

Croke Park Community Liaison Committee

Minutes of meeting held 20th April 2009

Chaired by:

Claire Barry, Sonas Consulting Ltd.

Attendees:

Julie Manahan (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
Barbara Ward (representing Pat Gates, CPARA)
David Purdue (CPARA)
Noel Morris (CPARA)
Sgt. Ray Murphy (representing Insp. Tony Gallagher, Fitzgibbon Street Gardaí)
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
Insp. Tony Gallagher
Roddy Guiney (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
Pat Gates (CPARA)
Julie McDermott (CPARA)
Cllr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin
Conor Martin (Drumcondra Businesses)

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

Sgt. Ray Murphy proposed the minutes of the last meeting were in order, Julie Manahan seconded the minutes.

2. a) Update on Transport Workshop:

Charlie Lowe provided a brief overview of discussions at the Transport Workshop held on April 9th (minutes have been circulated to members). Bus Éireann have tried 4 routes for Park & Ride but only 2 are proving viable for them currently. Iarnrod Éireann plan to double the Dunboyne line and a Park & Ride facility will be provided at Clonee. The RPA are committed to the promotion of Park & Ride. Dublin Bus provide extra buses on the normal routes around the Croke Park area post-event but traffic bottlenecks present a problem. Opening up certain bus lanes to motorists, to alleviate this problem, will be explored. All the car park operators in the city centre are willing to participate in a group initiative providing discounts to Croke Park event-goers, as long as the GAA agree to promote it. Since the meeting Park Rite have reverted with their proposal. At the transport meeting Roddy Guiney agreed that Croke Park would communicate the message to the public i.e. in order to raise awareness of all options and he suggested that radio would be a good medium for this. It was agreed that Roddy Guiney would prepare a document outlining proposals. Julie informed the group that Ronan Murphy from the GAA has since been working with Bus Éireann and they are considering options such as a family ticket with a 'kids go free' policy.

There were a series of actions agreed at the meeting.

b) Update on Communications Strategy:

Julie Manahan explained that Roddy Guiney has drafted a communications plan; it will be discussed with the GAA before it is finalised. The match programme and the big screen will

remain in use to convey pertinent messages. Julie to circulate Roddy's communications plan to members in advance of the next CPCLC meeting.

Charlie Lowe said that it is generally acknowledged that the performance of the Waste Management Department and the Gardaí have improved and that we need to make some measurable headway on the traffic and transport issue.

In response to Noel Morris's query if any private operators were involved in the workshop Charlie stated that he wanted to start with public providers because of the problems associated with parking arrangements for private buses, and said that a 'marshalling' area could be developed to provide a lay-over to allow private operators to drop-off/pick-up passengers.

Claire Barry asked Julie if Croke Park would be willing to undertake to research if they could let an area/site for parking for buses for this purpose. Julie referred to the workshop discussions and the consensus was that people are unlikely to drive as far as a location near Dublin and then Park & Ride. The attractive option would be a service from their own locality, which is why the public transport providers were involved in the first instance. Charlie said the Northern fans will be the most difficult to convert to public transport, a large number of them carpool and are willing to absorb the clamping fee between them. This is the main cohort that needs to be targeted.

Claire Barry drew members' attention to the need to move on from the strategising phase to committing to specific actions to progress the issues.

In relation to the opening up of bus lanes to facilitate traffic flow, Charlie Lowe to clarify with Tim O'Sullivan which routes would be of benefit. Sgt. Murphy suggested that Insp. Gallagher be involved.

Barbara Ward suggested the providers best placed to solve the problems are Bus Éireann and private operators. David Purdue said unless people are disincentified they will continue to drive. Charlie pointed out that a revised proposal on byelaws to restrict parking on event days has gone back out for public consultation. A widened restricted area is proposed. The revised zone reflects the outcomes of the first consultation process. It will be up to the Councillors to adopt the proposal. David said if the proposal is adopted, it will be ineffective as the exclusion area is too wide to police.

Claire suggested that a retrospective comedy sketch shown recently on RTÉ (involving a scenario with D'unbelievables as Gardaí advising individuals against poor parking) would be an excellent way of getting the message across. She suggested that Croke Park should investigate the possibility of obtaining rights to use it.

Charlie Lowe said he believes an extra media campaign, over and above the strategies currently used to communicate messages to customers, should be launched by Croke Park. Charlie referred to the suggestion from the workshop that the GAA ticket should be enlarged to allow the car park ticket to be incorporated, he believes it would have a huge impact, even if it were introduced on a trial basis. He reiterated the need for a system to measure improvements.

CPCLC stakeholders contact details for the Croke Park newsletter and website:

Claire Barry referred to Roddy Guiney's commitment to circulate draft content for the CPCLC section of the Croke Park website to members for comment and his commitment to circulate the piece on the CPCLC in the newsletter to members in advance of publication. Claire expressed disappointment that these drafts had not been circulated to all members as agreed.

c) Update on Environmental Standards:

Draft key performance indicators for litter, noise pollution, crowd control, public order and pedestrian movement were circulated to members by Charlie Lowe prior to the meeting and members' views on these were invited.

