

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time: 27th November 2019 @ 2pm

Deputation Group: Boden Wood Residents Association

Councillors Present	Cllr. Mary Seery Kearney, Cllr. Yvonne Collins, Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan & Cllr. Charlie O'Connor.
Apologies	Cllr. Carly Bailey & Cllr. David McManus.
Deputation	Lisa Evans & Paul McDonnell
Council Officials Present:	
Leo Magee	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Máire Ní Dhomhnaill	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. Mary Seery Kearney.

Items discussed:

- 1) **Tree Stump removals at locations provided.**
- 2) **Tree maintenance on the open spaces.**
- 3) **Confirmation that Boden Wood is on the Road Sweeping schedule.**
- 4) **Footpath repairs at the locations provided.**
- 5) **Name plates and fixing the broken wall at the entrance of the estate.**
- 6) **Commitments given at Deputation meeting.**

Item 1 - Tree Stump removals at locations provided.

The group explain that two years ago, ten sycamore trees were cut down in the estate as the trees were affecting the light in the area. The stumps from these trees remain in the area and the group say that these tree stumps are causing trip hazards on the footpaths. The group see these tree stumps as a Health & Safety issue and would like them removed.

Cllr. O'Donovan, Cllr. Collins & Cllr. Seery Kearney support the groups application.

The group explain that they are happy for suitable trees to be planted when replacing the stumps.

Ms. Máire Ní Dhomhnaill, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Environment, Water and Climate Change department explains that she had met with the group in Boden Wood previous to tree maintenance and tree removal works taking place in the area. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill says that there was overplanting in the area at the front of the estate and it was decided that every second tree would be removed. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill states that the tree stumps have been listed for removal and the works will take place early in 2020. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill also explains that there are no plans to replant trees in the locations where the tree stumps are because of the density of trees already planted in the area.

The group explain that there was a sewage overflow into the Owendoher River. The group say this was caused by a sewage pipe being broken by roots from one of the sycamore trees.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill explains that tree roots only enter pipes that are already cracked and normally the roots of trees do not cause breakages.

Item 2 - Tree maintenance on the open spaces.

The group explain that there are shrubby type trees on the open spaces that are overgrown. The group say that these have never been cut back by South Dublin County Council (SDCC). The group explain that opposite number 17 on the open green space, shrubs were planted 15 years ago to cover the wall and are completely overgrown onto the green space. The group say that they have been maintaining these open spaces, but the group can't cut the trees coming from the other area.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replies to say that there is Japanese Knotweed in the area that it is being treated and no works will take place at that location. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill states that she will be speaking with her colleague in the Water & Drainage section as they are responsible for the trees along the river. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill says that she has visited the area of open space described by the group and explains that there are two types of ornamental shrubs.

The group ask if the shrubs will grow out as far as the road.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill doesn't think the shrubs will grow out that far. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill suggests that the Viburnum could be cut back when it stops flowering. This will happen before the end of February. The shrub could then be cut back between every three to five years.

Cllr. Collins asks what the timeline is for the treatment of the Japanese Knotweed.

Mr. Leo Magee, Senior Engineer, Environment, Water and Climate Change department replies to say that the process takes five years and that SDCC are currently in year three of the program at that location.

The group ask about the open spaces and the debris from trees being left in these areas. The group say that the debris being left by SDCC is encouraging others to leave grass & branch clippings in these locations. The group say that these areas have become overgrown and an eyesore and the group would like assistance from SDCC to make these areas look better. The group ask if a maintenance crew could clean the area out.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill confirms that she has visited the areas. Mr. Ní Dhomhnaill says that the area will have to be discussed the Water & Drainage section as they are also responsible for the maintenance of trees in this area.

The group clarify the other locations that need to be examined.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill agrees to examine these locations as well with a view of maintenance work being carried out.

Item 3 - Confirmation that Boden Wood is on the Road Sweeping schedule.

The group ask if there is a Road Sweeping schedule for Boden Wood and if there is, could they have a copy of the schedule.

Mr. Magee confirms that the contract for Road Sweeping is with Oxygen and the sweeping is done in the estates every quarter. There are four sweeps on the estate per year and 12 sweeps on the main road per year. Mr. Magee says that at the end of December he will be able to give the group the sweeping dates for the 2020 schedule. Mr. Magee confirms that at this stage of the year, Boden Wood has had its four sweeps with the fourth sweep taking place early in October. Mr. Magee expects the next sweep of Boden Wood to take place early in January 2020. Mr. Magee explains that SDCC has access to the GPS that the contractor uses, this allows SDCC to monitor that sweeping has taken place. Mr. Magee will also inspect the Boden Wood estate after sweeping has taken place in January 2020. Mr. Magee explains that the Loose Sweeping part of the contract takes place from the end of September until the end of January. SDCC records show that this was carried out in Boden Wood in the past month. This sweeping is not on a schedule but is done by request.

The group ask if the resident should make a request directly to SDCC for Leaf Sweeping.

Mr. Magee confirms that this sweeping is done on request.

Item 4 - Footpath repairs at the locations provided.

The group state that the only repairs ever carried out on the footpaths in Boden Wood estate were when Irish Water installed the Water Meters. The group explain the bad state of repair of the footpaths in the area. The group would like to know when maintenance works will be carried out.

Mr. Michael Glynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Land Use Planning & Transportation department replies to the group to say that these works did not make their way onto the 2019 program. Mr. Glynn says that an inspection has taken place and his department are aware of the issues. Mr. Glynn states that works should take place in early 2020 by direct labour crews.

Item 5 - Name plates and fixing the broken wall at the entrance of the estate.

The group explain that the signpost for Boden Wood is completely worn away. The group have been told that new signs have been ordered and they would like an update on the current situation.

Mr. Glynn replies to say that following discussions with the Area Engineer, he has been informed that the signs have been ordered and that both signs can be installed on opposite walls as this is the resident's preference. Mr. Glynn cannot give an exact installation date.

The group explain that the wall collapsed two years ago and the only reply they have received on the issue is that there is an investigation taking place. The group would like an update on the situation.

Mr. Glynn replies to say that his department are aware of the wall being broken. Mr. Glynn states that some damage may have been caused by trees growing on the other side of the wall. The trees on the other side may need to be pruned as some of the branches may have caused the damage. Mr. Glynn states that this work will have to be part of the Japanese Knotweed program that is ongoing. Mr. Glynn says that some masonry repairs are taking place near this location. Mr. Glynn says work could be included but it would first have to be established if the works would affect the treatment of the Japanese Knotweed. In the short-term barriers could be placed at the location to make the area safe.

Commitments given:

- 1) Tree stumps listed for removal in 2020 – Máire Ní Dhomhnaill.**
- 2) Tree stumps at river: commitment to speak with Water & Drainage department - Máire Ní Dhomhnaill.**
- 3) Hedging: Viburnum – maintenance will be done when flowering in February 2020. Can't touch river edge due to Japanese Knotweed – Máire Ní Dhomhnaill.**
- 4) Dates for Road Sweeping Schedule will be provided in early 2020 – Leo Magee.**
- 5) Footpath repairs have been listed and are scheduled for 2020 – Michael Glynn.**
- 6) Road signs have been ordered and will be replaced like for like on the walls – Michael Glynn.**
- 7) Masonry repairs will be undertaken subject to Japanese Knotweed protections as required – Michael Glynn.**