

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time

25th September 2019 @ 2pm

Deputation Group:

Orwell Park Residents Association

Councillors Present	Cllr. Mary Seery- Kearney, Cllr. Yvonne Collins & Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan.
Apologies	Cllr. Pamela Kearns & Cllr. Charlie O'Connor
Deputation	Joseph Kiernan, Mary Sheehy, Ciaran Boylan & Miriam McGuinness.
Council Officials Present:	
Leo Magee	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Máire Ni Dhomhnaill	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Kevin Reilly	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Shelia Kelly	Land Use Planning & Transportation
Brian Carroll	Housing Social & Community Development
Lindsay Gahan	Housing Social & Community Development

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

Items discussed:

- 1) **Orwell Roundabout.**
- 2) **Road Signage.**
- 3) **Orwell Park Green Passive Development.**
- 4) **Tree cutting and pruning.**
- 5) **Removal of Traffic Island at Orwell Shopping Centre (Orwell Park Heights).**
- 6) **Commitments given at Deputation meeting.**

Item 1 - Orwell Roundabout

The group ask for an update on the Orwell Roundabout.

Marie Ní Dhomhnaill, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Environment, Water and Climate Change department replies to say that she has met some of the group previously to discuss work that has been done at the roundabout. South Dublin County Council's (SDCC) intention was that the roundabout would be low maintenance. There have been issues and the roundabout has been reviewed to see what can be done with this large area. The previous plans for planting have not worked. It is proposed that, the following work which will be tendered – removing the existing gravel and ivy rings and grassing these areas, the inner circle will be weeded, and additional plants will be planted. It is proposed to plant bulbs in the grass areas to increase colour through the seasons in the future and make the area pollinator friendly as per the SDCC policy.

Cllr. O'Donovan asks how much has been spent and what the future cost will be of the roundabout.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replies to say that approximately €56,000 has been spent to date. The procurement process will need to be completed to establish future costs.

Cllr. O'Donovan asks if the updated costs can be brought to the next Area Committee Meeting.

Cllr. Mary Seery- Kearney asks when it is expected for the work to be done.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replied to say that she hoped that the works will have commenced before Spring 2020.

Item 2 - Road Signage.

The group say that good progress has been made on this item and they explain that it was agreed for the work to be done in two phases in 2019 and 2020. The first phase has been completed and the group wishes to record their thanks to Vincent Heywood and the Roads Team in South Dublin County Council for the work being carried out as agreed. The group wish to ensure that the corrective work for road signage in the remainder of the estate is carried out as agreed in the first half of 2020.

Kevin Reilly, Chief Technician, Land Use Planning and Transportation department confirms that the works will be completed in the first half of 2020.

Item 3 - Orwell Park Green Passive Development.

The group thank SDCC for progress this year in the Orwell Park Green Passive Development. To move on from the work that has been completed the group would like to meet with the appropriate individuals to discuss further progress. The group would also like to trial the artwork on telecom boxes.

Leo Magee, Senior Engineer, Environment, Water and Climate Change department replies to say that there is an item in the improvement works program for this year, for the development of further paths. Mr. Magee suggests a site meeting to discuss the plans. The repairs requested could be looked at as well.

Item 4 - Tree cutting and pruning.

The group believe that all the trees through the estate need to be pruned. The group are disappointed that the trees have not been pruned on the green area opposite the houses 242 to 247 Orwell Park Glade. There are around 12 trees on this green area, the other side of this area is Wellington Lane. The second example is two trees adjacent to 369 Orwell Park Crescent. The group would like to know the policy regarding tree pruning and ask can something be done about the trees that need to be pruned in the area.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replies to explain that the SDCC Tree Management policy was launched a number of years ago. The document sets out the policy regarding when planting, pruning or removal is done. The intention is to introduce a cyclical program of whole roads and whole estates. The old system of doing individual trees was not as affective. The area is surveyed and there is a tree management system were the surveys are recorded. Decisions are then made on what tree maintenance program is required. Tree maintenance was carried out in the Orwell Estate in 2016. Tree on the open space are not part of the program and work on these may not have been

completed. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill suggested meeting with the group after the meeting and if more work was required that could be looked at.

The group asked if a list would be required.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replied to say that a list would be useful.

The group explained that they will be having an AGM in early December and that they would be able to provide a list after that meeting. The group ask when the work is carried out.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replies that work is carried out all year round.

