

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AVIVA STADIUM PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC), HELD ON TUESDAY, 22 JUNE, 2010

ATTENDANCE

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL: Ms Eileen Brady, Chairperson (EB)

LOCAL COMMUNITY: Mr Greg Pepper (GP)
Mr John Dodd (JD)

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES: Councillor Kevin Humphreys (KH)
Councillor Dermot Lacey (DL)

LRSDC: Mr Martin Murphy (MM)
Mr Michael Greene (MG)
Mr Roddy Guiney (RG)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Les McLindon (LMcL)

VENUE: Aviva Stadium Management Building

1. **APOLOGIES:**
Apologies were received from Mr Gerry Folan.
2. **MINUTES:**
The minutes of the meeting of 18 May 2010 were agreed. Same to be changed from draft minutes to agreed minutes and put up on the Aviva Stadium website.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
DL requested that MM circulate details of main stadium contacts to members of PMC as previously requested.

KH queried whether progress had been made in relation to the small meeting room that might be used by members of the local community. MM noted that this had yet to be completed. He said that when completed it could hold upwards of 100 people. MM undertook to come back in relation to this once room has been completed.

MG followed up on query in relation to providing professional advice for Havelock Square project. MG queried whether doing a report might create expectations in relation to future funding.

All were in agreement that funding of the kind envisaged would not be possible under the community fund. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further.

JD queried whether the railings on Shelbourne Road were to be painted. MM confirmed that this would be done.

JD also queried whether or not the louvres on the stadium were to be left permanently open. MG confirmed that this was to be the case. He did note that same was covered under the planning permission. He said that the open louvres were needed for air circulation. He said that the situation would, however, be monitored on an ongoing basis.

4. MONITORING REPORT:

MG noted that there had been 24 complaints during the period for the last PMC meeting. In the main these were in relation to noise, fumes from the work on car park / back pitch area and lights being left on.

KH and DL said that while 24 complaints may have been recorded that members of the PMC had received a great deal more complaints than that over the same period. DL said that there had been more complaints in the period than perhaps at any other time during the project.

KH said that he had received complaints from people who stressed that they had not complained at any time during the course of the construction.

KH and DL said that a great deal of anger had been vented at them from people living on both sides of the stadium. He said that unless satisfactory answers were received in relation to some of the complaints that he would take the matter to the relevant enforcement personnel in Dublin City Council.

GP and JD also noted the level of complaints particularly in relation to noise, lights being left on, and fumes from the back pitch area.

GP said that he had received a number of complaints from Lansdowne Village for the first time ever.

MG apologised on behalf of all those associated with the project. He said that a great deal of commissioning had been going on and much of the noise had arisen from the air conditioning / extractor fans.

He said that when these were running normally they were relatively silent but that they had been in test emergency mode which led to the loud noise levels.

He felt that the whole process had not been managed well but that steps had now been taken to ensure that it would not happen again.

MG noted that the stadium had a monitoring compliance requirement and that they would comply with same.

JD noted that even at low level he felt that the fans were intrusive. He said there was a hum in relation to same.

KH requested a formal correspondence from the stadium which acknowledged the problems being discussed, identified the key issues and which also set out how the problems would be resolved and to what timescale. It was agreed that MG would get back to all concerned by the end of the week (25 June).

KH also raised the situation in relation to the work currently being carried out on the stadium management building and the new Lansdowne Clubhouse. He said there was a requirement for better safety controls and that this area should be manned at all times. MG agreed to ensure that this happened.

GP brought up the situation in relation to the parking in the area on the occasion of the Aviva Family Day. He said that the parking on that day was atrocious and that should there have been an emergency that fire and ambulance services would not have been able to access the stadium.

It was also noted by those present that despite a promise by the stadium it would appear that stewards and stadium employees were parking anywhere. GP said that he felt that a commitment had been given that all would be encouraged to use public transport. MM agreed to look into same.

GP queried the situation in relation to water pressure in O'Connell Gardens. MG reassured those present would have nothing whatsoever to do with the stadium as the stadium was using water from their own tanks.

GP queried the number of events with crowds between 5,000 and 9,000 people. MM said that the Open Day had been one such day. He felt that the only other one coming up would be 11 July when Aviva were hosting a party for the World Cup Final.

EB queried whether or not the stadium would be speaking to the Gardai in relation to unanticipated problems. MM said that they would sit down with the Gardai in order to discuss this type of issue before 11 July.

KH wanted to know the policy both in relation to the floodlights and the big screens. MM confirmed that while the floodlights had been switched on in relation to a number of conferences this would not be happening in future. He said that they would follow up with those concerned and would confirm this to KH.

