

## DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

**Date & Time**                      **25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 @ 3pm**

**Deputation Group:**              **Cherryfield Residents Association**

Councillors Present	Cllr. Mary Seery-Kearney, Cllr. Yvonne Collins & Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan.
Apologies	Cllr. Pamela Kearns & Cllr. Charlie O'Connor
Deputation	Claire Carbery & Audrey Bradley
Council Officials Present:	
Tony O'Grady	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Leo Magee	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Máire Ni Dhomhnaill	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Brendan Redmond	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Eamon Harnett	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Brian Carroll	Housing Social & Community Development
Lindsay Gahan	Housing Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Mary Seery- Kearney.

### **Items discussed:**

- 1) **Refurb of the Tennis Courts & Basketball Pitches.**
- 2) **Extension of Playground – Improvements to perimeter.**
- 3) **Cleaning of Laneways.**
- 4) **Replacement trees of those felled, removal of trees and tree pruning.**
- 5) **Footpath repairs.**
- 6) **Commitments given at Deputation meeting**

### **Item 1 - Refurb of the Tennis Courts & Basketball Pitches.**

The group had received an email which detailed the capital expenditure for the park in Beechfield; €20,000 was allocated for 2018 and €10,000 was allocated for 2019. The group welcomed the work that had been done on the Basketball and Tennis Courts. The group are looking for some more investment into the amenity and for maintenance work to be carried out. The group explain that one of their committee members is working with St. Damien's National School on a basketball program, they would like to extend this to the Cherryfield/Beechfield Community.

Leo Magee, Senior Engineer, Environment, Water and Climate Change department replied to the group saying that an order has been placed for the cleaning and marking of six tennis courts, for the purchase and installation of posts & nets on two of the tennis courts. The department were not prepared to spend money on all the equipment without knowing that something would happen with a group taking ownership. For the Basketball Court, an order will be placed to replace the hoops, nets & the backboards and also to clean & line the Basketball Court. This could be reconsidered if it is show that there is a demand for all the tennis courts to be

equipped with nets and that South Dublin County Council (SDCC) are satisfied that there is a group available to look after the equipment.

The group explain that the Parks Tennis is at the location every weekend. The nets that are there now are put in the pavilion. A commitment could be got that if new equipment is put on all six courts, four of the six nets could be taken in each weekend and the two remaining nets could be left out for the community.

Mr. Magee agrees to consider that arrangement.

Cllr. O'Donovan asks if the location is included on a maintenance schedule and asks should to the group become a member of the Public Participation Network (PPN) to enable them to access funding themselves.

Mr. Magee replies to confirm that Beechfield Park receives regular maintenance in terms of grass cutting and litter picking. Mr. Magee admits that the location has become dilapidated over time. Mr. Magee advises that improvements will be made through SDCC's program of works. Mr. Magee cannot advise the group on the PPN.

Cllr. Seery-Kearney asks could the Park Ranger inspect the park on a more regular basis.

Mr. Eamon Harnett, District Supervisor of Parks, Environment, Water and Climate Change department explains that an inspection takes place weekly to check on the playground. Mr. Harnett states that there would not be the facility available to sweep the courts as regular as the group would like but that he can arrange for the area to be sweep in the next week to ten days.

The groups ask if it is the same employee that sweeps the roads or if it is another department.

Mr. Harnett replies to say that the Road Sweeping contract is a separate contract.

The group ask if there are any deadlines for the Basketball Courts and Tennis Courts.

Mr. Magee replies to say that he is expecting the current order for the Tennis Courts to be fulfilled in the next few weeks but any changes to the order could lengthen the lead in time. Mr. Magee hopes that the order for the Basketball Courts will happen by the end of next month.

The group ask if a written commitment from Parks Tennis will be sufficient.

Mr. Magee confirms that it is.

## **Item 2 - Extension of Playground – Improvements to perimeter.**

The group had noticed damage to the fencing in the playground, but repairs have been done this week and the group welcomes this. The group have seen larger newer playgroups being developed in other areas and would like to know if there is an opportunity for their playground to be extended.

Marie Ní Dhomhnaill, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Environment, Water and Climate Change department explains that she is replying on behalf of her colleague Laurence Colleran. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill says that a public consultation took place when the existing playspace was first developed, there was an agreement for the current play equipment to be installed. At the time, SDCC couldn't get agreement on installing other items because of concerns expressed by the residents. There are lists currently being compiled for locations in the area that have no playspaces. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill also explained that the playspace program is coming to an end and commitments cannot be given on any new playspaces or the extension of any current playspaces. Any future play areas will be subject to specific funding being made available.

The group ask how often funding becomes available.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replies stating that the playspace program had been ongoing for a number of years. The next stage is called the Teen Space, these facilities would be for teenagers. The playspace program is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

The group ask about the equipment that would be provided for a Teen Space.

