

TERENURE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting, 16th April 2019

The AGM of the Terenure Residents Association was held in St. Joseph's Hall Terenure on the 16th April 2019

Chair: Fionnuala Blake.

Committee Members in attendance: Jim Dowling, Ben Costello, John Grant, Margaret O'Shea, Barbara Atkinson, Frank Harrison, Clyde Carroll and Oonagh Carroll (secretariat).

Public Representatives in attendance: Cllr Michael Mullooly (FF), Cllr Anne Feeney (FG), Cllr Mary Freehill (Labour), Cllr Ruairi McGinley (Ind), Jim O'Callaghan TD (FF), Eamon Ryan TD (Green Party), Tara Deacy (Social Democrats), Patrick Kinsella (FG)

Also in attendance were Sgt. Brendan Kelly and Garda Shay Kilbride (An Garda Siochana), and Rob Chester (Dublin City Council).

Apologies were received from Kate O'Connell TD (FG)

1. Welcome

Fionnuala Blake welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2018

The minutes of last year's AGM were taken as read and signed.

3. Chairperson's Report 2018-2019

The Chairperson's report was distributed (see attached). The Chair advised the gathered audience of the recent passing of Riach McElinn, former Committee Member of the TRA. Riach will be sadly missed by all.

4. Garda Representative

Sgt. Brendan Kelly outlined a brief summary of crime for the area during the past year. Burglaries had been experiencing a decreasing trend, however in 2018 this increased. The most common time for burglaries to take place is in daylight hours often between 13:00 and 20:00. A large percentage take place around 19:00. Houses are either left unlocked or thieves gain entry via a rear window which is left open, or forced entry.

The volume of car break ins have decreased this year by almost 50%. However car keys are still being obtained through letterboxes. The centre of the village around Aldi, Lidl, Centra and the coffee houses are common areas for bicycles to be stolen from. Either bad locks or no locks.

There is an increase in assaults (both minor and serious) . Organised fighting between schools taking place in Tymon Park and Bushy Park. The Gardai have increased patrols in the area as a result.

The Sgt. advised that real time reports of suspicious activity greatly helps detection of crime, and encouraged all residents to report any suspicious activity, not matter how insignificant it seems, in a timely manner.

Laura Mangan is the new Superintendent for the area & took up her post in September 2018. She has been successful in securing 4 additional Inspectors, 2 Sergeants and 7 new Gardai for the area. Additional recruitment is anticipated as the year progresses.

The Sgt. advised the gathering of the Garda Youth Awards. 2 local girls from Terenure were Group Award Winners at a recent awards ceremony in Tallaght, for their voluntary work in Cheeverstown. They will go forward to the National Finals in Tipperary. The biggest influencers on teenagers are their peers and their parents. Please contact Sgt. Brendan Kelly if you know of any young people aged 13-21 who are worthy of being nominated for a Garda Youth Award in September 2019.

A question was raised on whether the Gardai have any plans to tackle the illegal parking in the village, especially parking in bus lanes. Another resident commented on the Health & Safety issue associated with illegal parking in that pedestrians may have to walk on the road if no space to pass on the footpath due to illegally parked vehicles. The Sgt. advised that there are additional Gardai assigned to the unit on 10 week secondments, and hopes to see an improvement in this area.

A request came from the floor for Gardai to clamp down on the illegal use of mobile phones by motorists. The Sgt advised that it's impossible to eradicate this issue completely. There will be targeted operations in the coming months.

5. Rob Chester, Dublin City Council (DCC)

Rob gave a brief summary of some of the key community projects and groups which they support in the Terenure area, including the Terenure Men's Shed behind the Evergreen Club in Terenure. Terenure Clean Up will take place on Saturday 27th April 2019. The Harold Cross Festival will take place from 13-19 May. The Terenure/Rathgar Dog event will take place on Sunday 10th June (and not Saturday 9th June as published).

Local elections are scheduled for 24th May 2019. Rob encouraged all to use their mandate to vote. He also encouraged all to stay in contact with their councillors, as they work very closely with DCC.

6. Planning Officer's Report

Our Planning Officer, Jim Dowling provided a written report of the planning applications in the past year. Jim advised that the TRA joined together with other local resident associations to lodge an objection against the Rathdown Motors Planning Application. This was rejected. An appeal has been submitted reducing the height by 1 storey. 16 metres is the maximum height for Terenure area. It is the intention of the TRA to submit an objection against the appeal. It will take c.4-5 months to adjudicate.

