

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STADIUM COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (SCC), HELD ON  
MONDAY, 10 JUNE, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL:</b> | Mr Brian Hanney (BH)<br>Cllr Danny Byrne (DB)<br>Cllr Claire Byrne (CB)                       |
| <b>LOCAL COMMUNITY:</b>     | Mr. Alf Guinevan (AG)<br>Mr Graham Clinton (GC)   |
| <b>LRSDC:</b>               | Mr David French (DF)<br>Mr Daniel Wynne (DW)<br>Mr Andrew Keegan (AK)<br>Mr Roddy Guiney (RG) |
| <b>MCD:</b>                 | Mr Eamonn Fox (EF)<br>Mr Brian Matheson (BM)  |
| <b>GARDA SIOCHANA:</b>      | Inspector Dave Wogan (DW)   |
| <b>VENUE:</b>               | Aviva Stadium   |

**1. MCD PRESENTATION**

The meeting began with a presentation by MCD on the upcoming concerts by Pink and Taylor Swift. MCD are the organisers of both events. MCD were represented by Eamonn Fox (EF) who is their Event Controller and who is in charge of both events and by Brian Matheson who is their Community Liaison and Communications person. Inspector Dave Wogan of An Garda Siochana, who will be in charge of the Gardai for all five events was also in attendance.

EF began by noting that MCD had previously promoted and managed concerts by both Pink and Taylor Swift in Ireland and that they had incorporated all learnings from these events into their current planning. He also said he had attended the previous week's Taylor Swift concerts in Scotland and that again learnings from these would be incorporated in their approach to the upcoming series of concerts.

He said that previous experience and current bookings showed that both artists would have audiences in excess of 70% female. In the case of Taylor Swift there would also be a large number of young females in many cases accompanied by a parent. He said the in the case of Taylor Swift the chief preoccupation was on merchandise and not alcohol. All five concerts are sell-outs.

As part of their planning MCD would be looking to get fans arriving on site off their local streets as early as possible. Again, in the case of Taylor Swift fans the anticipation is some would arrive as early as 6.30am and that MCD had specified areas they would go to. These would be serviced by on site toilets ; food service ; and merchandise. Again, experience of

Taylor Swift concerts around the world showed such fans would stay in the designated areas until gates officially opened.

EF noted that the Red Route would only have 5,000 users unlike the 10,000 using it on match days. He said that this was due to the fact that the stand behind the stage would not be in use. He also said those in the Red Route would be mainly early arrivals as they would be on the area on the pitch in front of the stage.

EF confirmed that the curfew time for all concerts was 10.45pm and that given the profiles of the audiences it was anticipated that their focus would be in getting home rather than going drinking.

GC expressed local concerns re excessive drinking and urinating in local gardens. He also requested that there would be more of a Garda presence on the streets as he believed such Gardai were a far greater deterrent than any stewards. EF re-iterated his opinion, which he said was informed by knowledge of the audiences that there should not be a problem in relation either to excessive consumption of alcohol or urination in gardens. Inspector DW said that there would be an adequate Gardai presence at all times.

EF and BM outlined the communications plan that would be wrapped around the events. He said that all those with tickets would receive an emailed newsletter with a detailed plan as to how to access the stadium and also acceptable behaviours.

In relation to the local community BM said the intention was to do a mail drop to all houses around the stadium giving details of exactly what would happen on concert days and outlining road closures etc.,

AG requested that this mail drop also be put into houses even where there were No Junk Mail instructions. This needs to be highlighted with distribution company. GC also requested that the mail drop start with the house closest to the stadium and work outwards from there.

Inspector DW said that road closures would come into effect at 2.00pm for all but local residents.

GC and AG requested that some areas be identified for residents in relation to local parking. BH said he had been looking into this and promised to get back re same ( BH confirmed the following on morning after the meeting - *“Whilst road and traffic restrictions are in place for the duration of the events in the Aviva Stadium, residents with residential parking permits whom are effected by the restrictions are permitted to park on surrounding streets using their permits.”*

GC asked what could be expected after the match. Inspector DW confirmed that no traffic would be allowed into the area before midnight. EF said that again experience of these particular artists showed that aside from some merchandise purchasing that the crowd tended to focus on getting home.

GC and AG asked about build-up for the concerts and also work to dismantle the stage etc after the final concerts. EF noted that the stage construction works will commence inside the stadium on Thursday 13 June and final dismantling will be completed by Thursday 6 July. He confirmed that some dismantling of the equipment would start immediately after the last concert but this work was reasonably quiet and would not go past 1.00am.

EF said he would send RG a copy of his presentation including the maps. RG to send to SCC.

***At this point in time EF, BM and Inspector DW left the meeting.***

## **2. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies as all committee members were present.

## **3. NEW BADRA REPRESENTATIVE**

On behalf of all members of the RG welcomed GC as the new BADRA representative on the SCC committee.

