

Dublin City Council Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)

Date: Friday 1st May 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
Cllr. Sophie Nicoullaud
Cllr. Anthony Flynn
Cllr. Alison Gilliland
Cllr. John Lyons
Cllr. Anthony Connaghan
Cllr. Janet Horner
Ms. Winnie McDonagh – TravAct
Ms. Winnie McDonnell – PHC St Margaret’s

Apologies:

Ms. Mary McCann – Avila Representative
Ms. Brigid McDonagh – Cara Representative
MS. Mary Berry - Labre Park Representative
Cllr. Hazel De Nortúin
Ms. Sally Flynn-Labre Park Representative
Ms. Angela O’Neill - FTDG
Ms. Anne Helferty – Chief Welfare Officer

1.	Coronavirus(COVID-19) Traveller sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It was suggested that residents supplied with electricity on unauthorized sites have their own individual meters installed to eliminate any issues that may arise.➤ Concerns raised due to an increase in dumping in Labre Park and the closure of recycling Centers.➤ Cllr Anthony Flynn has offered hygiene packs to members of the LTACC.➤ It was stated the HSE primary health care workers would be conducting Covid-19 testing in Cara Park on Tuesday for residents on site.➤ It was agreed the Managers report would be completed and sent with the minutes on Friday a week prior to the next meeting. A second update report will issue two days before the next LTACC teleconference.
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2.	Questions arising from members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How will DCC propose to receive payment of electricity bills from residents of unauthorized Traveller sites? Reply: A flat rate will be considered and residents will have a couple of options to make payment. Household Budget would be an option for those who receive social welfare payments. How will those who work pay their electricity bill? Reply: A standing order can be set up and paid directly into the DCC finance office. ➤ If one person is behind in payments, will the whole site be affected and have their supply switched off as a result? Reply: Each household will be supplied with individual usage meters. Those who are paying their bills will not be affected. ➤ Will the electricity bill be a basic flat rate? Reply: DCC will be looking for agreement with residents to pay a flat rate under a license agreement. The flat rate has yet to be determined or agreed. ➤ Will DCC be paying the electricity bills to the provider? ➤ Reply: Yes. Bills cannot be issued to residents on unauthorised sites, as they are not considered to have an address. Dublin City Council will install a Landlord meter and each family will receive a metered mini pillar to determine personal usage. ➤ When will water be installed on the following unauthorized sites: Tara lawns, Northern Close and St. Dominic's? Reply: DCC is currently working with suppliers and expects this to be completed in the coming weeks. ➤ Can anything be done about the shutting down of recycling Centre's, there has been an awareness of the increase in illegal dumping? Reply: TAU continue to remove waste and dumped material daily from sites under the Covid 19 emergency guidelines. Local Councilors are aware of this situation and have reassured members that any reports of illegal dumping will be dealt with. This is not an issue for TAU. ➤ Is there any update on the part 8 planning application for Labre Park.? Reply: The TAU are currently still waiting information at this point. ➤ In relation to the Bluebell site, what services will be provided on site and who will be managing the site? Reply: Traveller specific self-isolation units will be provided and managed by the TAU. Four mobiles for lease are on standby if necessary. It is not envisaged that either site will be used as supports have been put in place to allow Traveller to self-isolate in their own homes. This has worked well in all cases so far. ➤ What is the HSE involvement on the Bluebell site? Reply: HSE are fully aware of the new site in Bluebell. ➤ Is it possible for DCC to write a letter to those families who are gathering in large groups not adhering to social distancing? Reply: TAU will draft up notices for sites and have them delivered to all residents. However, this is a Garda issue and DCC will not target individual families. ➤ How many portaloos has DCC provided on all sites including unauthorized sites? Reply: 13 Portaloos have been supplied to date. How many caravans are provided for leasing and/or under emergency Covid 19. Reply: Two mobiles have been provided under Covid 19 emergency to families in crisis. 4 mobiles for lease are on standby to be deployed if necessary. A query was raised in relation to hygiene packs. TAU are gathering the resources to deliver the pack again to all Traveller residents within the city. This will continue on a monthly basis. A query was raised in relation to TAU calls. All calls are being dealt with immediately. All phone lines are active and staffed on a daily basis.
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See below table and attached up to date report from Dublin City Council regarding Covid 19 response.

- Dedicated Community Response Line available to Travellers – 01 222 5290 all other contact numbers are currently being manned daily.
- Traveller specific email traveller.accommodation@dublincity.ie monitored.
- Distribution of Covid-19 Social Distancing leaflets completed as requested at last meeting
- Phoning all residents weekly to ascertain their status and to offer support where necessary
- A full maintenance service continues to be provided
- Monthly biofogging/disinfection of all accommodations exteriors including portaloos to begin week beginning 11th May 2020
- Sites being monitored for vermin and pest and appropriate actions taken.
- Clerk of Works/Caretakers/Management continually monitoring sites
- All cases of Covid 19 have completed their self-isolation. There are no current cases recorded on sites as of this date
- Sites on Belcamp Lane have been provided with new water supplies. Works Completed.
- DCC are currently working on new water supplies to Tara Lawns and St Dominic's.
- DCC are currently working on providing electrical connection to Belcamp Lane, St Dominic's, Tara Lawns and Northern Close.
- Staff were prevented from delivering a sanitation unit on one site to replace a damaged unit. New Health & Safety guidelines are being developed to prevent a reoccurrence of this type of incident.