7. Roads and Traffic

Ben Costello presented the Roads & Traffic report (refer attached).

8. Bus Connects

Our Roads & Traffic Officer, Ben Costello advised the gathering that Phase 1 of Bus Connects described the bus routes. A submission was made on behalf of the TRA in September 2018, details of which can be reviewed on the TRA website (www.terenureresidentsassociation.com).

Ben outlined that details of Phase 2 were made available for review in February 2019. Corridors 10, 11 and 12 are those relevant to the TRA audience. Ben advised that representatives from the TRA met with the National Transport Authority (NTA) on 26th April 2019. A written report of the points raised at the meeting was shared with attendees.

Ben provided a high level outline of the timeline for the Bus Connects programme; proposals to be finalised in 2019, review by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following by revisions to the scheme in 2021. The tendering phase would follow, with works being undertaken from 2022 to 2027.

A number of attendees voiced strong objection to the Bus Connects scheme, with a majority of residents present outlining support for a Metro line to run to Terenure Village. The residents of Ranelagh were able to stop the Metro from going to Ranelagh. A strong desire was voiced to adopt a similar stance in Terenure in order to prevent the Bus Connects proposals from being implemented in favour of a Metro line.

Lorna Callinan advised that the Bus Connects programme will result in a superhighway running through Terenure Village. The NTA are dealing with localities in a divide and conquer manner. She emphasised the importance of all of Terenure working together to object to the programme. A resident from Terenure Road East advised that there are protected structures on that road, and this should be an element that is strongly pushed back on to the NTA.

Ben Costello advised the meeting that the TRA have requested that the NTA put extra buses on the Terenure routes for 6 months and review what improvements that brings.

Geraldine Clarke suggested getting independent professionals to advise how to secure a halt to the NTA programme. She also recommended lobbying for the underground Metro.

Cllr Ruari McGinley advised that 80% of citizens are opposed to the Bus Connects programme because of its destructive aspects. He shared his opinion that residents should push for corridors 10, 11 and 12 be scheduled towards the end of the programme, and it would be likely there would be a cost overrun, and so there may be no funding left to deliver corridors 10, 11 and 12.

Discussions commented that the Bus Connects programme aims to improve bus commute time to the city centre (reduce journey by 7 minutes), and reduce the number of private cars on the roads. The solution proposed by the programme results in 24x7 impacts on residents to address a 'rush hour' problem.

Paul Walsh advised the meeting that a road based solution cannot solve traffic issues for a city with complex road layouts. He highlighted that the Bus Connects solution will result in less bus departures for the area than currently exists. The NTA have not disclosed the junction throughput. The only way to solve the traffic issue is to proceed with the Metro underground line to Terenure village and beyond. Paul shared the opinion that the politicians are failing to manage the NTA effectively. He also commented that the NTA do not have staff with the international experience required to deliver a fit for purpose solution taking into account costs and environmental impacts. The programme is fundamentally flawed. An 8km Metro was built in Palma in 3 years.

Jim O'Callaghan TD observed that everyone agrees that the Bus Connects programme is not a good idea. Residents in Rathfarnham Road and Terenure Road East will lose part of their gardens. Jim advised that Politics can stop the programme, and reminded residents that the Metrolink did not get the go ahead for Ranelagh due

to the extent of political pressure that was applied. Jim advised that never has a proposal seen such considerable opposition across the city as the Bus Connects programme has. Jim encouraged attendees who object to the programme to put in a submission no later than Monday 29th April 2019. Jim advised that he is opposed to the programme as it will transform urban villages into busy thoroughfares. In addressing the comment that 'politicians are failing to manage the NTA effectively', Jim advised that Minister Shane Ross is the politician who has the power to exert executive influence over the NTA.

Eamon Ryan TD updated the meeting that Terenure village was the third worst hotspot in the city for traffic congestion. This issue will be made worse as a result of the growing population and growing economy. Regarding the Metro, a new route has been suggested servicing Donnybrook and UCD. The Taoiseach favours this Dublin South East route proposal. Eamon Ryan has requested an options paper to be completed for both the Terenure Metro line and the Donnybrook/UCD line, but there is no certainties that the options paper will be produced. Eamon Ryan advised that he has made a submission, but that while he is supportive of the Bus Connects programme, he is opposed to turning streets into highways and does not want village crossroads to be turned into super junctions. He would instead favour using traffic signals to hold general traffic back in favour of buses and taxis.

