

DEPUTATION MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: 28th September 2016 @ 2pm

Deputation Group: St. Anne's Residents Association

Councillors Present:	Cllr. Paul Foley Cllr. Sarah Holland Cllr. Pamela Kearns Apologies: Cllr. Francis Duffy Cllr. Dermot Looney	Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan Cllr. Enda Fanning
Deputation:	Anna May Harkin Nora Colman Mairead Weymes	
Council Officials Present:		
Máire Ni Dhomhnaill	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Oisin Egan	Environment, Water & Climate Change	
Michael Glynn	Land Use Planning & Transportation	
Jim Kennelly	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.

Cllr. Paul Foley opens the meeting by welcoming St. Anne's Residents Association to the Deputation meeting and asking all those present to introduce themselves.

1) Item 1. - Need for Pedestrian Crossing at the Traffic Lights at KCR.

The Group begins by thanking the Council for the opportunity to be at the Deputation meeting and to Cllr. Pamela Kearns for making the group aware of the upcoming scheduled meetings. The Group acknowledge the support that they have received from the Council, particularly the grass cutting schedule, the removal of unwanted billboards in the area and repaired potholes outside houses.

The Group then addressed the issue of no pedestrian crossing at the KCR where Kimmage Road West leads to the shops at the KCR. This is an ongoing concern for residents. It is a particularly dangerous crossing for older people, disabled people and young children going to school in the area. The Group requests if a crossing could be installed, further down from the shops. The group have spoken with the Guards and that location was suggested as a possibility.

The Group then gave some statistics relating to accidents that had occurred at the location and said that there have been a number of incidents due to motorists breaking the lights coming from Fortfield Road. The Group also states that the Residents are at a loss as to why there is no pedestrian crossing at this location.

The Group then mentioned that it's very unclear who has right of way at the filter lights and that this may be because of the road markings rather than the lights.

Mr. Jim Kennelly replied to the Group stating that the traffic lights at this particular junction being discussed are operated and maintained by Dublin City Council (DCC). Despite the location being on the county border, there is an agreement between South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and DCC that DCC maintain this junction.

Mr. Kennelly also stated that the request for a Pedestrian Crossing elsewhere in the locality can be dealt with separately. The Council is planning on installing two Pedestrian Crossings per electoral area before Christmas. This location is not part of that program but could be considered for future programs.

Cllr. Pamela Kearns requested that SDCC write to DCC about the issues at the junction.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Donovan also stated that a survey would need to be carried out to see how many people use the area to warrant installation.

Mr. Kennelly confirmed that SDCC would liaise with DCC regarding the request for pedestrian crossing facilities at the traffic lights at KCR.

2) Item 2. - Speed limits and related signage at St. Anne's.

The group explained that Residents of St. Anne's had raised concerns about the needs for speed limits and good signage in the estate. Ms. Harkin also said that while there is a sign, it is not that prominent. The Group would like to know what SDCC's plan is in relation to these issues.

Mr. Kennelly replied to say that SDCC is currently reviewing speed limits within the county. An advertisement had been placed in the national press with SDCC proposals for Public Consultation. The Councils proposal is to reduce the speed limit at St. Anne's to 30kph. Any changes to the speed limit will involve new signage. Any changes to the Bye Laws have to go before a Full Council Meeting but it is envisaged any changes will be adopted early in the New Year.

3) Item 3. - Public Lighting.

The Group explained the ongoing concerns regarding Public Lighting. The output from lighting was described as dim. The issues are not helped with the foliage from trees in the area. Photographs taken by the group would be forwarded to the Council. *Note – can be viewed at the end of this document.

The Group asked if sensors could be placed on the lights or if the intensity of the lighting could be increased or cut back some of the trees that are blocking the lights.

Mr. Michael Glynn explained that the Engineer for Public Lighting was at a National Conference. Mr. Glynn would be speaking in her absence. Mr. Glynn stated that an upgrade to the Public Lighting had taken place at St. Anne's a number of years ago. The lights were changed to the more modern "White Lights" and the wattage reduced from 55 watts to the more efficient 35 watts. There is policy in place and Council is slowly upgrading estates to LED Lighting which has a usage of 18 watts, so power consumption is continuing to go down with the introduction of more efficient Lighting Columns. This estates columns have the facility to dim the lights and the columns may currently be in that position. The most recent scheme for Public Lighting was carried out in 2009. Any further upgrades would need to be reviewed and Mr. Glynn will raise the query with the Public Lighting section and ask that they respond to the Group.

Cllr. Foley spoke of the massive project underway in the County to upgrade Public Lighting. Cllr. Foley said that it was probably unfortunate for St. Anne's that it was early in the curve for replacement and the technology has now moved on and lower wattage bulbs give off better intensity of light but trees affect this light badly.

4) Item 4. - Trees and related damage done to footpaths.

The group acknowledged the ascetic and environmental value that trees add to the estate but explained that many of the trees in St. Anne's estate are oversized, grow quickly and are placed inappropriately near houses on footpaths that the Council has had to repair because of the roots of the trees. The trees are also overhanging the lights which compounds the problem. The group asked that a staged removal or pruning of trees take place and a replacement program put in place.

Máire Ni Dhomhnaill addressed the group explaining that the Council had adopted a new Tree Management Policy in 2015.. The Council has a tree maintenance programme for 2016 which focuses on whole estates and roads. All the trees are surveyed and the Council then produce a tree maintenance program based on the survey. St. Anne's is not on the tree maintenance list for 2016 but it will be proposed that the estate will be included in the draft 2017 program. Ms. Ni Dhomhnaill explained that her department would work closely with the Roads Department so that any works carried out on trees would be followed with improvement works carried out on footpaths.

The group gave a location of a tree stump that needed to be removed, between Number 22 & 23.

Ms. Ni Dhomhnaill confirmed that she would list the location for removal of the stump.

5) Item 5. Overgrown briars at the access to culvert at the rear of St. Anne's.

This issue has been a concern to the Group for some time. The Council needs access to this passageway to remove debris from the culvert which prevents flooding in the area. The briars have grown so far at this point that the gate cannot be seen. In the event of an emergency, i.e. flooding, it would be difficult for the Council to gain access to the area.

Oisin Egan stated that a foreman for his Department had visited the area and agreed that the area is as described by the Residents. His department would look at cutting back the overgrown area. The Council have begun their hedge cutting program and will place this area on their program. As the access is necessary it will probably be bumped up on the priority list. They will try to get to it in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr. Pamela Kearns stated that the Director of the SDCC's Environment, Water & Climate Change department had confirmed that the Council would be clearing out the Poddle River starting within the next couple of weeks.