Charlie said that it is difficult to establish indicators for the Croke Park Community Fund and Planning. Julie Manahan reported that the community fund will be launched before the end of April and the Croke Park newsletter will contain a web link to full details. Schools and public representatives will receive details also.

With regard to Planning, any complaints will be investigated by DCC as required where breaches are identified. An established process exists for monitoring noise pollution.

With regard to litter surveys, John McPartlan explained that the normal practice would be to monitor the same locations a few days running and performance is compared from one location to another. He explained that locations have been chosen, these locations have historically been categorised as grossly polluted, but he is open to changing these locations if the committee wishes. Litter surveys would be carried out by DCC staff but managed and reported on by Tobins. David Purdue's suggestion that residents be involved in the surveying process, through the submission of photos/information, was welcomed. Details of the proposed 8 survey locations to be circulated for the committee's view on these, Charlie said the surveys will have to involve an analysis of certain locations. With regard to litter complaints, Charlie expressed the need to get the information to DCC quickly, on the day or on the day after incidents as delays in receiving a complaint make it difficult to resolve. He said DCC will examine ways that litter reports relayed to the litter hotline at weekends could be accessed so that issues can be addressed as they occur.

Barbara Ward raised the issue of Gardaí personnel and Croke Park staff who arrive prior to the setting up of the cordon, parking within the cordon area. Sgt. Murphy said the Gardaí have taken on 2 car parks in the area for use by members to prevent this practice. He asked Barbara to forward any evidence of instances of members parking inside the cordon to Insp. Gallagher. Julie Manahan to investigate the process around access for other groups referred to by Barbara (e.g. invited guests of the GAA) and if they can adhere to the parking facilities arranged for them. Barbara pointed out that this becomes a particular problem when evening events are held.

Noel Morris reported that it was agreed by CPARA that a Community Garda attend future CPARA executive meetings, in order to address issues as they arise. Charlie Lowe said that if CPARA notify him of meetings, a representative of DCC will attend also.

The issue of public urination was raised and the usefulness of the supply of the public toilets in addressing the problem. Sgt. Murphy gave details of the Adult Cautioning Scheme used by the Gardaí to address this behaviour.

3. A.O.B.:

License application:

David Purdue raised the issue of Croke Park's license application for the additional U2 concert. He informed the group that CPARA will be objecting to the granting of this license and expressed disappointment that the application is for the music to continue until 12am. Julie explained that is due to U2's light show and she wasn't aware of this at the last meeting.

Charlie Lowe explained that DCC examine an application under all the options.

David said the reason he is on the committee is to, regardless of the past, try to ensure the operation of the stadium doesn't become more onerous on the residents. As there is no appeals process for this type of application he said there is a significant groundswell of resentment among the residents and he believes that the stadium use is outside of the established use.

Charlie Lowe to make enquiries as to why the public cannot get access to the Planners report in relation to this type of license. (Planner's reports for normal planning decisions are made available).

Endings:

Claire Barry proposed the following process to bring to a conclusion the business of the committee in its current form:

- Normal meeting Tuesday 19th May to finalise the substance of the work to be agreed and committed to, in advance of the public meeting.
- Planning meeting Monday 8th June to prepare for the public meeting (to decide objectives/ information to be communicated/ issues around questions/feedback from floor).
- The public meeting will be held on 22nd June.
- Debriefing from public meeting (on a date before July) and to finish the business of the committee in its current form.
- Possibly a final meeting if required (on a date in October/Nov) when season has finished to review how season has gone.

Bearing in mind that one-to-one meetings were held at the outset of this process Claire suggested that she intends to complete the process with a round of one-to-one meetings and a report drafted thereafter would be available to all. A record of decisions/process and any achievements/outstanding works would be included. This might also serve as a starting point for any continuation of the process. Claire invited suggestions on this procedure and said that she would clarify the exact nature of the process in the near future.

Charlie said that with regard to the terms of reference set out at the outset, the objectives for the committee had been largely completed. He said he thinks it would be purposeful for DCC to attend CPARA executive meetings, as this would provide continuity.

David Purdue said while there have been some improvements, he had hoped the GAA would do more.

Charlie Lowe said his view is that the concluding actions yet to be completed may make improvements, e.g. the community fund. He said a nominated person responsible for liaison within the community ratified as Community Liaison Officer by the Stadium Committee, as recommended by the consultants, would be important. Claire Barry said there are opportunities to fundamentally address the attitudinal changes needed to public transport/ public behaviours.

Barbara Ward to confirm Tivoli Centre for use for public meeting on June 22nd.

**The next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, May 19th at 7pm –
Venue is Suite 630 Croke Park conference centre.**