicky Coules Cllr. Martina Genockey
<b>Deputation:</b>	Brendan Mahon - Chairperson Pat Keating - Hon. Secretary Tracey Singleton - Treasurer Sean Byrne - Exec. Member/Manager of Senior team Michael Deans - Seniors Secretary	
<b>Council Officials Present:</b>		
Mary Maguire	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Oisin Egan	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Jimmy Morrissey	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development	
Pamela Hughes	Housing, Social & Community Development	

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Cathal King.

### Items 1 & 4

Brendan Mahon addressed the meeting. He outlined the issues experienced on the pitches in the park, specifically that the grass was not cut tight enough, goalmouths were worn out and in bad condition, there are a lot of holes and divots caused by people playing golf on the pitches and Pitch 71 is constantly water logged and needed drainage. The issue of turning the pitch 90 degrees was also brought up. The club want the pitch turned 90 degrees to accommodate younger football sides playing games with smaller numbers.

Oisin Egan from the Environment, Water & Climate Change department responded, saying that the department could look at turning the pitch and there is a weekly schedule in place to cut the grass (usually on the Thursday before matches) but he would need to talk to the foreman in the area about the height of the cut. Mr. Egan will also look into pricing for the repair of goalmouths and will liaise with the football club in order to minimise the time taken to close pitches. Mr. Egan also stated that there is no current plan to put a drainage system on the pitches. The cost of providing this would be a significant investment. Other methods are available which would provide a temporary solution. For the holes & divots, a mix of soil/sand could be provided to the club to deal with the issue. This would need to be stored in a secure location.

Cllr. Louise Dunne asks what the cost of drainage would be, how long would the treatment last and would the treatment have to be done every season.

Cllr. Brian Leech stated that the solution given for temporary drainage may not work and asked would it be possible to put soil on the pitch in order to raise the surface. He also said that filling in ditches in the park with hedgerows had increased the problems of flooding on the park.

Cllr. Martina Genockey asked would it be possible for Jobstown Celtic Football Club to be put in touch with other clubs where this solution had previously be used.

Oisín Egan replied to say that the cost would be between €15,000 & €20,000. The proposal could be put into the 2017 – 2019 Capital Programme. There would be significant work & investment necessary.

## **Item 2 & 3**

Brendan Mahon gave example of some of the problems experienced because of Anti-Social behaviour which is prevalent in the park. The club would also like the hedgerows removed.

Mary Maguire from the Environment, Water & Climate Change department responded to say that the issue of Quad Bikes is high on the Councils agenda. The legal advice given is that the Councils Bye laws are sufficient. The issue is a county wide problem and the issue of what happens to confiscated vehicles needs to be addressed. There is talk of facilities for Quad Bikes opening in other County Councils and South Dublin County Council have arranged to visit these County Councils to discuss the issues.

Cllr. Cathal King enquired about the removal of the hedgerows.

Oisín Egan explained that the bushes couldn't be removed at this time of year. The Council would have to look at removing some hedgerows or a planting plan for the park.

Mary Maguire responded to say that the issue would be looked at with a balanced view.

Cllr. Martina Genockey asked about the current plan in place for the park.

Oisín Egan explain that it was an issue for Forward Planning.

Cllr. Cathal King agreed that this issue of Forward Planning and was not on the agenda for this meeting.

Cllr. Nicky Coules asked about what was being done regarding to owners of Quad Bikes.

Cllr. Cathal King explained that the issue is currently being looked at by the Joint Policing Committee.

Brendan Mahon requests that the hedgerows at Pitch 69 be removed.

Cllr, Cathal King explains the reason that a commitment can't be given to remove hedgerows until Autumn.

## **Item 5**

Brendan Mahon explained that there were two issues around access to the park. The first was the service /vehicle gate which was normally locked and which the club did not have a key. Concerns were expressed around access for emergency vehicles during match time. It was agreed that a service key would be assigned to the club for emergency use.

The second item concerned access via the pedestrian gate from the leisure centre car park into the park. This route is used to carry mobile goals onto the site. A request was made to widen or reconfigure the gates, to improve access for transporting the goal equipment. Concerns were expressed by the centre representative Jimmy Morrissey about security issues and a discussion was held. It was agreed that a site meeting will be convened between all the stakeholders to scope out possible solutions.

Brendan Mahon asked who the best person for the club to communicate with was.

Oisín Egan gave the Foreman's name but also provided the group with his own email address.

### **Commitments**

Cllr. Cathal King concluded the meeting by confirming the commitments given to the group.

- (1) Oisín Egan to talk to Foreman about grass cutting and the pricing for goalmouths.  
A mix of soil/sand to be provided to the club to deal with the issue of holes & divots on pitches.
- (2) Biodiversity survey to be carried out on hedgerows in the park. To be requested by the Environment, Water & Climate Change Department. Oisín Egan/Mary Maguire.
- (3) Temporary solution of Shockwave/Slitting to be carried out on pitches to alleviate drainage issues – Oisín Egan. As a long terms solution, the Councillors will look at including funding on the Capital Programme.
- (4) Jimmy Morrissey to meet with the group on site.
- (5) Key for the barrier for emergency vehicles to access the pitch to be given to club. – Oisín Egan.