

Minutes of Residents Meeting 2nd July 2018

The meeting was chaired on behalf of Catherine Clancy by Aidan Cahill. The meeting was attended by 22 residents. Also in attendance were Cllrs Moloney and Cremin, Gary Mulcahy from UCC and Shane Keogh, Mideam Developments. The chairperson thanked all for their attendance and then read through the minutes from the previous meeting.

Shane Keogh, Mideam then gave an update on their Carraigdun Development. Shane stated that they are slightly ahead of schedule and that the 2nd phase planning application was approved and will not be going to an Bord Pleanala. However the house fronting on to Magazine Rd has been appealed to An Bord Pleanala. He also stated that they had paid a significant contribution to Cork City Council with a further contribution to follow and as a result had also lobbied the Council on improving the litter/road cleaning in the area. He then outlined the work being carried out on Dunleary House itself which involves a complete internal refurbishment while maintaining the exterior as before. The house when completed will house 7 students along with management offices and a common room for the residents. The first phase of the main development which will consist of 4 houses is scheduled for opening in January 2018. All footpaths will be fully repaired/replaced on completion. A complaint from a resident re noise from a house party in Loreto House itself was highlighted to Shane who explained that it had been reported to him the following morning and he assured the meeting that this was a once off incident and measures have been taken to prevent a reoccurrence. Gary Mulcahy from UCC then outlined how he was working with Shane in sourcing the foreign students to occupy the development. The chairperson thanked Shane for the update.

Gary Mulcahy UCC was then questioned by residents on how students misbehaviour is handled by UCC. He explained the various stages of the University's disciplinary procedure which starts with a complaint form being received and investigated and students being fined €50 to a final stage where students can be fined €5000 or expelled. Gary stated that it would be very rare for students not to accept the initial €50 fine and that the process itself was fully robust. Gary also explained that UCC are looking at ways of updating the complaint forms so that the complainant's name and address would not be disclosed. However he stressed that under the Freedom of Information Act, if a student insists on the name on the complainant, UCC may be obliged to give this information. Their legal dept are examining this issue. He reinforced how important it was to use the complaint form itself which is available on the residents website. He has no power or authority to act on verbal complaints. Cllr Moloney said that along with the complaint form, all complaints should be reported to An Garda Siochana when they occur as all calls are logged and could prove useful in any investigation. Some residents expressed concern at the slow response and soft approach by Gardai to any complaints. Catherine Clancy will request the Community Guard to attend the next meeting to highlight these concerns. Students Freshers Week is scheduled for 10th September and meetings with Gardai, UCC & Residents Forum will take place in advance to put measures in place to curb antisocial behaviour. Gary explained that UCC had no jurisdiction over landlords and the condition of their properties. UCC are holding a open air concert in the Quad on Sat 14th July and Gary has tickets for residents who wish to attend. The Chairperson then thanked Gary for his attendance.

Concerns were expressed by residents on the developments of house on Glasheen Rd around Landscape Terrace area and that maybe Fire Officers should be involved.

Cllrs were asked to request City Council to extend the Area of Architectural Conservation to include Glasheen Rd from Landscape Terrace down as far as the entrance to Croaghta Park.

Railings finally replaced on 5 Rosenheim and a complaint form sent to City Council re 2 Holly Hill View to replace railings. City Council acknowledged complaint and will investigate.

Councillors and residents expressed disappointment that the yellow lines Coolgarten Park exit on to Glasheen Rd had not been repainted similar to Magazine Rd. The issue of bollards on this corner was raised again and councillors will talk to Roads Dept. Cllrs also stated that cars parked on double yellow lines should be reported immediately to City Council or Gardai if after hrs.

Cllr Moloney stated that the traffic survey which was due to be carried out on Magazine Rd has been put back to Sept at the request of the residents.

Residents in Highfield West highlighted the traffic hazard when exiting on to Magazine Rd due to the positioning of 2 Eircom (Eir) poles close to the exit. Residents also complained of a loosely fitted Eircom (Eir) manhole cover on the footpath close to the junction of Magazine Rd/Kilcrea Park. These to be reported to Eir.

Chairperson reported that the fire hydrant in the same area had finally been repaired and thanked Cllr Moloney for his persistence on this issue.

Chairperson then outlined the details of the recent meeting with the senior planners in City Council re Proposed Variation(Student Accommodation) to the city Development Plan 2015 and highlighted and thanked all the councillors for their support at the meeting. The committee hope that the issues highlighted will be taken into account in this proposed variation. Cllr Cremin stated that the final draft of the variation will be published and put before Cllrs before it is implemented.

Cllr Moloney & Cremin put down a motion before City Council to include Magazine Rd in the litter/street cleaning and this has had a positive impact as Magazine Rd is now being cleaned even if not on a daily basis.

City Council informed residents association that the planning application for development at the former Ryans Garage on Magazine Rd/Glasheen Rd has been withdrawn.

Hedge trimming by City Council on the derelict property on Dorgans Rd was welcomed by residents.

Chairperson reported that City Council have approved a €300 grant to the residents association for litter management of the area and it is hoped over the next few months to purchase some equipment for same. He also informed meeting of the recent landlords flyer set up by Aisling of which over 150 were distributed to houses in the area. He also thanked all those involved in the distribution.

Finally Chairperson thanked all the councillors for their support in our efforts to improve the area and stressed how important it is to keep lobbying on our behalf.

Next Meeting scheduled for 7.30pm Mon 3rd September