

## Dublin City Council Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

**Date:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 / Meeting via Teleconferencing (MS Teams)

### Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jack Keyes – Chairperson  
Mr. Patrick Smith - Manager TAU  
Mr. Pat Teehan – A\Senior Executive Officer  
Ms Mary Hayes – Executive Manager  
Cllr. Sophie Nicoullaud  
Cllr. John Lyons  
Cllr. Anthony Flynn  
Ms. Angela O’Neill - FTDG  
Ms. Collette Spears – CDTG Community Worker  
Mr. Shay L’Estrange – BTAP  
Cllr. Hazel De Nortúin  
Ms. Anne Helferty – Chief Welfare Officer

### Apologies:

Cllr. Anthony Connaghan  
Ms. Winnie McDonagh – TravAct  
Ms. Sally Flynn - Labre Park Representative  
Ms. Mary McCann – Avila Representative  
Ms. Brigid McDonagh – Cara Representative  
Margaret Wall - Ballyfermot Representative  
Ms. Mary Berry - Labre Park Representative  
Cllr. Janet Horner  
Cllr. Alison Gilliland  
Ms. Winnie McDonnell – PHC St Margaret’s

**Minute Taker:** Ms. Denise Doyle– Housing Advisor, TAU

	<b>Welcome</b>	Jack Keyes, Chairperson.
1.	<b>Ground Rules &amp; Quorum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ At the last meeting in January 2021 the recommendations on Quorum were: Minimum 7 members constitutes Quorum to include, 2 councilors, 2 Traveller groups, 2 Travellers reps and one DCC Rep. Recommendation has yet to be ratified. It is hugely important to have Traveller reps on the committee – 2 reps should be a basic minimum. Today’s meeting does not meet the requirement.</li><li>➤ Traveller reps are not paid for attendance and should be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending meetings. Suggested amount of €20-€25 should be paid to cover travel expenses and a light lunch. It was understood that this matter had already been agreed in principle but would need to be addressed and a formal agreement put in place. Receipts may need to be provided. Agreement to be formalised and reps paid from next meeting.</li><li>➤ Ground rules outlined are good but cannot be agreed upon without Traveller reps being present.</li></ul>

2.	<b>Issues arising from last meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As meetings are now being held remotely due to Covid situation the request has been made to hold meetings via Zoom as it is more user friendly &amp; more widely available. Irish Traveller Movement has also provided its members with training in the use of Zoom so it may be a more suitable platform and encourage greater attendance. Test meeting to be setup via Zoom on 9<sup>th</sup> April next @ 11.30am.</li> <li>➤ It was agreed that every effort should be made to encourage and facilitate Traveller reps to participate and attend meetings as large areas of the City are currently unrepresented. Organizations need to have a backup plan for areas that are not represented.</li> <li>➤ The chair pointed out that there was very good attendance at the start of the year. Accommodation is the big issue at present and the hope is to re-establish momentum on this. PT. will provide Accommodation Report.</li> <li>➤ It is requested that Management provide a further breakdown of Capital budget spend for 2020 – in particular a more detailed breakdown of the “Citywide” expenditure. Clarification requested on whether “Citywide” referred to an individual company?</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> PS. stated it referred to spend relating to multiple companies who carried out works under Covid on multiple sites throughout the City. Further breakdown will be provided to ensure greater clarity. PT provided breakdown previously detailing one and half million spend on Covid. Dept stated at the time that everything was to go through under Covid – including some housing. Over a million was spent on Capital projects including provision of electricity &amp; water to unauthorised sites.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>TAP Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Accommodation Report sent to Reps in advance of meeting.</li> <li>➤ A redesign of St Margaret’s Park as per tenants request is to be discussed with Reps at a meeting next Monday. Plans will be drawn up and a small group of residents will be invited to view plans and TAU staff will be available to answer questions.</li> <li>➤ New builds in Reuben St and Avila have been forwarded to all Depts and Sections for Pre-Part 8 appraisal and will be finished in April. TAU will then apply for full Part 8.</li> <li>➤ Cara Park – tender applications for design team ends today. Winning tender will be selected and project will be progressed. It is estimated that the Cara Park project will take 18mths to complete.</li> <li>➤ Query raised in relation to the progression of plans for St Joseph’s and St Mary’s – what needs to be agreed with Fingal County Council?</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> Consultation with residents took place in 2019 – they wanted houses rather than bays. Request was sent to Fingal to decommission St Josephs to allow building to take place – meeting took place and was agreed in principle. No official agreement has been put in place to date. Another proposal was sent to Fingal in relation to building two houses in St Mary’s – Fingal would need to lease or license the land to DCC to complete works. Planning issues could be delaying decision. Also issues with closing off the lane – DCC would have to take that part in charge for waste removal and road maintenance purposes.</li> <li>➤ Query raised for more information on the new Caravan Loan scheme – can Reps have more detail on this?</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> Dept hasn’t finished with report yet – a presentation will take place on the new Caravan Loans scheme once the details are finalised.</li> <li>➤ Query raised regarding the redevelopment of the wider Coolock area – what stage are these plans at?</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> These plans are at embryonic stage – hoping to get on sites in the coming weeks</li> </ul>

