

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time **20th June 2018 @ 2pm**

Deputation Group: **Lower Bancroft Neighbourhood Watch Group**

Councillors Present	Cllr. Cora McCann Cllr. Kieran Mahon Cllr. Charlie O'Connor
Apologises	Cllr. Louise Dunne, Cllr. Mick Murphy & Cllr. Mick Duff.
Deputation	David Olive, Rita Oliver & Sean Burke.
Council Official Present	
Leo Magee	Environment Water & Climate Change
Eamon Harnett	Environment Water & Climate Change
Brian Carroll	Housing Social & Community Development
Pamela Hughes	Housing Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Cora McCann.

Items discussed:

- 1) **Bancroft Close/Castlepark interface.**
- 2) **Scramblers & quads – Bancroft Park (30 acres) and Bancroft Estate.**
- 3) **Commitments given at the Deputation meeting.**

Item 1 - Bancroft Close/Castlepark interface.

The group begin the meeting by distributing photographs of the areas of concern to the Council Officials, explaining the location of each picture & the areas in the pictures. The group state that the issues are specifically on the Bancroft Close side, the boundary wall of the park and the kissing gate. There is a need to do a tidy up at No. 13. The park side is also dire. The group would like the wall rounded off, to stop Anti-Social behaviour. Bancroft Grove has a rounded wall and raised fence. The gap between the park and Bancroft Close, there is an ongoing issue with drug dealing and there is a lot of this type of activity at this location. A Garda report had been compiled for Senator Devine about 4 years ago which gave suggestions on how to stop this type of behaviour. The group state that there are Scramblers/Quad bikes using the area which are also a danger to residents. The users of these vehicles use this gap as a rat run. The group suggest that a gate needs to be installed, the wall replaced and adequate lighting installed. On the inside of the fence, there are litter problems and fines need to be issued in relation to the derelict site. The group suggest a boundary between the park & the derelict site. The group state that

nothing has been done with the site since 2004. The group ask can the Council take over this site because it would be beneficial to tidy up and secure. The group state that the only work done in recent times was to take back the tops of trees to stop growth into power cables. The group think that it will not take massive resources to make the requested improvements and bring the area into public ownership. The group explain that there have been LED lights installed recently but only on one side and that people are afraid to walk in the area at night time. The group ask that SDCC take these ideas on board.

Leo Magee of the Environment Water & Climate Change department asks how the wall was put in.

The group states that a row of bollards were there but the group don't know who put the wall in. A wall would make it difficult for Scramblers/Quad bikes to access the estate and the 30 acres.

Mr. Magee replies to the group stating that his department will clear the entrance to the park. Will spray and clear up. There would be reservations about clearing the boundary all the way back to the houses as it could expose the boundary and make it easier for people to get in. This particular entrance had previously been brought to his attention and he will look at possibly raising the railing & to do something with the kissing gate to prevent Scramblers/Quad Bikes getting into the park area. In relation to the wall built across the road, Mr. Magee explains that he will refer the issue to the SDCC Land Use Planning & Transportation department. Mr. Magee will also ask for the derelict site to be looked at by the department responsible.

The group ask that the wall is raised or changed so as to will stop it being used as a bench.

Cllr. McCann explains that she had walked the area and noted issues with overgrowth, dumping and the grass not being cut back to the trees. Cllr. McCann believes that cleaning up the area will have an impact on the Anti-Social Behaviour.

Cllr. Kieran Mahon states that SDCC should deal with the unfinished areas in order to develop park.

The group ask about the boundary wall.

Mr. Magee states that he will talk to the Land Use Planning & Transportation department.

Item 2 - Scramblers & quads – Bancroft Park (30 acres) and Bancroft Estate.

The group explain that there had been difficulty in the past with stolen cars but in the last six months there have been Scramblers & Quads in the park every day. The Gardaí and SDCC have been informed. Letters were sent to SDCC and Minister Zaponne as this issue concerns children. The issue is also a community problem and various stake holders in the community need to be involved to solve this issue.

The group state that the Gardaí were not following up on the calls they are receiving but there have been small improvement with the new Superintendent for the area. A site meeting has taken place with SDCC & the group present and ideas regarding limiting the ease of access were discussed. The group describe the area at the end of Tymon North and how it is easy for Scramblers to gain access to the park at that location. The area at Westpark Fitness is where the Quad bikes are getting through. The Quad Bikes/Scramblers exit through Westpark Fitness and then race through Bancroft Estate.

Cllr. O'Connor states that there has been a lot of discussion about this problem and this item is on the next Tallaght Area Committee Meeting agenda.

The group state that there has been seizure of vehicles by the Gardaí after the recent serious incident in the Ballymun/Finglas area. The Councils website gives contradictory information regarding the use of Scramblers/Quad Bikes. The group ask that signage be placed in the park as a deterrent.

Mr. Magee explains that the groups' suggestions have gone to the Director of his department. The proposals could be done at small expense such as the raising of the height of the railing on the wall at Tymon & Castlepark. The rounding off of the wall with a stud type mechanism could be done as well. Mr. Magee agrees the boundary at West Park is exposed and SDCC will need to look at some way to close it off.

The group explain that West Park can't fence off the area as it is SDCC land.

Commitments given:

- 1) Area of Bancroft Close/Castlepark interface to be cleared – Leo Magee.
- 2) Look at kissing gate to hinder access by Scramblers/Quad Bikes at 4/5 locations around the park – Leo Magee.
- 3) Speak to the Roads Section regarding the wall at Bancroft Close opposite number 13 – Leo Magee.
- 4) Raise height of railings at Tymon North & Castlepark – Leo Magee.
- 5) Stud type topping to be put on top of both sides of wall at Bancroft Close/Castlepark interface – Leo Magee.