

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AVIVA STADIUM PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC), HELD ON MONDAY, 11 MARCH, 2013

ATTENDANCE

LOCAL COMMUNITY:	Mr Greg Pepper (GP) Mr John Dodd (JD)
COUNCILLORS:	Cllr Maria Parodi (MP) Cllr Dermot Lacey (DL)
DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL:	Mr Anthony Flynn (AF)
LRSDC:	Mr Martin Murphy (MM) Mr Mick Davoren (MD) Mr Roddy Guiney (RG)
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:	Garda Sergeant Andy Keegan (AK)
VENUE:	Aviva Stadium Management Building

1. APOLOGIES:

It was noted that apologies had been received from Bill Enright and also from Supt Barry O'Brien. Supt O'Brien had intended to attend the meeting but, unfortunately, was delayed at a hearing which had gone on all day.

2. MINUTES:

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 12 February 2013 were an accurate record of the meeting. Agreed minutes to be put up on the Aviva Stadium website.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

It was noted that there were no matters arising that would not be covered under the business of the rest of the meeting.

4. **MATCH DAY ISSUES:**

As agreed at the meeting of 12 February 2013 AK was at the meeting to discuss various issues which had arisen particularly in relation to the Ireland v Poland soccer match. RG circulated a copy of a letter received from Bath Avenue and District Residents Association (BADRA) to all present at the meeting. MM, AK and RG had previously received copies of the letter directly.

The letter received from BADRA was discussed and each of the points raised in the letter were considered.

AK noted that a large part of the problem seemed to be urination in public places. He said portaloos had been used in the past. While they don't solve the problem they certainly contribute to a solution. He said if the problem were to be solved that there would need to be further use of portaloos.

He noted that there had been 14 arrests made for public order offences at the Poland match. He said that the problem with such arrests was that each time an arrest was made it took one of the Gardai on the street away from the stadium as they had to bring the offender to a local Garda Station.

All were in agreement on the subject of portaloos. It was agreed that AF would arrange for Public Domain Officer to meet with GP and JD and MM with a view to mapping locations for possible positioning of such portaloos. It was agreed that this meeting and mapping would take place before the next meeting of PMC.

AK confirmed that there were as many Gardai utilised in relation to soccer matches as there were at rugby matches. He said that for a typical game there would be somewhere in the region of 160-170 Gardai operating around the stadium on the day.

GP raised the issue in relation to Away supporters in general and he requested that in future should there be any concern about any group of particular fans that this was made known to the PMC in advance of the match.

It was agreed that a representative from the FAI be invited to the next meeting of the PMC.

The letter made a point in relation to the CCTV cameras which are used on the day. This point had been previously raised by GP at the February PMC meeting. MM explained that the CCTV cameras outside the ground only came into operation when the control room was manned in the stadium. This was from approximately 20 to 30 minutes before the stadium opened – in other words approximately two hours before games started.

He further noted that many of the CCTV cameras outside the ground were only installed on match days. MM/AK said that the CCTV cameras were in the main used to identify bottlenecks with fans coming into the stadium and any areas where problems might arise. It was noted that they would not be used to necessarily identify individuals causing problems such as those outlined in the letter.

In relation to the build-up of the fans on the Dodder Walk in advance of the game MM said that as he had noted at a previous meeting of the PMC that this was an exceptional occurrence which had now been identified and that he would ensure that it did not happen again. He said that he would not expect it to happen but given that it had that the stadium would watch out for it.

He confirmed that the stadium had opened at its normal time for this game.

There was a discussion in relation to the fact that Gardai seemed to end up answering directional queries from fans. GP/JD queried why this happened and why stewards

could not provide such information. MD said that they had tried to make the stewards into information officers in the past but that the fans still go to Gardai for the information.

It was agreed that the stadium would trial a number of well-branded stewards at an upcoming game. The stewards in question would be readily identifiable as recipients of all directional information.

The question of providing information booths was raised but that it was felt these would create more problems than they would solve and that people would not be prepared to queue for such information.

MP specifically raised the subject of Bath Avenue Gardens which she had brought up at previous meetings. AK said that the Gardai were conscious of this and that measures had been taken. He also confirmed that a Garda on bicycle would be in the area at future games and that they would keep a particular look-out for fans urinating in Bath Avenue Gardens.

AK confirmed that the Gardai had taken measures to prevent fans using some of the side roads. These included barriers on the side roads. He felt that the problem had been eliminated in some areas. He confirmed that where barriers are put up that they must be attended by the Gardai.

5. OPERATIONS UPDATE:

MM updated all in relation to fixtures. He noted that there had only been one game since the last PMC meeting. This was the Ireland v France rugby match which had been a full house. He said that there were a small number of complaints from inside the stadium but no external complaints. He noted upcoming events including:

- Soccer international v Georgia in May.
- Soccer international v Faroe Islands in June.
- Heineken Cup Final in May.
- Robbie Williams Concert (June).
- Rihanna concert (June).

He also noted that there were two further possible events. Should Ulster win their Heineken Cup Quarter Final there could be a semi-final held in the stadium. Equally he noted that an event in relation to The Gathering had been proposed for the end of June. He said once he had further information on either that he would come back to the PMC and would also publicise the information on the website.

MM also noted that the Amlin Cup Final would be taking place the same weekend as the Heineken Cup Final. It is being held in the RDS.

6. COMMUNITY FUND:

RG updated the meeting on the Community Fund. He noted that there were two outstanding grants still to be paid for 2011. He said that he had been in contact with both organisations and he was awaiting the paperwork to finalise these.

He also noted that there were eleven outstanding projects from 2012 which would be quite normal at this juncture. He said that contact was being made with all the projects and these were being worked through.

He noted that to date 16 applications had been received for projects in 2013 while another eight had made queries and said they would be submitting projects. He noted that as the closing date for projects was the end of April this year that the likelihood was there would be quite a few others in by then. All applications must be in by end April.

RG updated meeting in relation to Marian College project. He noted that the College had begun discussions with a number of parties in relation to a possible grant. RG noted he had spoken with Paul Meany and he had indicated that discussions with one party were at an advanced stage. He also confirmed that the board of the College continues with their planning for the project.

RG said that he had had no further representations in relation to the BADRA project which had been discussed at previous PMC meetings.

RG noted that he had been approached by Philanthropy Ireland with a view to getting a briefing on the stadium Community Fund. He said that he had undertaken this. He also noted that Philanthropy Ireland enquired whether it might be possible for RG to make a presentation in relation to the Fund to a group of their members at a later stage. RG said he had agreed to this.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

JD said they had experienced no real problems in relation to the on street entertainment around the English game. It was suggested that the weather undoubtedly curtailed the activities. He did say, however, that the music on the podium seemed to be quite loud and that it carried quite a distance from the stadium. MM noted that the speakers were set up in such a way to ensure that this would not happen. Same to be monitored at future games.

JD noted a bicycle chained to a railing which had become a major hazard in the build-up to the English game. He said same had slipped down and made it difficult for people to get around it.

JD also noted that the situation in relation to parking on Lansdowne Lane had improved greatly.

8. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, 30 April, at 6:30pm, in the Aviva Stadium Management Building.

RODDY GUINEY

Hon Sec
PMC

13 March 2013

Circulation:

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Mr Roddy Guiney