		<p>to assess the decommissioned sites for the provision of electricity and update of accommodation i.e. day houses. Mary H. stated that DCC need to re-consult on refurb plans as it may be more cost effective to do a complete rebuild.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Question asked as to whether or not a new site had been identified to replace the Naas Rd site? Very disappointing that this site could not be used.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> PT. will provide a full report at the next meeting on the new sites identified. There were huge access issues with Naas Rd site in relation to drainage so it was not possible to use the site.</li> <li>➤ Request for update on Labre Park.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> MH gave update. DCC due to meet with Dept. Trust needs to be rebuilt between residents and DCC. Neil Crowley has been appointed as independent Chair of Redevelopment Committee. It will be a reduced site as it is not possible to build on the left side. Neil has met with all sides – Clúid needs to get back for another meeting. Project needs to be moved along quickly and progress needs to be made. Residents have been let down, trust needs to be rebuilt and Clúid is the last piece of the jigsaw.</li> <li>➤ Query raised in relation to Conditional Surveys which were discussed before Covid – are they going to be reviewed again? Do they just cover ventilation and insulation or doors and windows also?</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> The surveys will include a physical infrastructure and energy upgrade – yards and back walls will also be taken into account. Wrap around insulation to be provided and doors and windows will be replaced if not suitable. Current houses have energy rating of D3 and C3. The aim is to bring all houses up to at least A3 standard. SEAI grants available if they meet the standard needed to apply. Evaluation and monitoring of energy efficiency will also be provided.</li> <li>➤ Standard maintenance – new Framework started on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Contract monitoring on a monthly basis forms part of the Framework. Two warnings can be issued before a Contractor can be replaced.</li> <li>➤ Motion – raised by Cllr Hazel De Nortúin and supported by Cllr Sophie Nicoullaud requesting that the use of ‘illegal occupant/site’ should cease. This terminology has extreme negative connotations and can have a harmful impact on the Travelling community. All Reps welcomed the Motion and were in agreement with request.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> PT. stated that TAU staff try to use the term ‘unauthorised occupant/site’ in all interactions. However, this language is used in legislation and TAU are not in a position to change legislative language. PT. will send Memo to staff to request they no longer use of the term ‘illegal’ in relation to all dealings with Travellers and Representative groups and in general communications. All Reps present agreed to write to fellow Cllr/TD’s nationwide to request a review and change of legislative language.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Dates for 2021 Meetings,, Sub Committee Meetings 11-12pm</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Main LTACC Meetings will run on a quarterly basis. Suggested dates to the end of 2021: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021</li> <li>➤ Sub Committee needs to be discussed – should happen before main meeting or on a different day?</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> Proposal to have two Sub Committees – one for Waste Management and one for Housing – TAU staff KD and PS to represent on each. Sub Committee should meet at 10.30am on the same day as main meeting. Main meeting should then take place at 11.30am. PS. would like some Traveller Reps on Sub Committees especially for Waste</li> </ul>

		<p>Management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Local Reps to meet Traveller Reps between now and July to discuss Sub Committee attendance. Contact details of Reps to be sent to Patrick S. for follow up. Request from Reps for Councillor Rep to also be present – number of Reps present at today's meeting are willing to attend Sub Committees.</li> <li>➤ Request for Waste Management to be discussed at first Sub Committee meeting.</li> <li>➤ Noted that folder for LTACC has been setup on Dublin.ie. Minutes can be posted to folder on approval of the Chair so public can get idea of what the meetings are about.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Data Protection &amp; GDPR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ GDPR – need to be careful as it is not one size fits all. Procedures have been provided to Reps. TAU needs to receive the persons permission for representation via completed Application to Represent form at all times. This form cannot be used for multiple representations of the one person. If there are separate issues separate forms need to be submitted. It was suggested that permission could be provided over the phone by the person. It was agreed that this is a good compromise.</li> <li>➤ Reps queried why one form cannot be used for multiple issues – especially at the moment when access to people is an issue due to Covid.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> Complaints have been made by tenants before in relation to information provided to Reps that were not part of the original representation request e.g. housing issues or rent issues.</li> <li>➤ Chair acknowledged it is a difficult barrier to manage – rules should be followed.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Agenda items for next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Full report on new sites to be provided by Pat T.</li> <li>➤ Operation Report – general update</li> <li>➤ TAP Report – general update</li> </ul>
7.	<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Invitation has been extended to Assistant City Manager to attend one or two meetings per year.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> MH. – It has been agreed that I will attend majority of meetings where possible &amp; BK will attend one or two throughout the year.</li> <li>➤ Chair – thank you to MH for the positive response and for attendance. Apologies extended for not providing formal introduction at the start of the meeting.</li> <li>➤ All Reps – acknowledged that this Councils LTACC is one of the best in the country. However, reforms should still be considered and take place as and when required. Greater participation with Housing SPC also required.</li> <li>➤ Chair – Motion to remove the use of 'illegal occupant/sites' has been passed &amp; will be forwarded to Housing SPC for inclusion on their Agenda. Also acknowledged that the reports provided by PT. and PS. have been a great asset to date.</li> <li>➤ Request by Reps to have the issue of Traveller Accommodation raised to higher on SPC agenda – noted that this would have to be agreed by SPC.</li> </ul>

Next meeting agreed: LTACC meeting **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July @11.30am**