

Croke Park Community Liaison Committee

Minutes of meeting held 15th June 2009

Chaired by:

Claire Barry, Sonas Consulting Ltd.

Attendees:

Julie Manahan (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
Roddy Guiney (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
Inspector Tony Gallagher (Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station)
Barbara Ward (representing Pat Gates, CPARA)
David Purdue (CPARA)
Noel Morris (CPARA)
John McPartlan (Public Domain Officer, Central Area, Dublin City Council)
Charlie Lowe (Executive Manager, Central Area, Dublin City Council)
Bláthnaid Casey (Assistant Staff Officer, Central Area, Dublin City Council)

Apologies:

Cllr. Mary Fitzpatrick
Pat Gates (CPARA)
Julie McDermott (CPARA)
Cllr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin
Conor Martin (Drumcondra Businesses)

1. Minutes and matters arising:

Roddy Guiney reported back that Clann na nGael are interested in the commercial use of clubs as layover areas for private bus operators. Roddy and Julie agreed to contact the county boards to inform them of this interest, with particular reference to the Dublin County Board in terms of gleaning Dublin GAA clubs interest in providing bus/car parking on their premises. Inspector Gallagher raised the issue of complaints regarding the use of Mountjoy Square as a parking zone and drop-off point for private buses, suggesting that it was a small number of residents who had made complaints. Currently, the gardaí facilitate the parking of a limited number of buses there and operate a drop and go policy for any surplus. Charlie Lowe, Inspector Gerry Donnelly and Dublin Bus will meet with residents this Friday to discuss their concerns. Inspector Gallagher said the gardaí would adapt the policing plan to whatever the consensus decision from this meeting is.

Roddy Guiney proposed the minutes of the last meeting were in order, John McPartlan seconded the minutes.

2. Agreeing purpose, structure and agenda items for the public meeting:

Members agreed a new date of Monday, July 13th for the public meeting. Tea and coffee will be available from 7pm and the meeting will start at 7.30pm. Barbara Ward to confirm this new date with the Clonliffe & Croke Park Community Hall. Charlie Lowe circulated a copy of a draft outline for the meeting.

This outline includes:

- Background to establishment of CPCLC and outline of its terms of reference.
- Details of Croke Park study background and purpose of study.
- Details of what the study covered and a summary of the main issues.
- Details of progress since the study was published.
- Open forum.

Residents associations, business interests, senior gardaí and elected public representatives in the Central and North Central areas will be invited. An advertisement will also be published in the paper.

Charlie Lowe will present material by way of a slide presentation, making particular reference to the surveys and workshops held. Charlie suggested that progress reports be made by the agency who has taken on responsibility for a particular area. Inspector Gallagher will present on garda issues identified in the study, his presentation will include KPIs e.g. clamping, tickets and reasons for the cordon. Claire Barry is keen to ensure that the progress that has been achieved comes across at the meeting.

The agreed purpose of the meeting is to:

- Report back on work done.
- Report back on findings and recommendations of the study.
- Report back on progress on recommendations to date and actions still outstanding.
- Hold an open forum.

Any queries relating to the future of the CPCLC will be addressed by Claire Barry.

Inspector Gallagher invited members to view proposals regarding the cordon on www.garda.ie he invited suggestions for improvement/involvement from the community.

David Purdue pointed out that the noise from the garda helicopter is a significant nuisance for residents in the area. Inspector Gallagher explained that the helicopter is used to assess crowd dynamics and to detect criminal incidents.

Barbara Ward raised the issue of a young resident who was prevented by a garda recently from entering the cordon area and getting to her home. Inspector Gallagher will look into the incident but said he prefers to get details of such incidents on the actual day that they occur. He referred to a proposal that a resident be employed as a steward at each cordon with gardaí, in order to assist them. Julie Manahan to investigate the possibility of replacing/adding to existing stewards with local residents.

At the public meeting, Claire will ask residents to propose solutions to any issues they raise. Members were asked to be in attendance at 7.15pm.

A framework plan report on the Croke Park area being drafted by Dublin City Council will be made available at the meeting.

The public notice regarding a new period of public consultation for the proposed bye-laws for parking controls at major events in the Croke Park area was circulated by Charlie Lowe, along with a map of the proposed new parking restricted area.

3. Update on U2 concert:

Roddy Guiney reported that a request for further information in relation to the license application for the U2 concerts was received from Dublin City Council. This information was submitted to Dublin City Council on Friday last. Roddy invited members to study the information and invited CPARA to have a meeting with Croke Park and MCD. Roddy referred to the benefits for the city. He gave details of the schedule of works. There will be a designated route for trucks with truck movement restricted to between 8am – 10pm. The removal of the stage will commence immediately after the last proposed concert on July 27th and will involve two twenty-four hours days i.e. continuous work period of 48 hours. During this time the pitch in Croke Park will also be replaced. The concert finish time applied for is 11.30pm, this has not yet been granted. There will be a hotline to deal with issues and it will be manned into the evenings.

Charlie Lowe said the event license application will go up on the planning list this week and any people who made submissions in the first instance will be notified of the additional information.

Barbara Ward asked if the problems of the last U2 concerts had been considered (ie. camping, early queuing). Protocol in terms of queuing prior to concerts to be scoped out by Julie Manahan, she suggested a patrol rather than an early cordon might be used to tackle any issues. Inspector Gallagher said he sees it as the event organiser's responsibility to cater for those who arrive early. David Purdue pointed out that the particular stage set-up proposed will encourage fans to arrive early.

Charlie explained that there is no proscribed period set out within which Dublin City Council must decide on the granting of the license, but the decision will be made in the next three weeks, and he encouraged residents to submit their views within the next fortnight.

A copy of the submission was supplied to David Purdue. David asked what, if any, payoff there was for the community for the additional inconvenience. Claire Barry invited CPARA to consider a proposal for compensation, if they thought that would be appropriate. She also asked if Croke Park/ MCD had included in their license application a proposal regarding compensation for inconvenience.

In response to Barbara's query regarding enforcement of conditions attached to any planning granted, Charlie Lowe said that due to the intense post-event activity it follows that Dublin City Council will have people on duty to ensure compliance with conditions.

The current position regarding parking arrangements for MCD security personnel to be enquired into by Julie Manahan.

Any issues of concern/suggestions around the license (regarding such matters as planning enforcement, parking of security personnel, compensation to the community) should be outlined to Dublin City Council in observations on the further information.

4. **A.O.B.:**

Inspector Gallagher gave a report of KPIs for recent events:

June 7 th :	June 13 th :
26 vehicles clamped	10 vehicles clamped
7 vehicles relocated	121 FCPSs issued
156 FCPSs issued	

1 arrest, 1 mugging occurred post event, 2 public order arrests were made.

Inspector Gallagher reported that work on the new website for events is continuing. Any issues with gardaí and stewards can be emailed to the gardaí and this will feed into the policing plan.

The committee agreed to have a final meeting on Tuesday, September 1st to agree outstanding issues.

Public meeting will be held on Monday 13th July at 7.30pm

A meeting of the CPCLC will be held on Tuesday, 1st September at 7-9pm in Croke Park Conference Centre.