The group are concerned about some trees in the area are a Health & Safety concern.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill advises that if there are situations that the group consider dangerous, the surveying of these trees can be prioritised and be dealt with.

The group ask that the two examples that had been given i.e. on the green area opposite the houses 242 to 247 Orwell Park Glade & two trees adjacent to 369 Orwell Park Crescent.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill agrees to look at these two situations.

Cllr. O'Donovan asks, how far along are we in the 2019 Tree Pruning Program and when is a realistic date that these works will be done.

Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill replies to say that SDCC is establishing an ongoing cyclical program of tree maintenance. The three-year program was presented to the Elected Members. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill explains that the 2018 program is still being completed, some work from 2019 has been completed in some areas. Ms. Ní Dhomhnaill explains that the trees put forward by the group would need to be surveyed to establish how urgently the work is required. As Orwell Park has been listed for work in 2016, work that is noted as completed, any further lists will eat in the tree maintenance program. As trees are surveyed and maintained a better knowledge is established of what work is required on an ongoing basis. While residents have concerns about trees, they are not always justified, and works are not necessary. There are approximately 60,000 street trees in the SDCC area, and it is important that they are retained.

Item 5 - Removal of Traffic Island at Orwell Shopping Centre (Orwell Park Heights).

The group state that this Traffic Island is a very contentious issue with residents. The residents want to know why the Traffic Island is necessary. The group state that there has never been an issue with the traffic on Orwell Park Heights until this Traffic Island was installed. Since the Traffic Island has been put in there have been a lot of complaints to the Residents Association. The residents can't see any positive benefits for the Traffic Island. Some of the complaints received include the anxiety that emergency vehicles will not be able to get through the traffic, this situation could be caused by Bin Lorries in the area on a daily basis, cars parking too close to the Traffic Island, deliveries being made to houses close to the Traffic Island. In some cases, drivers will drive on the wrong side of the Traffic Island. There also appears to be confusion as to whether this is a pedestrian crossing. The Traffic Island is also a danger for cyclists as there is not enough room in the lanes. Some vehicles also cut the corner turning right onto Orwell Park Heights. The group strongly believe that the Traffic Island should be removed, and that the road be reinstated.

Mr. Reilly replies to the group to explain that the Traffic Island was installed to offer protection for the School Warden. There was constant encroachment by parked cars on the School Warden at school times. With people parking on both sides of the verge, the School Warden could not see oncoming traffic. The School Warden felt that the situation was a danger to her and the school children crossing the road. The Traffic Island was installed to prevent parking. If cars park on the verge they will be blocking the road and there have been no reports of this happening. The School Warden feels that the situation is much better since the Traffic Island was installed.

The group ask if double yellow lines will stop the cars parking at the location.

Mr. Reilly replies to say that the double yellow lines are not respected at school times.

The group ask about the situation with emergency vehicles not being able to gain access.

Mr. Reilly replies to say that there have been no issues or complaints received from the Emergency Services.

The group suggest that the Traffic Island extends for too long a distance.

Mr. Reilly says that the Traffic Island signage can be looked at to make the layout clearer and to see if any issues can be addressed. The priority at the location is safety.

The group ask why the Traffic Island comes so far forward.

Mr. Reilly suggests that the island could be extended closer to the corner rather than shortened.

The group ask if a zebra crossing would have worked.

Mr. Reilly responds to say that the issues with parking would still exist.

Cllr. Seery-Kearney asks how the review information will be relayed back to the group.

Mr. Reilly explains that if a solution can be found, a report can go to the Traffic Management Meeting. This can be fed back to the residents.

Commitment given:

- 1) Two outer rings on Orwell Roundabout to be grassed and bulbs/pollinator planted when grass settled in. To be in place for Spring 2020. – Máire Ní Dhomhnaill.**
- 2) Road signage in Orwell Park – Five stages, two are complete and the other three to be done in first half of 2020 – Kevin Reilly.**
- 3) Meeting on site within the next fortnight regarding Orwell Park Green Passive Development – Leo Magee.**
- 4) Health & Safety list on two properties to be prioritised. Longer list to be compiled by Residents Association at their AGM in December and submitted to the Council for review - Máire Ní Dhomhnaill.**
- 5) Review Traffic Island at Orwell Park Heights and report back to the Traffic Management Meeting – Kevin Reilly.**