

# Croke Park Community Liaison Committee

## Minutes of meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2009

### Chaired by:

Claire Barry, Sonas Consulting Ltd.

### Attendees:

Pat Gates (CPARA)

David Purdue (CPARA)

Cllr. Mary Fitzpatrick

Roddy Guiney (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)

Julie Manahan (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)

Conor Martin (Drumcondra Businesses)

Inspector Tony Gallagher (Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station)

Charlie Lowe (Executive Manager, Central Area, Dublin City Council)

Bláthnaid Casey (Assistant Staff Officer, Central Area, Dublin City Council)

### Apologies:

John McPartlan (Dublin City Council)

Cllr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin

Noel Morris (CPARA)

Julie McDermott (CPARA)

### **1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**

Roddy Guiney proposed the minutes of the last meeting were in order, Inspector Tony Gallagher seconded the minutes.

### **2. a) Update on Transport Workshop:**

Charlie Lowe invited the views of members on the issues, (other than Park & Ride and Event Day Parking), that Dublin City Council need to deal with in the transport workshop/seminar.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick said that the Event Day Parking issue is ongoing and this presents an opportunity to revisit it in terms of pairing it with public transport providers.

Charlie expressed his disappointment at the notion that we will probably have to pursue the public transport providers to get them involved. Overall there are approximately 14 different agencies involved in transport in Dublin.

Julie Manahan said Bus Éireann are already providing a service to Croke Park and that they seem to be the only agency interested. She believes that there can be further engagement with them.

Pat Gates said residents need a champion to present a strategic vision to the transport providers, the presentation to them should outline the opportunities but also the problems. There needs to be a process in place and a champion to ensure follow-through but there needs to be action from the providers also, especially in the current economic climate.

It was suggested by Roddy Guiney that we need to quantify the number of people whose changeover to public transport would constitute success. The scale of the problem must be identified before it can be rectified.

Conor Martin suggested that Croke Park should make it a condition that ticket agents must advertise Park & Ride to patrons. Charlie Lowe said that public transport needs to be made the cheaper option and the real or perceived unreliability of the service providers needs to be overcome before public transport can be seen as the most attractive option. He said the debate

may need to be widened to include Lansdowne Road. David Purdue suggested that it is not appropriate to widen the issue up to other areas e.g. O2, Lansdowne Road.

Inspector Gallagher said that in his experience throughout Europe, public transport providers and event organisers subsidise the transport ticket. He suggested that Iarnród Éireann, Dublin Bus and the Gardaí examine how best they can service Croke Park. He said that discounted tickets and a shuttle service facilitated by the gardaí should be explored in the workshop.

Pat Gates said he sees CPARA's role as observers, the issue needs to be championed by the key agencies. It was agreed that Julie Manahan, Roddy Guiney and Inspector Gallagher will work with Charlie Lowe to put together the structure/content of the presentation for the transport workshop/seminar and report back to next meeting.

#### **b) Update on Communications Strategy:**

Before Cllr. Fitzpatrick left the meeting she pointed out that Croke Park were always open to input from other agencies with regard to the newsletter and said that in practical terms it would be difficult to manage the shared editorial powers suggested after the last meeting.

Roddy Guiney circulated Croke Park's draft communications plan which deals with the newsletter, website, communication to patrons and the Community Fund. Roddy to send a soft copy to Bláthnaid Casey for circulation to members. Roddy invited feedback/suggestions from members on the four areas.

Inspector Gallagher suggested that each county should be encouraged to have a fans forum whereby public transport options within each county could be advertised.

Charlie Lowe suggested that a notice board be added to Croke Park's website with contact details for DCC's litter hotline etc. Inspector Gallagher reported that it is planned to have a Croke Park section on the Garda website. He suggested that both Garda and DCC websites could feature a link to Croke Park.

David Purdue proposed that Croke Park ensure that the area to the north of Iona is included in delivery of the newsletter. Julie Manahan reiterated that Croke Park will continue to seek input from members with regard to the newsletter.

#### **c) Update on Environmental Standards:**

Pat Gates reported that CPARA are meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February to discuss their proposals on how progress can be defined in this area. Charlie Lowe stated that he wants Dublin City Council to be challenged and monitored in the way residents wish and would welcome feedback on the aspects residents want covered. Charlie proposed that any problems residents have around barriers erected on match/event days should also be elicited. Charlie will email Pat with the indicators that Toibins (independent monitoring group) use, as CPARA may find these helpful.

Before departing the meeting Inspector Gallagher explained that four garda inspectors would be working at each side of the stadium for the next event and asked that residents be encouraged to ask to speak to a supervisor, on the day, if they have an unresolved issue. Inspector Gallagher to forward contact details of staff to David Purdue.

Conor Martin asked if it would be possible to erect signs regarding littering/details of fine around the stadium. Charlie Lowe said that Croke Park communication mechanisms may already cover this and anti-litter messages are communicated to patrons through their PA system. Bláthnaid Casey to relay information regarding amount of litter fines etc to Julie Manahan.

### **3. Future of CPCLC:**

Claire Barry stated that it would not be her intention to remain indefinitely involved in this committee and that a measure of success of the work would be that the various groups can continue to work together in various combinations without an independent chairperson. Charlie

Lowe said he thinks the group should cease or change emphasis in the near future and perhaps meet to update members on the three main issues being pursued in parallel. It is his aim to complete the business of the committee by the end of the summer.

Pat Gates suggested that a couple more meetings are required to decide on issues such as the public meeting to disseminate information. Charlie Lowe said he had been approached by another resident association with regard to the holding of a public meeting. He suggested that the committee make a decision on when it will be held and what it will be about. He is keen to ensure that communication lines remain open.

Claire Barry pointed out that this committee and the key issues being dealt with are being covered in the next issue of the Croke Park newsletter, and suggested that the approximate time period for the public meeting be included in that. Pat Gates agreed that the committee should move ahead with making progress on the issues now and wait till there is tangible progress to report on before convening the public meeting. It was agreed that the newsletter would include reference to a public meeting being scheduled in May, on a date to be confirmed.

Claire Barry said that a lot of other work will be going on outside of the committee from now on and that members should feel free to contact each other as they have been doing to progress this work.

#### **4. AOB:**

Pat Gates raised a number of issues which arose following recent matches in Croke Park, including the barriers being put up late causing problems for residents. Also he reported that the cleansing of Fitzroy Avenue and Drumcondra Park had been haphazard. Charlie said this may have been due to an inspector being out sick, but inadequate cleaning is not acceptable, he also confirmed that the portable public toilets had been set up at the usual time. He confirmed that cutbacks would not affect Dublin City Council cleansing arrangements for events/matches at Croke Park, as there is a specific arrangement with Croke Park to service events.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm – venue is Croke Park**