

## DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

**Date & Time**                      **25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 @ 4pm**

**Deputation Group:**              **St. Marks GAA**

Councillors Present	Cllr. Mick Duff
Apologies	Cllr. Charlie O'Connor & Cllr. Cathal King.
Deputation	Mark Brady & Noel Farrell
Council Officials Present:	
Michael McAdam	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Leo Magee	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Brendan Redmond	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Eamon Harnett	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Sean Redmond	Environment, Water & Climate Change
Brian Carroll	Housing Social & Community Development
Lindsay Gahan	Housing Social & Community Development

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Mick Duff.

### **Items discussed:**

- 1) **Broken bottles on Pitch at McGee Park.**
- 2) **Dog Fouling.**
- 3) **Completion of Drainage Works at McGee Park.**
- 4) **Proposed pathway across McGee Park from Fettercairn to swing gateway entrance beside St. Marks GAA Clubhouse.**
- 5) **Commitments given at Deputation meeting.**

### **Item 1 - Completion of Drainage Works at McGee Park.**

The group wish to thank South Dublin County Council (SDCC) for the work done on the pitches. The group acknowledges the work done by Eamon Harnett and his team and the money that has been spent by SDCC. The final dressing was put onto the pitch a few weeks ago and the group think that the works should be complete now. The group had raised an issue that stones were still visible but it appears that this issue is now resolved. The group say that they will leave the pitch until the start of March when the next footballing season starts before using it again.

### **Item 2 - Proposed pathway across McGee Park from Fettercairn to swing gateway entrance beside St. Marks GAA Clubhouse.**

The group have heard of this proposal and state that it would be an issue for the club as a path at this location would intersect the section of the park that the club uses for training. The club already rents astro pitches at other locations which costs the club a lot of money. The club is very much against any footpath being installed at this location.

Mr. Leo Magee, Senior Engineer, Environment, Water and Climate Change department replies to say that while there has been a request for a pathway at this location, SDCC are have no plans to develop a footpath at the location. SDCC know that a footpath at this location would cause problems in relation to the pitches.

### **Item 3 - Broken bottles on Pitch at McGee Park.**

The group explain the that top end of the park, by the small wall at the apartments, is being used as a drinking area. There is broken glass left on the pitches and this has become a huge hazard for players of their club using the pitches. The club are looking for suggestions on what can be done about it. The club think that fencing could restrict access to the pitch.

Mr. Magee replies to say that it has been agreed to complete the fencing around Butler Magee Park from where the Cookstown Road meets the Outer Ring Road back to the location described by the group. A 4ft fence/railing will be erected on top of the stub wall. The work will be done late this year or early 2020. Some additional measures could be considered if people continue to sit on the stub wall. The funding is available and tendering has been completed.

The group ask if this will restrict access onto the pitch.

Mr. Magee replies to say that the intention was to restrict access to the pitch from Cookstown Road. If additional works are necessary, they can be looked at.

The group ask if there are any short-term solutions to deal with the broken bottles. The group ask if SDCC could help with the cleaning of the area.

Mr. Eamon Harnett, District Supervisor of Parks, Environment, Water and Climate Change department replies to say that the manpower would not be available to do that. Mr. Harnett agrees to a site meeting to examine the area in question. SDCC will try to help the club out if that is possible.

### **Item 4 - Dog Fouling.**

The group are looking for solutions to dogs fouling on their pitches. Signs were received from SDCC and they have been erected onto the fence, the group are hoping that people will pay attention to these. The group would like the Dog Warden to spend some time at the location throughout the week. This would send a message to dog owners the keep their dogs off the pitch or for dog owners to pick up after their dogs. The group suggest that there could be a fenced off area in the park specifically for dogs.

Mr. Michael McAdam, Senior Executive Officer, Environment, Water and Climate Change department acknowledges the issues raised by the group. Mr. McAdam explains that this is a county wide issue in parks and on playing pitches. Signs are placed in the locations, but it is difficult to say what impact that they have. There are two Dog Wardens that cover the whole of the county. One of the wardens could be put there for a short period to check for licenses and try to catch people letting their dogs defecate in the park and on the playing field area.

Mr. McAdam explains that there is currently a public consultation process with regard to dog control measures. Mr. McAdam suggests that the group make a submission. Mr. McAdam confirms that he could send one of the Dog Wardens to the location to do patrols, but he could not be there on a permanent basis.

Mr. Magee explains that the dog runs have usually been placed in the main council parks. The idea could be given some thought for the smaller neighbourhood parks.

The group ask if someone is fined is their name printed in the local papers.

Mr. McAdam explains that the Dog & Litter Wardens can issue fixed penalties and if a person doesn't pay, with sufficient evidence, the person can be brought to court. The cases are heard in Tallaght and as there is a local media presence the cases can be publicised. Mr. McAdam would need to seek clarification on whether names of all the people fined could be published.

The group ask if the club could provide CCTV evidence, could SDCC use it.

Mr. McAdam would need to check with the SDCC Law Department. Mr. McAdam said he could liaise with the club on this.

**Commitments given:**

- 1) A 4ft fence/railing will be erected on top of the stub wall. The work will be done late this year or early 2020 – Leo Magee.**
- 2) Site meeting to examine area affected with broken bottles – Eamon Harnett.**
- 3) Dog warden to do patrols at Butler Magee Park – Michael McAdam.**