

Belgrave Residents Association

***Annual General Meeting
in
Beechwood Community Centre,
on
October 15th at 8 pm***

Minutes of Meeting

**Chair: Shelagh Jennings
Hon Treasurer: Enid O'Dowd FCA
Planning Officer: Cliona Buckley**

Apologies from: Ursula Hough, Kathryn Heslin, Frances Berry, Maeve Hayes

Welcome from Chair

Shelagh Jennings opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Jim Boylan (Oakley Road) was invited to address the meeting to highlight an Irish charity, Educo, (started by his son), which carries out education projects in India. The charity concentrates on a school in Mumbai. After masses the following weekend Indian tea & biscuits are to be served in the Beechwood Community Centre, with the Indian Ambassador expected to attend.

Shelagh Jennings then introduced the meeting and the work of the association as being targeted to protect and uphold the integrity of the natural and built environment of the area since it was formed in the early 1970's.

Meetings of the committee occur on the first Monday of every month. The aim is to have a road representative for every road in the area and that some reps act as specialists in particular areas of interest.

She invited those with specialist knowledge to make themselves available for co-option to the committee when that specialist knowledge was relevant, without any obligation to attend the monthly meetings. She thanked those who had participated in the clean-up in May. She particularly thanked Enid O'Dowd for producing the high quality newsletter and invited volunteers to act as road representatives on the committee. She apologised for there not having been a garden competition this year.

Adoption of Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 6th November 2009 (which had been circulated to those present) were approved on the proposal of Enid O'Dowd, seconded by Brian O'Donnell.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer, Enid O'Dowd, took the meeting through the accounts for the period 01.11.2009 to 30.09.10, which had been circulated to those present showing a small surplus for the year.

The main expense was highlighted as being the newsletter. A discussion followed regarding the suitability of producing such a glossy format newsletter and the resultant cost. The responding points were about the need for a visible annual promotion and the good value offered by the printers on this occasion for this format.

Questions were raised querying:

the number of houses (or %) who subscribe in the area

whether the subscription encourage peoples involvement in local affairs

and whether more active (i.e. knocking on doors) collection of subs is merited.

On the proposal of Elizabeth Smith, seconded by Eileen Glenn, the accounts were adopted.

Gardening Competition – Results

There were 3 Categories: Large, Medium (1st & 2nd Place) & Small

Large Garden: Marian Cullen, 33 Palmerston Road

Medium Garden: 1st Place: Fedelma Simms, 2 Belgrave Place

Medium Garden: 2nd Place: 33 Annesley Park

Small Garden: Eleanor Lawlor, 4 Cambridge Road

Planning

Cliona Buckley gave a report on some significant recent planning issues. It was noted that there were a lot fewer applications than in previous years. The significant matters which arose during this year included:

1. A garage structure in the rear garden of 23 Belgrave Square South
2. It was noted that satellite dishes to the front of houses are not attractive and do require planning permission and should ideally be located to the rear.

3. Rathmines Library- construction work is proceeding and the Library is not expected to re-open in the original building until March 2011
4. Swan Cinemas – 2 more cinema screens and a restaurant have been applied for. Rathmines Initiative has submitted an observation. A Castlewood Terrace Resident commented on the impact the existing cinemas were already having on parking on their street.
5. St Louis School Redevelopment- A decision is due on the 1st week of November.
6. Proposed Mobile Phone antennae for the roof of Morton’s Supermarket
Ruth Lynch reported on recent discussions with Morton’s regarding the proposed mast thought to be approx. 4foot tall over the location of the fish counter
The issues relate to whether it is exempt development, what limits will be on the height, and the safety of the unit.
An electrical engineer spoke from the floor reporting that he understood a local antennae caused reduced signal in peoples own handset as the signal did not need to be as strong leading to lower risks to people locally.
7. St Luke’s Hospital: Plan to phase out by 2014

Parking and Traffic Issues

Ruth Lynch gave a report on a number of traffic problems.
At last year’s AGM we highlighted some issues that we were working on with DCC.

During 2010 some progress was made but unfortunately has not resulted in any “hard” improvements as yet.

To give you a flavour....

- Consolidated parking and traffic issues already on our radar and those raised by residents.
- Numerous emails sent to DCC
- Local councilors involved.
- Requested a meeting with Traffic Engineer from DCC
- Meeting with DCC on 27th April
- Issues discussed:
 - Pavement build-out at Morton’s
 - Timing of pedestrian lights
 - Obscured visibility of traffic lights at Morton’s when large vehicles are parked outside Morton’s.
 - Head-count for lolly-pop person
 - Lack of signage warning of children around Dunville Ave/Oakley Road
 - Careless parking by and volume of heavy delivery vehicles at bottom of Moyne Road and Dunville Ave. Better loading bay facility.
 - Yellow boxes at bottom of Annesley Road and Moyne Road

- Topics understood and resolution proposal promised.
- Reminders sent
- Local councillors asked to follow-up.
- Questions to the City Council which were heard at the South East Area Committee Meeting on 11 October 2010
- Feedback of the Council's Replies communicated to the Association by Jim O'Callaghan:

COUNCILLOR JIM O'CALLAGHAN

To ask the City Manager when will traffic proposals for Dunville Avenue be available in light of the recent review of the avenue's traffic lights, parking meter and Moyne Road junction by the City Engineer.

