

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AVIVA STADIUM PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC), HELD ON TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE**

**DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL:** Mr Michael O'Neill (MON)  
Mr Gerry Folan (GF)

**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)

**GARDAI:** Inspector Martin McGonnell (MMcG)  
Sgt Andrew Keegan (AK)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr Les McLindon (LMcL)

**VENUE:** Aviva Stadium Management Building

1. **APOLOGIES:**  
Apologies were received from Mick Davern.
2. **MINUTES:**  
The minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2010 were agreed. Same to be changed from draft minutes to agreed minutes and put up on the Aviva Stadium website.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**  
KH queried whether there had been any queries regarding the surveying of houses as noted in last minutes. RG said that there had been no enquiries in relation to same.

KH also queried situation in relation to parking and the Spar shop in Bath Avenue. It was agreed that this was more a matter for the Gardai and DCC. DCC to speak directly to Gardai in relation to same.

GP queried use of CCTV on Dodder Walkway. MG noted that MD is currently looking at the detail of same. Signs will be posted on the fence in relation to same. MG further noted that the Dodder Walk had been handed over to DCC in the past week. Those present expressed great disappointment in the fact that so many of the lamps on the Dodder Walk had been vandalised.

In response to a query MG noted that the overall Dodder Walk was the responsibility of DCC. He further noted that there were a number of areas which the stadium paid DCC to maintain. All at the meeting were in agreement that the Dodder Walk needed to be maintained to the highest possible standards given the fact that it is now one of the main entrances into the stadium.

MON will talk to Michael Noon from Parks and inspect this area to establish which parts are to be maintained by him

JD queried MG in relation to the noise from the fans. MG said that the situation was improving all the time. He said that the team of acoustic experts had been brought in to monitor the noise and that they had identified a number of items that were contributing to this. He said that a number of the fans had been retro fitted to reduce any noise. He said the issue of noise had been addressed throughout the stadium. He said he would not be expecting complaints in relation to same moving forward.

#### **4. COMPLAINTS:**

LMcL noted that there had been a total of ten complaints registered in the eleven week period during the last meeting of the PMC. He said that these related to noise (4), lights (2), fans (2), traffic (1) and public order (1). It was noted that the public order matter had been addressed by the Gardai.

In relation to a query MM noted that the sports lights would normally be off by 10:30am while the lighted Aviva Stadium sign would be turned off by 11pm.

LMcL said that currently the stadium was retro fitting sensors to control all the lights.

In relation to noise KH noted the high levels of noise at the Leinster v Munster game. MM reassured the meeting that this would not happen again.

#### **5. OPERATIONS REVIEW:**

MM updated the meeting in relation to overall stadium operations since the last PMC meeting.

He noted that the month of November had been a major test for the stadium. He said that there had been six matches over a four-week period with four of the games actually taking place within a seven day period. During the month of November there had been in excess of 200,000 fans at the games.

He said that to date the stadium had welcomed over 700,000 people for matches, concerts and conferences. He said that the conference business had brought in

excess of 200,000 people into the stadium.

He said that over the period of operations the stadium had identified all of the key issues and that these had been worked on a game by game basis. He said that he believed that there had been major improvements particularly in relation to stewarding, access to the DART, crowd movement, signage, etc.

MM noted that with over 1,500 staff working at any major event that there had been a learning curve. He felt that all concerned were, however, getting better on a match by match basis. He also said that he believed that the public knowledge of the way the stadium operates has become better each succeeding match.

He particularly noted the large number of spectators utilising the DART which he felt was a vindication of the overall public transportation policy of the stadium.

Both DL and GP said that they felt that things had been going well within the stadium. All at the meeting were in agreement that a number of the elements external to the stadium needed to work on an ongoing basis. In that context they particularly noted the pubs in the area and the number of people spilling out onto the pavement.

GP queried whether or not the Gardai working on match days knew the area well enough. MMcG and AK said that the Gardai were well briefed and that detailed documentation is provided to every Gardai member including the colour coding, routing, access for residents, etc.

KH said that he felt that the Gardai were again settling in on a match by match basis. All were in agreement that things had been improving each successive match.

MON queried an issue in relation to a steward directing spectators. It was agreed that while the stewarding had improved that common sense did need to prevail.

MM said that the only remaining fixture in December was the game between Leinster and Clermont Auvergne. He did note that a number of Christmas parties would be taking place in the stadium during the month of December.

He said that the next fixture planned for the stadium was in February 2011.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS:**

RG said that a newsletter was currently in preparation and that this would be hand delivered to all of the households around the stadium. He said that this would note the fact that there was still one match to go this year and that there were Christmas parties in the stadium.

RG confirmed that a list of fixtures for 2011 would also accompany this letter.

RG said that updated information would continue to be put on the website.

**7. COMMUNITY FUND:**

RG updated the meeting in relation to the Community Fund. He noted that the year had started with a fund of €105K.

RG said that in the first tranche that there had been 39 applications with 26 being cleared to receive funding. Of the 26, 22 have already received their funding while the fund is awaiting documentation from the remaining four before the monies are paid out. RG noted that in the second tranche there had been 19 applications of which 16 had been approved for funding. Letters have gone out to all of these projects in the current week. He also noted that letters had gone out to the three applicants that had had their projects rejected.

In answer to a query regarding projects rejected RG noted that in some cases the projects were not at a stage where funding was appropriate. He said that in all the cases the fund has been careful to encourage people to re-apply.

RG noted a major application that had been received from Marian College. He queried whether it would be appropriate to have the college come in and make a presentation at the next PMC meeting. It was agreed by all present that this should not be the case, that all projects should be considered in the same manner. RG to contact Marian in relation to same.

RG said that a number of feature articles had been set up in relation to the fund and that these would be appearing in local papers in January. He said that there would be an emphasis on promoting the fund and showcasing some of the projects involved in the coming year.

RG also noted the recommendation from Philip Land that funding should be up to 50% with 70% in exceptional cases. He said it was important that the fund retained its flexibility. RG said he would invite Mr Land to attend the next PMC meeting.

GP said that he felt that the fund should treat all projects in an even handed manner. RG said that he felt that this was the case.

#### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

JD queried the use of fingerpost signs that were currently being put up at junctions. It was noted that these had planning permission from Dublin City Council and had been part of the plan from the start.

JD also queried the number of casual traders particularly in relation to Shelbourne Road. The Gardai noted that they check the DCC list at all times. They confirmed that there were no new traders on Shelbourne Road.

RG noted that RG, MM, MG and LMcl would be meeting with the team from the Europa League with a view to discussing best way of communicating details of the Europa League Final to the local community.

The next meeting will be updated on same.

GP queried whether or not MG would be with the project next year. At this point in time it would seem that this will not be the case. GP said that he wished to put it on record his appreciation of the work of MG in relation to the Project Monitoring Committee. These sentiments were echoed by all present at the meeting.

## 9. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 1 February, at 6:30pm in the Stadium Management Building.

RODDY GUINEY  
3 December 2010

### **Circulation:**

Mr Michael O'Neill (chairperson)  
Mr Gerry Folan  
Councillor Dermot Lacey  
Councillor Kevin Humphreys  
Mr John Dodd  
Mr Greg Pepper  
Inspector Martin McGonnell  
Sgt Andrew Keegan  
Mr Les McLindon  
Mr Mick Davern  
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