## **4. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Before the meeting began all present congratulated CB and DB on their re-election as Councillors.

## **5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were an accurate record of that meeting. Same to be put on the stadium website as per policy.

## **6. MATTERS ARISING**

RG noted that there were two matters in the minutes which he would like to deal with. The first of these related to proposed presentation on sustainability by Aidan Byrne who is responsible for the stadium's extensive sustainability programme. This had been scheduled for the meeting but given the MCD Presentation it had been decided to postpone same. This will now be on the Agenda for the next meeting of the SCC.

The second matter related to the IRFU properties in the area which has been on the SCC agenda for a number of meetings. RG noted that a meeting had set up with the IRFU in relation to same. He invited DB and GC ,who had both been at that meeting for their comments. Both were strongly of the opinion that the IRFU had been less than forthcoming in relation to the information that had been sought. They had found the meeting to be most unsatisfactory. RG noted that the IRFU had sent on the information in relation to the proposed renovations of some of the properties and had also given an undertaking to clean up the areas around their properties.

Following a discussion on same RG requested that members of the committee revert to him with any questions or concerns that they still have and he would put these to the IRFU. It was agreed that this would be the next step.

## **7. OPERATIONS REVIEW**

DW said that following the concerts there were no events scheduled until September. The events in September will be the Aer Lingus College Football Classic (24 August) and the Ireland v England soccer international (7 September). He noted that following the concerts work would be undertaken on the pitch as was the norm at this time of the year.

There was then a discussion on the recent Europa League Final which in the main had been a great success. GC raised issues in relation to the street cleaning in some areas. BH explained that in areas such as South Lotts Road it was very difficult to do a deep clean given the cars parked there for much of the time. He did say however that a special cleaning of that area was planned for the coming weeks and that cars would not be able to park at that time to facilitate the clean-up.

The increased number of games that would come about with Leinster playing there while the RDS was being redeveloped will bring additional pressure on the area. This led to a discussion on the timely provision of information well in advance of fixtures. DW said that while communications had improved he accepted that information could be given in a more timely fashion and agreed to work with both AG and GC on ensuring that this happens.

DW also said that the website events calendar will be re-looked at in terms of the information it provides.

GC and AG again raised the issue of matches where smaller crowds were expected. They said that experience had shown that there could be more problems than with sell out games. All were in agreement that same would be looked at going forward and would be discussed with Gardai.

## **8. COMMUNITY FUND**

RG updated meeting in relation to the Community Fund. He noted that in the final analysis that 47 projects were offered funding. All have been informed of same. He also noted that there had been a remarkable response from recipients with almost all replying thanking the fund and in many cases extending invitations to the SCC to attend their functions. RG will pass on all invitations as they come to hand.

RG said that he believed that it was timely to look both at the T&C's and the Application form for the fund. He said his intention was to draw up new documentation with DW and to circulate it to all before the next meeting. All were in agreement with same.

He also informed the meeting that he had agreed with the new committee in BADRA to do a presentation to the committee in relation both to how the fund operates and also to share with them the kind of projects that have been supported over the years. A date has to be confirmed.

BH said it might be a good idea to do the same presentation for LADRA and AG agreed. He will get back to RG with a date.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was a discussion in relation to the various problems that the local community experiences on match days. AG noted that while the stadium may not directly hear these

complaints that they are out there. GC confirmed same noting that whenever there is a problem re events or matches the complaint is prefaced by " *It's all the fault of the stadium....*".

All were in agreement that this need to be a major focus for the SCC going forward. Problem areas need to be identified and possible solutions tabled and where appropriate tried.

Among the key issues are: -

- The situation regarding plastic glasses being taken out of the stadium after games and then being dumped.
- A better flow of information in relation to the restrictions on event and match days
- Overall Gardai briefing on event days.
- Operation of road closures bearing in mind requirements of local community
- Urination in gardens and unacceptable public areas
- Role and responsibilities of local publicans
- Need for more barrel bins.
- Prompt removal of barriers after events
- Wheelchair access for local residents.
- Better cleaning in areas such as Lansdowne Park, Grand Canal and Beggars Bush
- Garda presence after events.

*NB. This is not a definitive list and some items are much more serious than others.*

Consideration to be given to having a special meeting to set out a plan of action re this area.

As a specific item unrelated to the above CB asked could someone look into the timing of bin drops in advance of events. Currently these can be unacceptably early in the morning.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

A date was not set for the next meeting. RG will circulate some suggestions re same.

### **RODDY GUINEY**

Hon Sec  
Stadium Community Committee  
14 June 2022

### **Circulation**

Brian Hanney (chairperson)  
Cllr Danny Byrne  
Cllr Claire Byrne

Alfred Guinevan  
Graham Clinton  
David French  
Daniel Wynne  
Andrew Keegan  
Roddy Guiney