

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

**Date:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 / Meeting via Teleconferencing (Zoom)

### Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jack Keyes – Chairperson  
 Ms. Claire Kelly – Secretary and Co-ordinator  
 Mr. Pat Teehan – Manager TAU  
 Mr. Shay L’Estrange – BTAP  
 Ms. Collette Spears – CDTG Community Worker  
 Ms. Sally Flynn-Labre Park Representative  
 Cllr. Sophie Nicoullaud  
 Cllr. Hazel De Nortúin  
 Cllr. Anthony Flynn  
 Cllr. John Lyons  
 Cllr. Alison Gilliland

### Apologies:

Ms. Anne Helferty – Chief Welfare Officer  
 Ms. Mary McCann – Avila Representative  
 Ms. Brigid McDonagh – Cara Representative  
 Ms. Winnie McDonagh – Travact  
 MS. Mary Berry - Labre Park  
 Cllr. Anthony Connaghan  
 Cllr. Neasa Hourigan

Action	Responsibility
1. <b>Coronavirus (COVID-19) Actions on Traveller sites</b>	<p>Traveller Accommodation unit Actions include: Large signage on all sites including unauthorized sites.</p> <p>Full services provided on site at present including maintenance and waste removal. TAU working with homeless Accommodation to provide for those who need self-isolation.</p> <p>TAU contacting all families to support those who may be self-isolating and keeping records.</p>
2. <b>Questions arising from members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How many portaloo, Caravans and shelter accommodations have been ordered as we speak? <b>Reply:</b> 8. Others have been ordered for specific families.</li> <li>➤ Will these facilities be offered to unauthorized sites? <b>Reply:</b> Yes</li> <li>➤ How will the TAU respond to the overcrowding issue on sites, if a person contracts the virus? <b>Reply:</b> TAU will work with the HSE and Homeless Section to provide suitable accommodation for those needing to be isolated because of Covid 19 infection.</li> <li>➤ Referring to the previous meeting, Can the managers report be issued in time prior to the next meeting? Needs to be a format going forward. <b>Reply:</b> The manager’s report was furnished on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020</li> <li>➤ Can there be a contingency plan put together before the virus hits badly on site?</li> </ul>

**Reply:** On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, an email was sent to all members which contained the TAU contingency plan and the actions which we will take. See below for a detailed list.

- Can we look at space on site for additional units?

**Reply:** It would not be appropriate to provide extra units on site given that all sites suffer from overcrowding. This would only exacerbate the problem. Extra provision has been made with the Dublin Region Homeless Executive for Isolation Hubs and isolation accommodation. Provision has been made for Travellers as part of Dublin City Councils response to the crisis.

- Can we identify people that are self-isolating and have tested positive on site?

**Reply:** We can. However, we will follow the guidelines laid down by the HSE regarding identifying persons with the virus and take the appropriate actions.

How many extra caravans and toilets can we provide?

**Reply:** As many as are needed

- How long will the sheltered accommodation be offered?

**Reply:** For as long as the crisis is in evidence.

- Will there be a designated person to look after them?

**Reply:** These units will be looked after as per all sites.

- How many porta loos would be needed in Labre Park?

**Reply:** That information is not yet available.

- Can we assess all Traveller sites for toilet capacity, isolation capacity and complete as soon as possible?

**Reply:** That is an ongoing process.

- What can we put in place for children on site with respiratory problems?

**Reply:** Keep the children in house/mobile and self-isolate.

- Can we ensure we follow the HSE advice and provide every individual family a portaloo and sanitation unit to prevent the spread among families?

**Reply:** TAU will at all times follow HSE and Departmental guidelines and provide extra facilities where appropriate.

- Will sanitation units be offered to everyone who needs it?

**Reply:** Sanitation Units will be made available where appropriate.

- Can the LTACC group meet every week to discuss updates?

**Reply:** The Traveller Accommodation Unit will be concentrating on providing the best possible service to Traveller during this crisis.

I can be contacted at any time for updates etc.

3.		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>What TAU is currently doing on all sites</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dedicated Community Response Forum available to Travellers – 01 222 5290</li> <li>➤ Awareness/information material being distributed to Traveller accommodation sites on a regular basis.</li> <li>➤ Supports for mobile home acquisitions – Where appropriate.</li> <li>➤ Disinfecting public areas on sites – DCC is setting this up at present.</li> <li>➤ Large information signs and social distance markings on all sites.</li> <li>➤ HSE transport solution for those who cannot get to a Testing Centre (HSE saying may need to call an ambulance and explain not emergency but need to transport).</li> <li>➤ Provision of fridge magnets with contact information on a range of services</li> <li>➤ Distribution of individual hygiene packs to Traveller families - DCC is setting this up at present.</li> <li>➤ Procurement of additional accommodation units being for standby for isolation/social distancing - Where appropriate.</li> <li>➤ Re-let/ essential repairs on vacant Traveller accommodation units being prioritised to assist with isolation/social distancing.</li> <li>➤ Traveller families whose preference is for standard social housing being prioritised for offers of accommodation.</li> <li>➤ Clerk of Works/caretaker/Social Worker continually monitoring sites.</li> <li>➤ Additional interim works and portable toilet facilities being provided to specific families with overcrowding and/or medical needs</li> <li>➤ Clean-up works being undertaken on existing sites where necessary.</li> <li>➤ Sites being monitored for vermin and pest and appropriate action taken.</li> <li>➤ Additional waste collection on-site as required.</li> <li>➤ We have already housed two families through DRHE.</li> <li>➤ Two offers of accommodation were refused.</li> <li>➤ Phoning all residents regularly to ascertain their status and to offer support where necessary.</li> </ul> <p>To date there is one person who has contracted the virus and is currently in hospital. Quite a number of Travellers on a number of sites are awaiting the test.</p> <p>It should be noted that that there have been drinks parties on a number of sites some of which had to have police presence to be broken up. There has also been one wedding and two 21<sup>st</sup> birthday parties on sites in contravention of the HSE and Departmental guidelines and all had to have police intervention.</p> <p>There are real concerns that Travellers are not adhering to the HSE and Governmental guidelines. All representative bodies need to encourage the Traveller community to take these guidelines seriously. The only way to get through this crisis is to limit contact between the families on sites.</p>
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