

Croke Park Community Liaison Committee

Minutes of meeting held ~~November 26th~~ December 9th 2008

Chaired by:

Claire Barry, Sonas Consulting Ltd.

Attendees:

Pat Gates (CPARA)

Noel Morris (CPARA)

David Purdue (CPARA)

Cllr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin

Roddy Guiney (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)

Julie Manahan (Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta)

Inspector Tony Gallagher (Fitzgibbon Street Garda Station)

Conor Martin (Drumcondra Businesses)

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

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

Apologies:

Cllr. Mary Fitzpatrick

John McPartlan

Julie McDermott

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

Cllr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin proposed the minutes of the meeting of November 26th were in order, Roddy Guiney seconded the minutes.

Charlie Lowe informed the group that Councillors in the Central Area have received copies of minutes of meetings. The Croke Park Study report is now available on Dublin City Council's website, along with meeting minutes. Letters are being sent to residents who attended the workshop on the study and those who revert with a request for a copy of the study report will receive one.

Julie Manahan reported that the Croke Park newsletter will be sent out later this week. It will be delivered to 10,000 households within a 1.5km radius of Croke Park.

2. Agree priorities and timeframes on actions arising from Croke Park study report:

Claire Barry suggested the group create a list of priorities and that these be divided into four sections as per the study report, as follows:

- Getting to the Stadium.
- Being around the Stadium.
- Planning/Urban Regeneration.
- Communication.

An exercise was done where members of the committee set out their priorities under the headings above. Each priority was listed according to: what needs to be done, the agency that needs to be involved and the timeframe in which it should be done. A summary of overarching objectives was also compiled.

The contributions of each member to be collated into a single document for discussion at the next meeting.

A brief discussion took place on the setting of objectives and the identification of indicators and measures going forward. Pat Gates suggested that the objectives be set in terms of issues identified in the survey.

There followed a discussion on how the issue of litter could be tackled, with suggestions that a change in attitude and behaviour is required, apart from the physical cleanup by DCC.

A short review of the priorities listed showed a lot of consensus, with DCC and an Garda Síochána repeatedly being named as the agency responsible for a particular action. Pat Gates said that the GAA should bear some responsibility to support DCC and the gardaí. Conor Martin suggested that the GAA should launch a national campaign on litter. Roddy Guiney said that Croke Park do advertise in counties that travel to Dublin for the big matches.

Pat Gates suggested that DCC produce a circular to send to residents around the Croke Park area setting out the cleaning regime for the area with a contact number to allow residents to make DCC aware if an area has been overlooked in the post-event cleanup. Conor Martin said that it's DCC's responsibility to clean up after matches and it's fair for businesses to ask DCC and the gardaí to prosecute for littering and to name and shame the offenders.

Charlie Lowe said that it's the larger issues such as traffic, public transport and Park and Ride that will prove most difficult to address, as litter etc. are operational issues.

David Purdue asked why the gardaí appear to do very little testing for drink driving in the area. Inspector Gallagher responded by saying that on event days there is too much congestion in and around the cordon area already, it would be too much of an imposition on the city to set up a checkpoint close to the venue.

Decisions and agreements on how actions are going to be advanced to be discussed at the next meeting. Timeframe and how the committee meets are to be agreed then also. Roddy Guiney to forward details on Croke Park's overall objectives, which he suggested might be of help in this exercise, to Claire Barry.

3. Response to Hugh Cawley's letter:

Claire Barry referred to the letter received from Hugh Cawley, Chairman of Croke Park Stadium Executive Committee, and asked how it should be responded to. She said the issue is the fact that Croke Park is already represented on the committee, and asked how it should be addressed in terms of a person communicating directly with the committee rather than through their representatives already involved.

Julie Manahan pointed out that Hugh Cawley's response was as a result of a discussion he had had with Claire Barry and that it was sent on behalf of Croke Park and could equally have been sent by herself or Roddy Guiney.

David Purdue suggested that in his letter Hugh Cawley was questioning the legitimacy of the members of CPARA, in the context of representation of the community.

Pat Gates said there must be trust within this group and protocol in terms of members of organisations relating to the CPCLC. He said Hugh Cawley's letter should have stated that Julie or Roddy would raise the issues referred to in it.

Julie agreed and reiterated that the letter would not have been written had Hugh Cawley not been involved in the discussions with Claire Barry in the first instance.

Roddy Guiney said that if the committee wished to respond through him and Julie there is no difficulty with that. Julie Manahan suggested that the response be through the minutes of this meeting. This was agreed.

Inspector Gallagher said that in tonight's exercise Croke Park was mentioned too often as the agency responsible to carry out actions to address the issues, in his opinion. He expressed a difficulty with the gardaí also being identified too often as the agency responsible for actions.

4. AOB:

Claire Barry said that she doesn't intend to ask members to meet with her for the foreseeable future. However, she is available should there be a need to contact her.

Tim O'Sullivan, Executive Manager Roads & Traffic Department, to attend the next meeting to hear the views of members in relation to Event Day Parking.

Next meeting to be held on Monday, January 19th, (same venue).