

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time: Wednesday 25th of February 2026 @2.00pm.

Deputation Group: BCM Residents Association.

Deputation Group attendees: Liam Davis / Neville Graver / Barry McCarthy

Elected Members: Cllr Francis Timmons (Chair) / Cllr Shirley O'Hara / Cllr Linda De Courcy /Cllr Trevor Gilligan.

Council Officials: Richard McCormack (A/ Senior Executive Engineer, Roads / Traffic Management), Brenda Shannon (A/ Senior Executive Officer), Grainne Meehan (Equality Officer), Damien McNulty (Senior Engineer, Public Realm), Fionnuala Keane (AO Community Dept), Catherine White (SSO Community Dept), Kelly Fitzgerald (ASO Community Dept) Abdullahi Mohamuud (CO Community Dept), Brian Carroll (SSO Community Dept).

Items Discussed

Item 1 – Roads & Footpath Repairs – Can you please provide an update on when requested works will commence.

R. McCormack (A/ Senior Executive Engineer) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given: The Manager confirmed that the road surfacing scheme has been allocated in this year's budget and will commence mid-April. Issues with footpaths are under constant review throughout the County. Serious defects that are identified would be addressed - small areas by direct labour and larger areas would be contracted out.

The manager stated as the footpath repair program is already established there is not much leeway at this point for additional works, however the manager committed to meet with the group and walk the area to identify footpaths/areas in need of repair and will review accordingly.

The manager clarified matters around yellow markings in the area and confirmed that said markings are not an indication of commencement of works and it could take 2-3 months before works start.

Item 2 – Accessibility throughout Rathcoole Village – Can an accessibility review be carried out at junctions in Rathcoole Village to examine current accessibility with a view of providing/enhancing safe accessibility by persons requiring aids e.g. Wheelchair or Walkers, to facilitate safe crossing of roads.

Brenda Shannon (A/ Senior Executive Officer), Grainne Meehan (Equality / Access Officer) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given:

Outlined the planed 2026 Accessibility Audit – Currently working on a tender to review accessibility throughout the county, reviewing tender submissions with a view of being awarded shortly and the audit will commence in the coming months.

Summarised areas the audit would cover, such as circulation routes, footpaths, pedestrian crossings, curbs and tactile pavement to name a few. It will factor in the issues in Rathcoole which the group have raised. On receipt of the completed report recommendations are forwarded to relevant departments which will then be amalgamated into each departments program of works and budget which is dependent of availability and budget.

Manager gave a commitment to prioritise Rathcoole in the first round of the accessibility audit but could not give a definitive date of when audit or works would commence and said engagement with residents has been built into the tender and will be part of the process.

Item 3 – Access to Rathcoole Public Park – Can you provide a timeline on the replacement or alternative option for the kissing gates at the entrances to Rathcoole Park.

Damien McNulty (Senior Engineer, Public Realm) replied to the groups query:

Commitment given:

2 Kissing gates will be replaced by end of May 2026, removal of said gates is on condition that the Gardai agree as antisocial issues must be factored in.

The manager will review the gate a Millrace and requested the group forward the particular route to the council and he will examine what can be done to help/resolve the matter.

Outlined they are looking at an overall development plan for the park which will factor in widening of entrances and will also take into account the accessibility report carried out by the Equality/Access Officer.

Proposed waiting for recommendations from the Accessibility Report before carrying out individual changes and gave the undertaking that the other gates would be replaced through the park development plan. Mentioned the Council would be reluctant to go with a key lock system

The meeting ended and there was no other business.