

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AVIVA STADIUM PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC), HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY, 2011

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 Dermot Lacey (DL)
LRSDC:	Mr Martin Murphy (MM) Mr Bill Enright (BE) Mr Les McLindon (LMcL) Mr Mick Davern (MD) Mr Roddy Guiney (RG)
FAI:	Mr Joe McGlue (JMcG) - part
VENUE:	Aviva Stadium Management Building

1. PMC APPOINTMENT:

Councillor DC confirmed that Councillor Maria Parodi would be the new Council representative on the PMC. Councillor Parodi had intended being at the meeting, but, unfortunately, due to the change of date this was not possible. She conveyed her apologies.

2. FAI PRESENTATION:

At this stage the meeting was joined by Mr Joe McGlue, chief security officer with the FAI. He updated the meeting in relation to the upcoming international matches in the stadium featuring Northern Ireland.

He noted that since the last meeting with the local community that events had moved on and it now looked as if there would be a boycott of the two games by all Northern Ireland supporters groups. He said that there were a number of reasons being put forward for the boycott and that these included issues which the supporters groups had with the IFA; the fact (allegedly) that a number of Northern Ireland players had opted to play for the Republic of Ireland; and the prices IFA were charging for their buses to bring fans to the match.

He said that at this point in time that the IFA had currently sold fewer than 100 tickets for the match against the Republic of Ireland and only 12 tickets for the game against Wales.

He said that there would be a further meeting between the FAI and the IFA on the following day (12 May) and that the position would be clearer at that point in time. He said that he felt that it would be unlikely that the numbers would increase however. He said that the FAI was currently however making their plans to use

the same system as they would have used if there were 3,400-4,000 fans. He said they were currently looking at a staging point on the old Airport Road.

GP queried whether or not they were still looking to bring buses to the Sean Moore Road roundabout and then walk the fans to the stadium. GMcG confirmed that this was still the case but said the Gardai were also looking at an alternative route.

MON queried the situation in relation to Republic of Ireland supporters living in the North of Ireland. JMcG said that there were quite a number of these particularly in the Derry area and that the FAI dealt with them directly.

JMcG reiterated his belief was that not a great number of fans would travel given the issues between the IFA and the supporters groups.

GP stressed that the local community definitely wanted fans to be brought in by a different route. He said the local community believed that their very real concerns were not being listened to in relation to these matches.

He said that the local community had absolutely nothing against Northern Ireland supporters attending the match but they believed that the proposed solution was not the way to go about it. He said that the thought of supporters being brought up the street under Garda escort was both demeaning to the supporters and intimidating both to the supporters and for the local community.

DL reiterated the need to do something and the fact that the local community felt they were not being listened to.

In relation to a query JMcG said that he could not confirm at this point in time what other routes the Gardai were looking at but he would speak to them in relation to same.

GP and JD both reiterated the fact that the route from Sean Moore roundabout was not acceptable to the local people. They said they had now made the point on three occasions. They felt they were no better off in relation to information than they had been at the previous meetings. They said they could not accept what they were being told.

GP suggested that there had to be other routes suggesting that supporters might be brought to Marian College via Newbridge Road with the buses then departing via Herbert Road/Tritonville Road.

At this point both GP and JD left the meeting saying they felt there was nothing further to be discussed given the current solution being proposed.

The discussion in relation to the Northern Ireland games continued. MM said there was a definite need at matches for segregation of fans and that in order to make this work fans had to be brought in the Bath Avenue entrance.

DL queried as to when the police might have their alternative plan. He felt that given the strength of feeling that an alternative plan must be put in position.

JMcG undertook to come back to MM following his meeting with the IFA and a discussion with the Gardai. MM said he would circulate any additional information at that point in time to the members of the PMC.

At that time JMcG left the meeting and GP and JD re-joined the meeting.

3. **MINUTES:**

The minutes of the last meeting of Tuesday, 5 April 2011 were agreed. Same to be changed from draft minutes to agreed minutes and put up on the Aviva Stadium website.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

MON noted that the intention was to replace the lights on the Dodder Walk in the late Summer with taller lights. He said that he also discussed with LMcL the possibility of taking the stadium lights on the Dodder Walk into the DCC network. He said it was likely that this would happen.

