

DEPUTATION MEETING REPORT

Date & Time: Wednesday the 25th of March 2026 @ 2.50pm

Deputation Group: Willbrook & Willbrook Downs Residents Association.

Deputation Group attendees: Donnacha Whelan & Ruairi O' Brien.

Elected Members: Cllr Yvonne Collins, Cllr Lynn McCrave, Cllr Justin Sinnott, Cllr Paddy Cosgrave.

Council Officials: Caitriona Lambert (Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic / Road Maintenance / Road Safety), Richard McCormack (A/ Senior Executive Engineer, Roads / Traffic Management), Stephen Brady (Executive Parks & landscape Officer), Fionnuala Keane (AO Community Dept), Catherine White (SSO Community Dept), Alison Somerville (SO Community Dept), Kelly Fitzgerald (ASO Community Dept), Abdullahi Mahamuud (CO Community Dept), Brian Carroll (SSO Community Dept).

Cllr Yvonne Collins presided.

Items Discussed

Item 1 – Public Lighting. The light between 37 and 41 Willbrook was broken for approximately 8 weeks, within the estate there is a mixture of old orange/red lights and the new LED lights. There doesn't seem to be any specific pattern to where new LED lights were installed.

Caitriona Lambert (Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic / Road Maintenance / Road Safety) replied to the groups query.

Commitment given: The manager confirmed as per SDCC asset management system there are 30 old style lights and 7 LED lights, which were installed under emergency upgrades upon direction from senior management.

The manager explained due to an ongoing situation with legacy cables an upgrade can only occur through a planned upgrade programme with ESNB. ESNB must carry out a body of work before SDCC can complete the upgrade to LED lights. There are planned works for 2026, and Willbrook are not on the scheduled works upgrades list. However, the manager committed to prioritise Willbrook for 2027 upgrades.

The manager outlined delays in the 2026 schedule of works due to numerous issues ESNB are experiencing, resourcing being the main issue. ESNB are exploring contracting the delayed works to a third party which is expected to happen shortly and this should speed up the outstanding works. The manager reiterated once the Council have completed the 2026 works, she will prioritise Willbrook for 2027 upgrades.

Item 2 – Tree Maintenance. The under growth of the trees in the estate can cause issues. Some of the trees have sprouts that during summer/autumn can block the views of cars especially when near corners (See picture of tree at 83 Willbrook). Similarly at the entrance along the paths (See picture 29 Willbrook and Entrance), some of the higher branches droop down and require walkers to duck under them. Seeking regular/annual maintenance of the lower growth on the trees.

Stephen Brady (Executive Parks & landscape Officer) replied to the groups query:.

Commitment given: The manager confirmed Willbrook Estate is currently on the 3-year maintenance programme which is scheduled to commence in 2027. In advance of the tree works taking place a full survey would be required to ascertain the level of works required. The survey will determine the level of pruning or if any fells are required.

The manager confirmed they carried out an inspection which supported the concerns raised in the deputation application regarding epicomic growth at the base of trees impacting on accessing footpaths and confirmed removal of same ahead of scheduled 2027 works. Manager said he would prioritise the works for the next couple of weeks.

Manager also mentioned from a safety aspect if any trees are impacting on footpaths, the group could forward locations of said trees through the Council's customer care system and the issue would be addressed as soon as possible, outside the scheduled works.

Item 3 – Footpath Repairs

The paths in the estate are in a bad condition and are a tripping risk and hazard for young kids on scooters/bikes (See picture from outsider 60 Willbrook and 96A). Last year, there were tarmac repairs (See picture Footpath repairs) applied to some of the worst parts which was very welcomed by Residents, but there are still areas requiring attention, and ideally the footpaths need full repairs.

Richard McCormack (A/ Senior Executive Engineer, Roads / Traffic Management), replied to the groups query.

Commitment given: The manager outlined that the estate is part of the 2026 Footpath Repair Program and the inspector recently inspected the estate and marked bays that are scheduled for repair.

The manager requested the group forward any areas of concern that are not marked and he will try to add them to this year's scheme if not they can be added to the schedule for next year. The manager explained that once an area is identified and marked the works generally commence within 2 months. He outlined trip hazards take priority above paths that may be deemed to be aesthetically unappealing.

The group raised concerns around the safety of children playing in the area and if stop signs could be installed at specific areas. The Chair explained that items not on

the agenda could not be discussed but explained there is a process for raising such concerns and would be happy to assist.

The meeting ended as there was no other business.