

# Croke Park Community Liaison Committee

## Minutes of meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### Chaired by:

Cllr. Christy Burke

### Attendees:

Cllr. Mary Fitzpatrick

Cllr. Nial Ring

Inspector Tony Gallagher (Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station)

Pat Gates (CPARA)

Noel Morris (CPARA)

Benny Gilsenan (CPARA)

Roddy Guiney (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)

Peter McKenna (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)

Criostóir Ó Cuana (Cumann Lúthcleasa Gael)

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:

Barbara Ward (CPARA)

David Purdue (CPARA)

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### 1. Minutes of meeting held on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009:

Cllr. Nial Ring proposed the minutes of the last minutes were in order; Cllr. Mary Fitzpatrick seconded the minutes.

### 2. Matters arising:

Any matters arising will be dealt with under the particular agenda item.

### 3. Presentation by GAA/Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta in relation to Croke Park Stadium and related issues.

Peter McKenna made a presentation on Croke Park issues. Subjects included capital investment, community relationships, the CPCLC, events around the relaying of the pitch and subsequent meetings held with local residents, public representatives, Dublin City Council and Gardaí. He confirmed that Croke Park will hopefully appoint a Community Liaison Officer by the end of May and an open forum meeting will be held in June. It is proposed that 2 forum meetings per annum will be held.

### Community update:

Although scheduled for later in the agenda, in response to the presentation, Pat Gates gave his community update report. CPARA recognise that there have been improvements, particularly in the area of cleansing, and commended Croke Park's community fund as a positive development. The quality of life issues are beginning to improve but there remains a need to continue progress on their delivery. Current and ongoing issues and concerns were laid out in the report. Pat emphasised the need for a mechanism/ forum that would take up issues raised at open forum meetings in order that they be addressed.

Charlie Lowe responded to relevant issues raised in the report. With regard to parking/traffic congestion he pointed out that these problems are a reality given the size of the stadium. The monitoring of the effectiveness of Dublin City Council's cleaning regime will continue with the use of the Litter Pollution Index. Litter Wardens are deployed at events and Dublin City Council can publish information regarding fines issued from event to event etc. An objective of the Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 is 'to prepare a statutory Local Area Plan for Croke Park and its environs including Ballybough/North Strand and back to the city centre via Mountjoy Square and Parnell Square – to promote a social, physical and economic regeneration of the area'. The Councillors will vote on adopting the Development Plan at the end of the year.

Dublin City Council to arrange for a beach barrel on match/event days at Emmet Street at the junction with Fitzgibbon Street.

In relation to concerns around social events in the stadium Peter McKenna advised that the stadium should be contacted with issues as they occur, he said that to his knowledge there are no current complaints in this regard. He said that the main issues in the CPARA report (i.e. items 1.a-f) will be the agenda for the Community Liaison Officer going forward.

Cllr. Ring objected to the use of the word 'deprived' in the report to describe Ballybough. Pat Gates said the description was used for the area in terms of indicators of social deprivation. Cllr. Fitzpatrick said parking is a continuing concern; the same problems such as inadequate clamping and out-of-order ticket machines are still consistently a problem for residents. Casual traders in Hollybank Road and Whitworth Road are an issue also.

Inspector Gallagher said he envisages that at the open forum meetings garda performance indicators used for this committee, ie. numbers of public order offences, numbers of clamps, numbers of FCPSs will continue to be used and reported on. With regard to Pat's reference to a bottleneck on Jones Road, he said the gardaí have effective crowd control plans for all events, including smaller matches. The garda helicopter is used to monitor crowds, with ample gardaí on the ground for the distribution of people in attendance.

The gardaí are made aware of any social event and they work together with the Croke Park stewards. Regarding the issue of parked buses – a garda sergeant is assigned at each event and bus companies are issued notices to comply with instructions. Inspector Donnelly is involved here and again the garda policing plan can be amended if relevant feedback is received from the public. In relation to the clamping of cars, he is in contact with the clampers on the day but again complaints need to be communicated in real time, capacity is not an issue. The gardaí hold regular meetings which feed back into the policing plan, he said gardaí would undertake to improve the situation.