Brendan Redmond, Assistant Parks Superintendent, Environment, Water and Climate Change department explains the Teen Space program to the group.

The group ask if they could apply for funding for this.

Mr. Redmond replies to say that the area could be looked at as a possible location in the future.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill explains that the Teen Space is only a new program and that it is constantly developing. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill says that Laurence Colleran is the person to liaise with on the Teen Space program.

### **Item 3 - Cleaning of Laneways.**

The group explain that there are laneways at the back of the houses in Cherryfield and Beechfield that give access to garages. Most of the laneways have been blocked up but there is still a lot of fly tipping happening. The lanes are also overgrown with weeds and nettles. The group claim that the lanes are not maintained by SDCC and this is in turn encouraging fly tipping. The group were told that the lane ways would be cleaned in May but only two of the nine laneways were cleared of refuse and scrapped to remove the overgrowth. The group had also been told that they would be placed on a regular maintenance roster.

Mr. Harnett explains that a commitment had been given a number of years ago to have these laneways cleaned twice a year. These works have not taken place in the last while. The Elected Members have been pursuing this issue and a program has been put in place. There is a complete list of laneways between Walkinstown, Beechfield, Cherryfield and Perrystown. The laneways have now been prioritised as they have been ignored for a number of years. There has been spraying in the last few weeks there are some staff that will drive through the laneways clearing up fly tipping. Where possible, the Litter Warden will examine the items dumped at the location to try to identify offenders. There is a specific program being followed and it is hoped that a significant improvement with been seen soon.

The group ask if a written program of the works is available.

Cllr. Collins explains that she had raised the issue at the last Council meeting and that she had a copy of the schedule. Cllr. Collins agreed to forward the schedule to the group.

Mr. Magee explained that there were some different laneways marked on the groups map and those named in the schedule. A cross check will need to be done.

### **Item 4 - Replacement trees of those felled, removal of trees and tree pruning.**

The group are asking for tree stumps to be removed from the area and also information on how to get on to the list for replanting of trees.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill relies to the group explaining that she has looked through this list of tree stumps provided by the group. There were issues with those trees, and they were cut down for Health & Safety reasons. The area was included as part of the tree maintenance program and a number of trees have been removed. The tree stumps will be listed for removal. As part of the replacement of the trees, it is sometimes not possible to plant in the same location until the existing roots die back. Replanting has been proposed in the area this year on Beechfield Road. There will be a review done in the Cherryfield area for possible planting as part of next year's program.

The group ask if Beechfield Close will be included as it currently has no trees. The group also ask if any consultation takes place with the residents ahead of planting.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill explains the process to the group. The information is also available on the SDCC websites tree management page.

Cllr. Seery- Kearney asks if there is a timeline for the removal of the tree stumps.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill is reluctant to give a timeline. New machinery is available, but schedules will have to be done.

### **Item 5 - Footpath repairs.**

The group state that the tree roots have damaged footpaths in the area. Contractors had been in the area around 18 months ago and a considerable amount of work was completed on Cherryfield Road and Beechfield Road. Works have not been carried out on the rest of the estate. A list had been compiled and supplied as part of the group's application for the meeting. The group would like to know if there are plans to complete the works on the rest of the footpaths.

Tony O'Grady, Senior Engineer, Land Use Planning and Transportation department informs the group that the Roads Inspector for that area has visited the site and provided a report on the area. Mr. O'Grady proposes to include both footpath refurbishment and roads resurfacing on the 2020 program.

The group ask if the roads resurfacing will be the whole estate of the remaining roads to be done i.e. Cherryfield Drive, Cherryfield Avenue and Beechfield Close.

Mr. O'Grady confirms that it will be some of the remaining roads. The Roads & Footpath program will go before the Elected Members in February 2020.

Commitments given:

- 1) **Will review the order for equipment to six courts once the Residents Association have provided the requested document for oversight – Leo Magee.**
- 2) **Basketball order will be made in the coming weeks – Leo Magee.**
- 3) **The courts will be cleaned in next two weeks – Eamon Harnett.**
- 4) **Schedule to be cross checked with groups list and provided to the Residents – Leo Magee.**
- 5) **Laneways to cleaned and put on schedule for regular clean ups – Eamon Harnett.**
- 6) **Tree stumps are being removed as soon as possible – Máire Ní Dhomhnaill.**
- 7) **Replanting for Beechfield Road, Cherryfield Road and Cherryfield Drive to be put on tree planting schedule to go to Elected Members – Máire Ní Dhomhnaill.**
- 8) **Roads and footpaths as per the Road Inspector's report to be included on 2020 program to go to the Elected Members – Tony O'Grady.**