CITY MANAGER'S REPLY:

Following meetings with residents and business in the area a number of proposals are proposed for the Dunville Avenue/Moyne Road junction, which will be presented to the October meeting of the Traffic Advisory Group (21st October 2010).

1. Pedestrian crossing at Morton's Supermarket

The Traffic Engineer will be recommending to the T.A.G. to provide a 2.0m build-out on either side of the pedestrian crossing on the south side of Dunville Avenue at Morton's Supermarket. This recommendation is subject to the availability of funding and will be considered for inclusion of the 2011 works programme for the South East area.

2. Parking Meter at a narrow point on the path adjacent to Morton's

The Traffic Engineer accepts that this section of path is quiet narrow. A new location has been identified for this meter and A Contractor has been instructed to include this in his schedule of works. We expect this work to be carried out in the near future. The councillor should refer back to the Traffic Engineer for an update if the work is not done within a month.

3. The pedestrian crossing at Dunville Avenue / Oakley Road

Currently awaiting a modification so that if the green traffic light has been on for more than 30 seconds, the pedestrian crossing will demand 4 seconds after the button is pressed. This work is listed on the works programme but Roads & Traffic do not consider it a priority.

4. School Issues signage etc.

This has been discussed over the past year and the Road Safety Development Officer is endeavouring to resolve the issues raised. It is hoped that some resolution will be reached prior to the October TAG meeting.

Scoil Bhríde is currently working toward their 3rd environmental flag (transport) and RL will liaise with the Environmental Committee in the school to join forces on this topic.

5. Morton's Loading Bay issues

The location of the existing loading bays in this area has been reviewed and the Traffic Engineer will be proposing an alternative to the existing situation. This plan is being finalised and the residents will be informed of the change to the existing plan in advance of the October TAG meeting.

Beechwood Park / Oakley Road – Parking at school drop/collection times

- Disrespectful parking practices on behalf of parents.

- Principle of Scoil Bhríde has taken a serious view.
 - ❖ Raised at AGM of the Parents Association
 - ❖ Yard communication
 - ❖ Reminders in Bulletin
 - ❖ BOM communication to parents, asking them to sign a statement that they will engage in neighbourly parking practices.
 - ❖
6. **Lollypop headcount** conducted and insufficient children/parents numbers recorded.

Crime

There was no Garda representative present. Concern was raised regarding anti-social behaviour and thugery in Ranelagh Park.

Open Forum

It was announced that the Luas was to be free for the following day.

During the open Forum questions were raised regarding:

Floodlighting of the Swan Centre delivery Yard was raised by Mello Blehan of Castlewood Terrace.

What is the BRA attitude to off street parking?

The BRA acknowledged that it was a difficult problem as often (and recently) a street affected by applications can be split by pro and anti parties. In some streets it has become so prevalent, and the available street parking not under pressure that opposing it seems not practicable. In other cases where a precedent has not been set and parking is in great demand there is strong case for opposing new applications, but every street needs to be addressed on its merits and situation.

Election of Road Representatives

The following changes were proposed as road representatives:

Moyne Road:	Enid O'Dowd is retiring, Aoife Cullen is joining
Palmerston Court	Gobnait O'Donovan
Charleston Avenue:	Cliona Cleary (No.26)
Ormond Road	John Horgan

The following persons proposed to stay on as road representatives:

Annesley Park	Carmel Freeman
Belgrave Square/Place/Villas:	Nicholas Simms

Belgrave Terrace	no nominations
Belgrave Road:	Eón Ó Cuív
Beechwood Park	Nuala MacDwyer, Catherine Griffith, Breda McCarthy
Castlewood Park/ Avenue/Tce	Susan Crowe
Cambridge Road	Cliona Buckley
Charleston Avenue:	Shelagh Jennings
Church Avenue/Lane:	Brian O'Donnell
Dunville Avenue	no nominations
Moyne Road:	Ruth Lynch, Kathleen Horgan
Oakley Road:	Nicholas Ffrench
Palmerston Road	no nominations
Windsor Road	no nominations

There being no other nominations, all those proposed were declared elected.

Draw for the hamper

39 names were submitted for the draw

Elizabeth Smith was the winner

There being no further business, Shelagh Jennings closed the meeting

A short drinks reception followed