

Date: 28 October 2018 at 22:02:58 GMT

To: ann_doherty@corkcity.ie

Dear Ms Doherty,

At the last meeting of Magazine Road & Surrounding Areas Residents Association, many residents raised a number of issues that had been brought to the attention of City Council previously and where action had been promised but not delivered on. There was quite a lot of anger expressed by residents at the lack of commitment by City Council to the area. Residents at the meeting felt that City Council have totally neglected our area and now no longer viewed the area as residential. This has resulted in little or no progress on issues previously highlighted. Residents compared the deliberate neglect of the area in comparison to City Council's upkeep and maintenance of adjoining areas such as Ballyphehane, Togher, Wilton, Bishopstown, Melbourne/Leesdale and Model Farm Road.

The committee were asked to request your help in progressing the following issues.

1. Street Cleaning -

Prior to the summer break manual street cleaning was introduced in the area on a resource availability regime. This stopped at the start of summer and now the roads and footpaths in the entire area (Magazine Rd, Glasheen Rd and all roads and parks running off these) are filthy with take away cartons, broken glass, bottles cans etc. There are over 20,000 students attending UCC and many of these are living or passing through this area all day long from Sun evening to Fri evening and so there is a constant disposal of litter on footpaths and roads. Residents request that this manual road cleaning be restarted as soon as possible with a much more frequent regime. It should cover Magazine Rd from Denroche's Cross to St Claire's Ave and on Glasheen Rd from Denroche's Cross to Croaghta Park including the parks off these roads. Road Sweeper vehicles are not the answer due to the number of vehicles parked in the area.

2. Traffic Surveys/Control -

Residents have complained for some time about the volume and speed of traffic on Coolgarten Park and following some lobbying by local councillors a traffic survey was carried out in late Dec '17/early Jan '18 (a time residents feel was deliberately chosen by City Council with UCC on holidays and the nearby hospitals and businesses on reduced staffing levels with the resulting much reduced traffic flow). City Council based on the results of the survey decided that speed ramps/rumble strips were not deemed necessary even though all residents of the area know that Coolgarten Park is being used as a rat run by speeding motorists to avoid delays on the Dorgans Rd junctions and by motorists who were using Kilcrea Park to exit onto and off Glasheen Rd. These motorists are driving across the park at high speed and there is a serious danger issue involved for residents in trying to exit their residences including the cul de sac section of the park.

There is now a major issue with speeding traffic and the mounting of and driving on footpaths on Magazine Rd from Denroche's Cross to St Claire's Avenue and residents on Glasheen Rd are also complaining of the speed of traffic on Glasheen Rd from Denroche's Cross to Croaghta Park. This entire Magazine Rd/Glasheen Rd area including roads and parks close by seems to be the only area where City Council refuse to consider the use of speed ramps or rumble strips to control both the speed and volume of traffic even though these types of restrictions are seen throughout other less busy areas. Residents highlighted the fact again that the area is seen by City Council to

be almost non residential and any remaining residents are small in number and so do not matter. Therefore they don't need to take any notice of this serious problem.

3. Indiscriminate and Illegal Parking -

This has become a major issue again following the start up of college year again. There is a daily occurrence of cars being parked(or more likely dropped) on double yellow lines at exits all along Magazine Rd and the surrounding parks but especially at the entrances to and from Coolgarten Park (no refuse collections on two Mondays in Sept due to inability to access park). More importantly this causes serious concerns for residents requiring access for Emergency Services. There are also now issues with cars parking almost fully on footpaths on Magazine Rd, Highfield Ave and Highfield West on the pretence that they are not interfering with traffic flow. However, this necessitates pedestrians having to walk onto roads to pass by and is a huge impediment to any person using any form of disability aid such as wheelchair or waking aid. It also appears to residents that half the students in UCC with cars have managed to have parking permits which is difficult to understand. The Government along with City Council claim students don't require cars but that has not stopped the students bringing their cars into our area.

4. Planning/Landlord Issues: This entire area has fallen into disrepair mainly due to wilful neglect by landlords of their properties. Residents feel that City Council should be pursuing these landlords who totally transform properties that were previously single occupancy residences into multiple occupancy units(in many cases without planning approval) with all the ensuing issues of badly maintained properties/front gates railings etc removed along with overflowing refuse bins all over front gardens. It appears to residents that it should be City Council police these issues rather than waiting for residents to complain.

The residents association was formed just over 2 years ago following the serious issues that began to impact on people living here(many elderly). We as residents are very proud of our area even though it has fallen into disrepair mainly due to the closeness to UCC and the wilful neglect by City Council. We will continue to try and maintain the heritage and public realm of the area. However we are limited in what we can do without the input of City Council. We would be very grateful if you could pursue these issues on our behalf. We have requested our local councillors to lobby on our behalf and again they have had little success in action being taken on the issues above.

Yours sincerely,
Aidan Cahill,
Secretary,

Magazine Rd & Surrounding Areas Residents Association.