MM also confirmed that there would be more limited use of the big screen. He said that use of same would mainly be confined to sporting events.

JD queried how did we let people know what was happening. RG noted that material was up on the web on a regular basis and that a special letter would be done if it was felt that there was something in particular about which the local community needed advance notice.

GP queried again the number of events with crowds over 5,000. MM confirmed that in the main people attending conferences would be parking in the stadium.

GP brought up the need to be sympathetic to particular people's issues. All were in agreement that this should be the case.

In relation to the lighting MG and MM said that this needed to be sorted out once and for all. They did feel, however, that they were close to solving the problem. They said that ultimately all of the lighting would be computer controlled. He said that currently people were being trained to look after this area.

In relation to the overall monitoring situation RG noted that it had been confirmed with DCC that the noise and dust monitoring from the construction phase was no longer a requirement. He said, however, that monitoring would need to be continued to be done for any out-of-hours work and that the results would be submitted to DCC.

5. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

MM noted that all of the construction work should be finished by early August. RG updated the meeting in relation to works currently ongoing. He noted that the following was the situation in relation to construction:

- Main stadium works are complete with the exception of some small discreet areas within the building and some minor snagging items. Work will be completed by the end of July 2010.
- The majority of works on the DART forecourt have been completed. Some final signage, snagging etc needs to be undertaken. This will be finished by the end of June.
- The stadium management building has been completed and handed over to LRSDC. The shell and core areas on ground level and level one are currently being fitted out. These will be completed by end July.
- The underground car park is targeted for completion by end July. Final cable installation, lining and signage are currently being undertaken.
- Work on the back pitches is scheduled for completion mid to late July. Currently the drainage there is being laid.
- Work on the Lansdowne clubhouse is on target for completion by end July 2010.

RG noted that permission had been received from DCC for extended working hours over the coming weeks in relation to work on the back pitch. He confirmed that the nature of this work is exactly the same as it was for the main pitch when such extended working hours were also in place. The extended working hours are up to 9pm on Monday-Friday and up to 6pm on Saturdays.

6. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

RG noted that the fortnightly newsletter would continue until such time as the construction programme had been completed.

At that stage he noted that a number of more detailed newsletters would be produced over the course of the year. These would contain details of all major fixtures.

In relation to a query concerning more minor functions in the stadium MM said that it would not be possible to publish a calendar of minor events as these were being added to on a continuous basis. He also said that in some cases the information was commercially sensitive.

RG confirmed that the website www.avivastadium.ie would also be a source of up-to-date information.

7. COMMUNITY FUND:

RG confirmed that following the last meeting of the PMC that all 36 applicants requesting funding from the first tranche of the 2010 Community Fund had been written to. Of the 36 applications, 24 had been given grant assistance while 12 had been turned down for a variety of reasons.

He noted that in each case those not receiving funding had been written to with an explanation as to why they were not receiving funds. Where appropriate, they had been invited to re-apply from the second tranche.

RG noted that given the number of applications that the absolute amount of funding had been restricted. He said nevertheless that those receiving funding had been delighted to receive such funding and that there had been more positive feedback than at any time in the past.

He said that currently various people in receipt of funding were coming back with invoices etc.

He also noted that in all cases they had been happy to acknowledge the contribution of Aviva Stadium Community Fund and to publicise same where appropriate.

In that context he noted an "acknowledgement certificate" which he felt might be appropriate. All were in agreement that RG should devise same with a view to providing it for projects where such a certificate could be put in place.

RG noted a letter that had been received from Eglinton Terrace and Rampart Lane Residents Association. In the letter they made the case for support given the number of matchgoers that use these roads on the way to major matches.

Following a discussion by all it was agreed by all that RG should write to same making a gesture. It should equally be explained that technically the area in question was outside the fund area and that this was a one-off gesture.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

MG brought up a letter which had been sent to the PMC from BADRA. Same raised a number of issues which had already been debated at the meeting. It was agreed that MM should reply to the letter as Stadium Director.

9. STEPPING DOWN:

EB noted that she had taken early retirement from DCC and that this would be her last PMC meeting. MM and MG paid tribute to the immense contribution which she had made both as chairman and as a member of the PMC. All present endorsed their remarks.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next PMC meeting would take place in the Stadium Management Building on Monday, 9 August, at 6:30pm.

RODDY GUINEY

30 June 2010

Circulation:

Ms Eileen Brady, chairperson

Mr Gerry Folan

Councillor Dermot Lacey

Councillor Kevin Humphreys

Mr John Dodd

Mr Greg Pepper

Mr Pat Molloy

Ms Mags Dalton

Mr Les McLindon

Mr Michael Greene

Mr Martin Murphy

Mr Bill Enright

Mr Roddy Guiney