

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

**Date:** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 / Meeting via Teleconferencing (MS Teams)

### **Members in Attendance:**

Mr. Jack Keyes – Chairperson  
 Mr. Patrick Smith- Manager TAU  
 Cllr. Sophie Nicoullaud  
 Cllr. John Lyons  
 Cllr. Janet Horner  
 Cllr. Alison Gilliland  
 Cllr. Anthony Flynn  
 Ms. Angela O’Neill - FTDG  
 Ms. Collette Spears – CDTG Community Worker  
 Mr. Shay L’Estrange – BTAP  
 Ms. Winnie McDonnell – PHC St Margaret’s

### **Apologies:**

Cllr. Anthony Connaghan  
 Cllr. Hazel De Nortúin  
 Mr. Pat Teehan – Manager TAU  
 Ms. Anne Helferty – Chief Welfare Officer  
 Mr. Michael Ryan – Media Relations Officer  
 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

**Minute Taker:** Mr. Vasile Profir – Clerical Officer TAU

	<b>Welcome</b>	At this time the meeting was chaired by Patrick Smith – Manager TAU.
1.	<b>Ground Rules &amp; Quorum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This committee should deal with housing and redevelopment plans for the Traveller community. See attached Terms of Reference 2019 agreed by the Committee.</li> <li>➤ It has been suggested that the number of members making up a decision will be 2/3 of those present at the meeting. The number of members making up a quorum must be at least 2/3 of the committee members.                      Recommendations on Quorum in January 2020 from the members were:                      Minimum 7 members constitutes Quorum to include, 2 councilors, 2 Traveller groups, 2 Travellers reps and one DCC Rep.                      Members need to ratify the quorum at the next available opportunity where a quorum exists.</li> <li>➤ A suitable date and time has been proposed for members to ensure greater participation.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>LTACC Meetings &amp; Subcommittee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ According to LTACC Terms of Reference 2019 the frequency of meetings should be a minimum of six meetings per year.                      Given the current Covid situation and the impact on members for LTACC meetings, it was agreed to move from meetings on a monthly basis to meetings on a quarterly basis, in order to have more understandable updates in relation to Housing Accommodation and Redevelopment plans. It is expected to see some significant progress from each report that comes through.                      The chair pointed out that Pat Teehan is currently working full time on the TAP program and has more regular meetings, consequently providing more reports.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ TAP Program updates will be provided at each meeting and the Programme Manager will attend. This takes the day to day operation out of the LTACC as is appropriate under the Terms of Reference 2019. Patrick S. hopes to start meeting with representatives and other stakeholders on a monthly basis on the sites, as he is responsible for the day to day issues.</li> <li>➤ Subcommittees meetings, a separate invitation will be sent to decide for a suitable date. A proposal was made to rename the “Waste Management Meeting” to “Waste Management / Health Meeting” as this concerns the health of the population living on sites as the impact of the waste is on their own health.</li> <li>➤ Changes to the current Terms of Reference 2019 need to be agreed by members at the next available opportunity where a full quorum exists. See attached Terms of Reference 2019 agreed by the Committee.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Questions arising from members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Concerns were raised about actual updates regarding the TAP program, what work has been done and timing. Last August three families moved illegally in Finglas site, there is a huge number of children of those families that have been living without facilities, at the moment that site is riddled with Covid and moving around illegally caravans on site. Yet no decision has been to whether or not to grant a lease.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> Before Christmas Pat Teehan – Manager of the TAU provided a break down with details about where he was with the TAP program, a series of plans in Avila are likely to be progressed in the next few weeks. In relation to the illegals, Project Estate Officer Ken Daly is working on the current situation by requesting section 15’s to find out where everyone is. A maintenance meeting took place yesterday, so we have a start date around February 15, 2021. There is a plan in place for contractors.</li> <li>➤ Concerns have been raised about how the budget was spent during Covid, as there were extra funds to deal with Covid, a breakdown of budget spending was requested.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> It was reiterated that the report was presented at the last meeting. The manager’s report will be provided before the next meeting.</li> <li>➤ A question was asked in relation to the GDPR to "represent" the interested parties by representatives of the Traveler Community.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> There is a standard copy of the form which is filled in and witnessed and which basically gives access to the information. See attached Data Access Request.</li> <li>➤ Concerns raised in relation to increasing numbers in homeless people among Traveller Community.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> The Unit is dealing with Traveller Accommodation, there is the social work services section which is responsible for the homeless people, as well as this there is whole department for Homeless people.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> It has been suggested that a thorough understanding of the Travellers homelessness problem and its magnitude is needed to facilitate the housing plan.</li> <li>➤ A proposal was to work out a resolution for the Traveller families that are moved in B&amp;B, hostels or site closure as it is not in their culture to be in such accommodations. To work on a plan on paper on what procedures might be.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> TAU is working on issues with the on-site liaison officer to investigate who is affected. The TAU Unit together with the Social Work Section deals with Traveller sites regarding the homeless. It takes time to process the necessary information that is not provided.</li> <li>➤ In order to combat homelessness and to protect places for those who had to flee their homes for different reasons such as health reasons, domestic violence, it was proposed to draft a letter with the details and take the issue forward.</li> <li>➤ Poor response from housing allocations in DCC was mentioned.</li> <li>➤ <b>Reply:</b> The housing department is working on creating a one-stop-shop for applications to make applying for housing easier. A meeting on this plan will take place on February 8th.</li> <li>➤ For what concerns the waste management a proposal has been made to have a reps from HSE to have an open conversation as well as HSE have their obligations in the support around Traveller Communities.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Conclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LTACC Meetings will run on a quarterly basis. Suggested dates to the end of 2021 Friday 26<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021</li> <li>➤ Ensure the circulation of documentation relating to the meeting.</li> <li>➤ Manager's report will be provided before the next meeting.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A member made an observation and a complaint regarding the use of MS TEAMS as a tool for meetings. Since the used of it, each meeting attended had people locked out or unable to gain access to the meetings. It is very stressful for everyone involved. It would be good to know how many people were unable to attend the meeting because they could not get access to it.</li> </ul> <p>Concerns were presented if the meeting went ahead without Travellers or Traveller representatives in attendance. A recommendation has been made that the quorum always has a Traveller attending the meeting.</p> <p>Is there another option rather than MS Teams?</p>

Next meeting agreed: LTACC meeting **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March @11.30am**