In relation to lamppost advertising following a discussion MON said that he would organise a report for the next PMC meeting which would report on the planning status of such advertising and also the official rationale behind the need for such advertising. JD stressed again that he felt that such advertising should not be allowed in a residential area.

In relation to a query concerning a block wall MON confirmed that DCC had been in touch with the builder and that the builder was requested by DCC to reinstate with the original stone wall.

JD confirmed that the graffiti on the wall at the corner of Shelbourne Road / Lansdowne Road had been cleaned up by DCC.

5. **COMMUNITY FUND:**

RG updated the meeting in relation to the current status of the projects for the community fund. Following a discussion it was agreed by all that the amounts recommended by the independent assessor, Mr Philip Land, were acceptable.

RG to write to all projects confirming same.

JD queried whether it was possible for the local community to be made more aware of some of the projects happening in the area. He felt that local residents would be interested in becoming involved in some of them.

RG / MM noted that the intention was to have an evening in the stadium in relation to the community fund to which all projects would be invited as indeed would all other interested parties in the area. It was agreed that members of the PMC should input into that as to requirements that might have from the projects in question concerning publicity, information, etc.

DL suggested that the stadium might consider doing a supplement with D4 News promoting a number of the projects. Same to be considered.

JD queried the situation in relation to Marian College. MM noted that a meeting had been set up with Mr Paul Meany to discuss same. MON confirmed that Mr Karl Mitchell was available for such a meeting if required.

6. OPERATIONS UPDATE:

MM noted that there had only really been one match since the last meeting of the PMC. This was the Leinster Toulouse match at which he felt the stadium had experienced no real problems.

GP said that he felt that there were a number of problems and queried the numbers of fans coming up Bath Avenue. He felt that this seemed to be much greater than the numbers who would be accessing the stadium in this area as per the planning permission.

GP queried what the situation was if an ambulance was needed by members of the local community.

MM confirmed that all of the crowd flows were monitored and controlled from the Control Room in the stadium and should there be an emergency situation that it would be managed from there.

Both GP and JD felt that there was still over crowding on some of the routes and that local residents felt confined to their homes.

GP also noted that there were still problems in relation to drinking in the streets. He said that more bins were needed. MON agreed to look into this.

JD reiterated the situation in relation to the plastic cups. He suggested that perhaps the various pubs could put their names on the plastic glasses and be made responsible for collection of same. He said that the number one complaint in relation to the stadium was still litter.

It was noted that the Gardai had recently met with the local pubs. MON also said that as it is the stadium pays DCC to do the clean-up after matches on their behalf.

It was agreed that the residents associations might give consideration to taking up this matter directly with the Gardai. All agreed that the situation could be improved.

7. COMMUNICATIONS:

RG said that a newsletter would be published in advance of the Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland game outlining what measures were being taken. This would be delivered to the houses in the immediate area.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

GP stressed again the need for more local employment in relation to stewarding etc. MM said that they were more than conscious of this and had employed local people. He did confirm however that numbers of stewards had been reduced in some cases as the original numbers were no longer needed.

In relation to a query he confirmed that a new security company was being used by the FAI for stewarding for certain tasks.

Both GP and JP asked MM to ensure that whenever possible local people were employed.

GP queried whether or not more local people could be used as stewards to give directions to fans. He felt that currently a lot of this work was being undertaken by Gardai who really did not know the area as well.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 7 June, at 6:30pm, in the stadium management building.

RODDY GUINEY

12 May 2011

Circulation:

Mr Michael O'Neill (chairperson)

Mr Gerry Folan

Councillor Dermot Lacey

Councillor Maria Parodi

Mr John Dodd

Mr Greg Pepper

Mr Joe McGlue

Mr Bill Enright

Mr Mick Davern

Mr Martin Murphy

Mr Les McLindon

Mr Roddy Guiney