#### **4. Proposed redevelopment of Handball Alley Building at St. Joseph's Avenue – update.**

Peter McKenna informed the group that Dublin City Council have requested further information in relation to Croke Park's planning application for the redevelopment of the Handball Alley building at St. Joseph's Avenue.

It was noted that Croke Park had met with CPARA and representatives of the handball community and Croke Park had sought requests regarding the community facilities required within the new building. It was agreed that the handball community would revert with a submission to Croke Park. Peter explained that the submission received was unviable as it involved three venues. Criostóir Ó Cuana said that three venues were never envisaged and the actual submission itself did not meet the standard expected. Croke Park will be responding to the submission to formally reject it. He said that the

GAA are prepared to accommodate community usage but a bar will not feature. The GAA are positively disposed to upgrading the Clonliffe & Croke Park Community Hall on Distillery Road also. Pat Gates asked that people be aware that this issue is an emotive one and said that from CPARA's perspective there is a major concern regarding the loss of social/cultural activities at the handball alley. Cllr.s Ring and Fitzpatrick to advise the handball community that an alternate proposal, as to what the 'community' part of the new building will be used for, is required by Croke Park urgently. The new proposal will be included in Croke Park's submission of further information to Dublin City Council, if appropriate.

**5. Croke Park related issues:**

**a) Community update:**

Dealt with under heading 3.

**b) Dublin City Council update:**

Charlie Lowe gave this report.

From September 2009 to date, cleanups have been successful in the main, with the exception of a number of litter black spots; the large crowds gathering at some locations such as pubs and at train/tram access and exit points lead to a higher level of littering at these locations. This also indicates an increase in usage of public transport.

Lighting improvements are in progress on Jones Road and the area under the bridge there will be improved by provision of bike stands which will be incorporated eventually into the 'dublinbike' scheme which is due for expansion.

A large number of requests for new casual trading licenses have been received and some new licenses have been granted on Hollybank Road. There are not enough inspections carried out, this is due in large part to the reduction in overtime. With regard to parking, headline offenders – those parking in laneways/junctions/driveways are prioritised. Details of numbers of clamps deployed last year and year-to-date were given.

Charlie emphasised the need for a process to be put in place to deal with increasing patrons' utilisation of the public transport options available and suggested that this might be addressed through Croke Park's open forum process.

Dublin City Council to contact the pubs and chippers in the Croke Park area to make them aware of their obligations with regard to keeping outside of their premises clean, particularly late in the evenings when the council crews have finished.

**c) An Garda Síochána update:**

Inspector Gallagher made this report.

He pointed out that the three-year passes issued by the gardaí to residents are sometimes abused. He offered to give the presentation on policing/cordon (made to the CPCLC previously) at an open forum meeting to aid understanding of reasons for the cordon. He also said that there was an obligation on the residents themselves to plan around events and suggested that they might use public transport to help minimise the issues.

**6. Future role (if any) of a CPCLC:**

Charlie Lowe gave a summary of the various consultations that had gone before the existence of this committee. He explained the background and objectives of the present

committee. His view is that the role has ended and a lot of progress has been made and he believes the public forum is the best way forward. This would also include a wider group of people and help to take out personalities. He said such a forum would benefit from having an independent chairperson and he would have no difficulty with Dublin City Council being involved with the 'working group' proposed by Pat to ensure actions are implemented. Between forum meetings this working group could be chaired by the Community Liaison Officer.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick agreed that a public forum is the best way to drive the agenda forward. She thanked everyone who participated for their commitment. Pat Gates reiterated the need for a constructive outcome from each public meeting and the need for issues to be monitored and reported back on at each meeting.

Cllr. Burke closed the meeting by thanking all members and attendees.

7. **A.O.B:**

No other business arose.