

## **Residents Meeting with Cork City Council Executives 21st Nov 2018**

Following our recent correspondence to the Chief Executive highlighting serious issues in our area and the urgent need for action by City Council, we are putting forward some concrete proposals/requests which we feel will reinvigorate the area, restore some pride and solve some of the major issues affecting residents in the area.

### **Street Cleaning:**

1. We request that priority be given to introducing a regulated, dedicated manual cleaning regime as soon as possible.
2. There is an urgent requirement for the Environment Dept/Litter Warden to patrol the area and to clamp down on properties which are rented by students who have overflowing refuse/recycling bins in their front gardens, many of which are not being presented for collection.
3. Because the area has become a predominantly student area, we also request that City Council lobby/request the service companies (Country Clean, Wiser & Greenstar) to reschedule their collection days to avoid collections on Mondays or Fridays. The present system requires students - the majority who go home for weekends - to put their refuse/recycling bins out on a Friday for a Monday collection and on Friday collection days, empty bins are on the side of the road over the entire weekend.
4. City Council could request/lobby that the service companies would all do their collections on the same day. At present the three companies involved operate on three separate days.

We were aware and had planned on making a submission to City Council on their proposed draft bye laws on the segregation, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste. However, on looking at the map outlining the area covered, our area is outside of the scope of any proposal.

### **Traffic Control / Illegal Parking / Parking Permits:**

1. The introduction of traffic calming measures ie. speed ramps/rumble strips as the only solutions to traffic speed issues on Magazine Rd/Glasheen Rd/Coolgarten Pk, especially the section of Magazine Road between the junctions of Dorgan's Road and St. Clares Avenue. Traffic speed is now a major concern for all residents of the area, with many motorists trying to make up for lost time in other areas.
2. We request that the footpaths on Glasheen Rd and Magazine road at the entrances to Coolgarten Park be modified to widen the corners and to include bollards to prevent illegal parking on double yellow lines. There is no visibility for motorists exiting Coolgarten Pk at either end of the park. This is quite common in

other areas of the city especially where there are parking issues. There is a huge volume of traffic now using Coolgarten Park as a way of avoiding traffic congestion at other junctions. There have been two accidents at these junctions since 5th Nov with Gardai having to be called. The entrance to Wellington Square is also very dangerous because of cars parking illegally and blocking visibility up and down the road.

3. This work should also be extended to the corners of the cul de sac section of Coolgarten Park where Country Clean have been unable to access on six occasions since 1st Sept.

4. From a health and safety perspective City Council should note that there are no footpaths at either end of Coolgarten with a huge volume of pedestrians almost all students using the park on a daily basis going to and coming from UCC.

5. Because of the narrow width of the road we request that signage be placed at strategic areas of Magazine Rd highlighting the fact that road is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles. Again there have been two accidents already in November one involving an articulated truck and a goods van, with Gardai again being called to the scene.

6. City Council need to revisit the terms on which parking permits are granted and introduce a system which prevents students abusing the system which is what's happening at present. These students arrive back into the area on Sunday nights and the cars are parked up until lunch time Friday.

We always understood that the parking permits were for full time residents and they were introduced to stop this type of practice. This has created huge difficulties for residents coming home from work/school on a daily basis and being unable to park in the area they live in.

Our area could be used as a pilot programme whereby permits are issued on stricter guidelines. Maybe a copy of property tax receipts or some other form of receipt/payments could be a requirement to the entitlement because at present it is being totally abused. Because of our proximity to UCC special designation should be granted to this area.

The Cork City Development Plan states that it is Government Policy and City Council Policy that there is no requirement for parking to be included in any student development. However it hasn't stopped students bringing cars into our area.

### **Planning Landlord Issues:**

1. City Council need to ensure that landlords changing a previous single use occupancy property into multi-dwelling be required to include a limit on its development so that it can be reconverted to a residential dwelling into the future.

We do recognise that there is an urgent need for student accommodation but this area has reached saturation point with the number of students residing in the area and there is a serious threat of a whole community being wiped out.

**Conclusion:**

In May of this year all our reservations for our area were included in our submissions to the proposed Variation No.5 (Student Accommodation) to the Cork City Development Plan. We stated back then that 70% of the housing was occupied by students.

To prevent a total wipeout of our community we request that City Council take urgent action on all of the above issues we also request that the area be serviced by a dedicated Council Community Development Worker to help the local residents many of whom are elderly and feel threatened by huge changes taking place within our community.

We also request City Council play its part in protecting the public realm of the area - part of which is an Area of Architectural Conservation. There are also two primary schools in the area and it is vital that families are also encouraged to come and live in the area.