

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 28th September 2016 @ 3pm

Deputation Group: Orwell Park Residents Association

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Paul Foley Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan Cllr. Enda Fanning Cllr. Pamela Kearns Apologies: Cllr. Francis Duffy Cllr. Dermot Looney
Deputation:	Declan Devlin Ciaran Boylan Joe Kiernan Margaret Noone Donnachadh Lehane
Council Officials Present:	
Máire Ni Dhomhnaill	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Oisin Egan	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Michael Hannon	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Michael Glynn	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Caitrin Foley	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Brian Carroll	Housing, Social & Community Development
Pamela Hughes	Housing, Social & Community Development
Lindsay Gahan	Housing, Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Paul Foley.

1) Road Signage – Orwell Estate.

The Group explained that this issue was on the Agenda the last time they had attended a Deputation meeting and the conditions of the signs are still an issue but the Group have now discovered that the signs in the estate are factually wrong as well, i.e. the description for the numbers of the houses on the signs are incorrect. The group gave examples at Orwell Park Avenue. The group said that this is causing confusion for visitors to the Estate, Government Agencies and Utility Companies. The Group said that the signs for Orwell Park Grove and Orwell Park are correct.

Michael Glynn replied to the Group to say that he was not aware of the issue before now. He said that his department would survey signs in the estate. If there is a confusion, they will endeavour to change the signs as soon as possible. The correct addresses will also be update to include Dublin 6w.

Cllr. Paul Foley suggests that any review should be run past the Group to get sanction before it is acted upon.

2) Condition Road Ramps – Orwell Estate.

The group explain that while some speed ramps in the area that have been redone, the Group would like to draw attention to the ramps in the area that require work & updating.

Michael Glynn replied by stating that there is contract in place for Traffic Calming Ramps throughout the County. A number of ramps are to be replaced on Wellington Lane. These are the only ones currently listed in that area.

The Group states that the ramps on the Rossmore Road by the Church and the School are also in need of repair.

Michael Glynn states that these will be included in the survey and if there is no funding for the works this year, they will be included in next year's Road Reinstatement contract.

Cllr. Pamela Kearns states that she has a number of Members Reps sent to the Council in relation to the Rossmore & Wellington ramps.

3) Illegal Dumping on Orwell Park Green.

The Group states that the issue of dumping of Christmas Trees on Orwell Green is still happening. This issue had been brought up at the previous Deputation meeting and it was decided that a sign was to be placed in the area. This sign was erected, however, the dumping of Christmas Trees has continued. The Group explains that this is a real aggravation for the residents as this was never an issue until the Council designated this area for recycling of Christmas Trees and then reversed that decision.

Oisin Egan agrees that the area should not have been designated an area for recycling of Christmas Trees and despite the Councils best efforts the problem has continued. Mr. Egan stated that when the Council did receive complaints about Christmas Trees or other rubbish being dumped there, the Council reacts and removes these items as soon as they can.

The Group explained that some people had taken to lighting the trees on fire and on some occasions, the contents of garden materials had been dumped there as well.

Mr. Egan replied by saying that in cases like these, if its large scale dumping, the perpetrators need to be identified, i.e. through car registrations etc.

The Group asked if there has been a prosecution in the area by the Litter Warden for these particular activities.

Mr. Egan explains that the Litter Warden Service would have that information and it can be checked with them.

Cllr. Foley suggests that a leaflet drop takes place in the area, pointing out that there is a recycling area on Cherryfield.

The Group ask that a temporary sign be placed on Orwell Park Green in December and January, which specifically states “No dumping of Christmas Trees”.

Mr. Egan states that this had been done before but it might be worthwhile trying this approach again.

Cllr. Kearns suggests that if the message comes from the Residents Association instead of the Council, the message might have more of an impact.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan suggests that mobile CCTV be used in the area, particularly as it is not only Christmas Trees being left in the area.

Mr. Egan explains that that Mobile CCTV is usually utilised at Litter Blackspots, which would be much more serious cases of dumping than this one.

4) Development Plan – Orwell Park Green.

The Group is looking to revive the plan for Orwell Park Green.

Michael Hannon recalls one of his colleagues being previously involved in the process but that due to the recession, that plan was scrapped. He suggests that the best plan of action would be to start again and have a look at how the area exists as it is now. Mr. Hannon offers to meet with the group in order to see what ideas they have for the area. Mr. Hannon advises the Group not to leave anything off the Agenda, i.e. Play Areas, Football pitches etc. Mr. Hannon also gives the group a map of the open space.

5) Tree Maintenance – Orwell Estate (Update)

Maire Ni Dhomhnaill gave an update on the current tree maintenance plan for the area.

She states that at 39 trees in the Orwell Park estate are due to be felled, 146 trees to be pruned and following the Deputation meeting last year, there are 80 trees to be planted. This will happen between November of this year and March 2017.

The Group thanks the Council and acknowledges that the work being done is actively visible. The Group asked for clarification of the Council's policy regarding trees that are overshadowing properties and asks the Council to prune trees to account for this.

Ms. Ni Dhomhnaill explains that the Tree Policy is available on the Council's website and it clarifies when a tree should be removed. The Council does not remove healthy trees. There have been a number of phone calls received from Orwell Park Residents regarding the work being carried out on trees at present. A site visit has taken place and Ms. Ni Dhomhnaill will be replying to those residents regarding those issues. There are occasions, where the issue is light, the Council states clearly in their Policy that they will not remove trees for this reason alone.

The group give examples of overgrown trees on Orwell Park Glade that are overshadowing houses.

Cllr. Pamela Kearns asked if there was a caveat in the policy, whereby if a tree is over casting as house, does it depend on the degree and the time of the day, so there is a capacity there to remove it and also, are the houses mentioned by the group on the current list.

Ms. Ni Dhomhnaill replies to say that there is provision if the tree is overhang a garden, the Council will prune back to the boundary. The Council will also review certain situations. Ms. Ni Dhomhnaill will also check the Inspection Record for Orwell Park Glade.

Cllr. Kearns asked whose responsibility is it to inspect the tree where there was an issue with light being blocked coming into a house.

Ms. Ni Dhomhnaill replies to say that the Council will survey the tree. The Council looks at the structure of the tree, the condition, the age, the location etc. light is not considered in a tree survey.