There is a Picnic in the Park scheduled for 26th April 2019, and a protest walk from Bushy Park to Rathmines is planned. Yellow ribbons will be tied round trees at risk.

Any resident wishing to make their voice heard in terms of objection to the Bus Connects programme are encouraged to protest no later than Monday 29th April 2019. Objections can be submitted via email to cbc@busconnects.ie In addition, submissions can and should be made to local councillors and to local TDs. Details of their email addresses are listed on the 'SOS Save Terenure' leaflet shared at the meeting.

9. Public Representatives and Discussion

Cllr Michael Mullooly addressed the meeting early as he was attending the Bus Connects meeting in Rathgar. Michael advised that 99% of people do not favour the plan. He expects the programme to flounder due to public opposition. He advised that his party will not push this programme forward if they return to government. Michael thanked Jim Dowling for his work on the objection to the Rathdown Motors planning application. Michael has made an observation against the appeal. Michael advised that the height restriction has been lifted and as a result plans are being revisited. Michael cautioned against a precedent being set regarding the height of buildings in Terenure village.

Cllr Anne Feeney congratulated the TRA Committee on the work undertaken on planning applications and on Bus Connects. Anne advised that Terenure improved its ranking in the Tidy Towns scheme. She advised that temporary toilets will be installed in the Terenure Library development. Following 2 years of requests, the recycling banks in the Terenure Car Park are going to be camouflaged as they are an eyesore. She requested, and DCC completed a deep clean of the kerbsides in Mount Tallent, Larkfield, Eaton Square and Ashdale. This will also be put on a regular schedule by DCC. Anne thanked Rob Chester of DCC for his support and work with the community groups. Anne commented on the height issue of the proposed Rathdown Motors development. The design is ugly, disproportionate and is not in keeping with the village. Anne advised that she is opposed to the Bus Connects programme due to negative impact on heritage and it will not yield the benefits in terms of costs. Anne will be lodging her protest against the Bus Connects programme.

Cllr Mary Freehill advised the meeting that she had just come from a meeting with the HSE in Tullamore. She advised that Terenure will get a Primary Care Centre. Merrick Homes will be involved. Senior citizen housing will be included on the site. Mary advised that DCC will be undertaking a rebuild of the library. DCC will be

connecting with the HSE to ensure it will be a civic space. Negotiations will include the Red Cross and the Evergreen Club. Further information is required in terms of proposals to lease back the premises. Mary is keen to ensure the HSE retain ownership of the lands and buildings. The desire is to retain car parking for the village. Mary brought dog litter bags to the meeting for residents to take away. Mary shared her opinion that an underground Metro is the only solution to the traffic issue in Terenure village. Mary has seen the tunnelling in Sophia in Bulgaria. Mary congratulated the TRA committee on the work they did in objecting to the Rathdown Motors planning application. She encourages sustainable developments.

Tara Deacy addressed the meeting and advised that she is involved in the Lower Kimmage Road Residents Association. She encouraged the local residents associations to work together to have a stronger voice of opposition to the Bus Connects programme.

Patrick Kinsella advised that he is a first time nominee for Fine Gael. He lives in Kenilworth Park and have 5 children in school in the locality. He is concerned about the health and safety impact the Bus Connects proposals will have for residents and he encouraged objections to be submitted no later than Monday 29th April 2019.

10. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report (attached) was distributed and passed. No major expenses were incurred during year.

11. Election of Officers

The following were re-elected to the committee having been duly proposed and seconded. **Chairperson** Fionnuala Blake. **Vice-Chairperson** Birgit Buckley. **Secretary** Patrick O'Hagan. **Planning** Jim Dowling. **Treasurer** John Grant.

Roads and Traffic. Ben Costello stepped down from his role as Roads & Traffic Officer. Fionnuala Blake thanked Ben for all his hard work, efforts and contributions made to the TRA over the years.

Committee Barbara Atkinson, Frank Harrison, Margaret O'Shea, Clyde Carroll, Oonagh Carroll, Leila Byrne, Ann Whelan.

New Members: Lorna Callinan and Frank McGee were nominated and accepted as new committee members.

12. Election of Honorary Auditors

Niall Byrne & Co. were proposed and seconded as honorary auditors for the coming year.

13. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting was concluded and refreshments served.