

Croke Park Community Liaison Committee

Minutes of meeting held 23rd March, 2009

Chaired by:

Claire Barry, Sonas Consulting Ltd.

Attendees

Roddy Guiney (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
Julie Manahan (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)
Pat Gates (CPARA)
David Purdue (CPARA)
Noel Morris (CPARA)
Inspector Tony Gallagher (Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station)
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
Cllr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin
Conor Martin (Drumcondra Businesses)
Julie McDermott (CPARA)

At the outset of the meeting Claire Barry brought to the member's attention her identification of tensions at recent meetings and asked if perhaps the group was experiencing a fear of success. She suggested that the group may be struggling to identify what is good enough in terms of solutions and asked members to be mindful of the fact that no 'perfect' solution can be reached.

Claire set a deadline of June this year for the substance of the work to meet objectives to be agreed and committed to.

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

Julie Manahan proposed the minutes of the last meeting were in order, Roddy Guiney seconded the minutes.

2. a) Update on Transport Workshop:

Charlie Lowe provided details of the representatives of the various public transport providers who have committed to attending the workshop. Those invited include representatives of Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann, the RPA, the Dublin City Business Association, Q Park and Park Rite. Tim O'Sullivan (Executive Manager, Roads and Traffic Dept.), Inspector Gallagher, Roddy Guiney and Peter McKenna are also due to attend. The proposed date is 9th April, this date to be confirmed; it is proposed to have a 2-hour afternoon meeting. Members will be notified of meeting details on confirmation and are welcome to attend. A report on the outcomes of the workshop will be circulated to members in advance of our next meeting.

Pat Gates suggested that an on-going process will be needed to maintain momentum in this area.

David Purdue enquired as to when Pay & Display is being implemented in Carlingford and Dargle Roads. Bláthnaid Casey to obtain and circulate details of which roads/streets in the Iona area have been approved for Pay & Display and the schedule for implementation. David suggested it would be worthwhile letting the fans know that there will be no longer be free parking in this area.

Claire Barry invited specific questions from members that should be addressed at the workshop.

David Purdue proposed they be asked for their views on why the opportunities to provide public transport for events around Croke Park haven't been availed of in the past.

Charlie Lowe said he deliberately hasn't involved any private operators in the workshop as drop-off and parking is a major problem for them. Also there is a representative body for private operators.

Minutes of this workshop will be circulated in advance of the next committee meeting.

b) Update on Communications Strategy:

Croke Park Community Fund:

Julie Manahan informed the group that the Croke Park community fund will be launched at the end of April, details will be published in the next edition of the Croke Park newsletter.

Roddy said the committee who will administer the fund will be named before our next meeting and an independent assessor will be engaged. Funding of 100% will not be awarded to any group and there will be flexibility around the geographical boundary. Details of the fund will appear on the Croke Park website at the same time as issue of the newsletter and schools will be made aware of it also.

In response to David Purdue's suggestion that another financial overseer may be required Roddy said all applicants will be required to produce invoices. Charlie suggested that Croke Park ensure the applicants provide evidence of proper governance, Roddy said that an alternative would be for Croke Park to pay the applicants' suppliers directly. Pat Gates stated that a consistent set of criteria will be required.

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

Roddy Guiney will circulate proposed contents for the CPCLC section of the Croke Park website to members for comment/additions. Claire suggested that while the current information is accurate it is very lean and does not do justice to the work the committee have done. She emphasised the need to get it right.

Roddy Guiney will circulate the section on the CPCLC to be contained in the next newsletter to members of the committee in advance of publication.

c) Update on Environmental Standards:

Pat Gates referred to the document he had circulated since the last meeting in relation to indicators to measure performance in this area. He said the exercise was done in terms of the request made and he had asked people to identify indicators in terms of the issues, it wasn't meant to be overcritical. He suggested the committee look at the submission with a critical eye and extract what is useful from it.

Inspector Gallagher said that having sat on local community fora he felt insulted by the document and it's statement in relation to public order. He said it was unsubstantiated and unqualified.

Pat Gates said it wasn't meant to be personal, he felt he was not in a position to censor the submissions made by CPARA members. Charlie referred back to the Croke Park Study which is the basis for the committee's works programme. He expressed his belief that the submission is not representative of the views of the whole community. According to the survey carried out by the consultants, the perception is that there is an improvement, Charlie pointed out that he is trying to bring it back to the study and it's recommendations and to move forward on this.

If the mechanism for setting standards is to be properly monitored and reviewed, Pat said he believes someone more independent and discerning than this committee is needed to come up with indicators.

Charlie Lowe referred to a LPI (Litter Pollution Index) used in surveys that consultants engaged by DCC use. These are to European standards and he suggested that this system could be adapted for use in the Croke Park environs. The residents or an independent assessor would judge it. He said the only way DCC can be judged is on factual information. He pointed out that he had expressed reluctance at earlier meetings at being involved in setting indicators for an area DCC have statutory obligations around.

Inspector Gallagher said that in order to resolve issues the Gardaí need to be made aware of them, he proposed that a community Garda attend future CPARA executive meetings, or if this is not agreeable to the members he would appreciate a copy of minutes of the meetings.

Charlie said that DCC would be willing to participate also, he suggested that maybe a representative could attend a slot at the start of each meeting to deal with any relevant council issues. Pat Gates to put these proposals to CPARA members.

In relation to the issue of Planning breaches raised in the submission, Charlie Lowe said DCC can only form a view if a complaint is received. David Purdue said that the perception is that there an extent of creep as regards planning for extra events in Croke Park, residents are not necessarily aware of the new legislation.

Claire Barry suggested that all stakeholder details and how to provide feedback be included in the CPCLC section of the Croke Park website.

It was agreed that Charlie will go ahead with drafting up indicators to measure cleansing around Croke Park events and other indicators for discussion with the Gardaí.

Claire Barry pointed out that all of the items raised at the meeting pointed to an underlying need for improved communication and it's importance.

3. A.O.B.:

The public meeting will be held on Monday June 22nd – venue to be arranged.

Charlie will consult with Inspector Gallagher on the drafting up of indicators and will examine the other elements in this general category also (i.e. Noise, Public Behaviour, Crowd Control, Planning). A draft will be circulated at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 20th at 7pm – Venue is Croke Park, full details to be confirmed.