

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AVIVA STADIUM PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC), HELD ON TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, 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 Bill Enright (BE)
Mr Roddy Guiney (RG)

VENUE: Aviva Stadium Management Building

1. APOLOGIES:

It was noted that an apology had been received from Mick Davoren (MD).

2. GREEN ZONE REVIEW:

JD said that he had received no complaints from LADRA members. He did say that he was sure that the weather had been a factor in everything on Sunday and reiterated a point made earlier that he would still be worried about pre match activity going on on Shelbourne Road which he felt was relatively restricted given the number of people on it in the build-up to the match.

GP reiterated the same point on behalf of BADRA. Both said that they would have no objection to the activities going ahead for the French match.

MP requested that the PMC see what is being proposed for the French match. RG to request same from IRFU and to circulate to members of the PMC.

3. **MINUTES:**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2013 were an accurate record of the meeting. AF proposed adoption of the minutes, this was seconded by JD. Agreed minutes to be put up on the Aviva Stadium website.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

RG noted that as MD could not be in attendance for the meeting that they had postponed inviting the Gardai to the meeting. It was agreed that the Gardai would attend the next meeting in particular to discuss the problem of public urination by fans. This point has been raised on a number of occasions particularly in relation to Bath Avenue Gardens. MD to arrange for Gardai to be present at the meeting.

5. **OPERATIONS UPDATE:**

MM said there had been two events since the last meeting of the PMC. There had been the Ireland v Poland soccer match which had an attendance of 43,000 and the Ireland v England rugby match which was a full house.

He said that there had been difficulties in relation to the Polish match both inside and outside the stadium. He said they had had a number of complaints particularly in relation to the Polish fans. In the main the complaints related to urination in public places. He said that this had come up again in relation to Bath Avenue. He said that the stadium had been in touch with the Gardai but there was a resources issue. It was agreed that this would be discussed with the Gardai at the next meeting of the PMC.

GP requested that a list of the complaints arising from the match be available at the next meeting of the PMC. MM agreed to provide same.

GP noted the fact that Polish fans seemed to be queuing for a long time before the stadium opened. BE said that the gates actually opened 90 minutes before kick-off but it would appear that Polish fans did not wish to access the stadium as there was no alcohol available inside the stadium. AF noted that there appeared to be a great deal of drinking from lunch time onwards. MM confirmed that it was a FIFA/UEFA rule that no alcohol could be served in the general concourse area at matches in the stadium,

GP queried the small number of Gardai which he felt were around Bath Avenue. He said that the amount of urination on Bath Avenue and in O'Connell Gardens was deplorable. He said that the authorities must have been aware of the situation. He noted the CCTV on the streets in relation to games and queried why this could not have been spotted and action taken.

JD cited a lack of toilet facilities. MM said that they had in the past offered to put in same but that agreement could not be reached with the residents on where they should be located. GP said there was now an urgent need to look at such facilities.

DL requested that DCC look at appropriate places to place toilets. AF said that he would be happy to work on this in conjunction with the stadium and to map suggested locations. It was agreed that this would be done.

JD queried what he felt was a reduced presence of Gardai and stewards on the day. MM noted that there was a strict cordon in operation on the day of the Polish match and that this would undoubtedly have taken up quite a good deal of resources.

DL said on the evidence of what was happening it appeared that more stewards were needed for soccer matches rather than less. He also suggested that in relation to the opposition that perhaps more precautions needed to be taken for certain matches.

GP said that normally DCC would clean the streets during a game. He noted the build-up of rubbish on the Derrynane Gardens side of Bath Avenue. BE said he would check out same. AF will contact waste management and highlight the concerns raised by GP and request that this area is included in all future clean ups.

6. **COMMUNITY FUND**

RG updated meeting on Community Fund. He noted that emails had been sent out to all local councillors and TDs noting that the 2013 fund was now open for applications.

RG said that of the six projects that were outstanding for 2011 that five of these had now been awarded their funding. He said the remaining project in relation to the South East Boxing Club had been put on hold. He noted that the funding had been for the provision of two rings but as the club had not got a premises as yet that it was not possible to draw down this funding. He said that he had discussed same with the club and had said that if they wished to make an application in the future for the rings or if they wished to make an application for other equipment that this would be considered favourably by the PMC.

DL suggested that perhaps Ringsend College might be able to provide accommodation for the club. He said that the College were looking for different activities to provide more life in the college. RG said that he would pass this on to the relevant bodies in the club.

RG said that projects awarded funding in 2012 were currently drawing down funding. He said that a full list of outstanding projects from 2012 would be provided for the next PMC. He also said he would provide an update of applications received for the 2013 fund for the next meeting.

He noted that he was still awaiting an application from BADRA in relation to the major project under consideration. GP noted that this was still being worked on.

RG said that he had been in contact with Marian College in relation to their proposed project of the sports hall. He said that this had not received funding from the Sports Capital Fund. DL queried the reasons for this. He suggested that Marian might ask the Department as to why exactly they had not been given the funding. He said that they would receive detailed notification of why the application had failed. RG to contact Marian with a view to getting an update on the current situation for the next meeting of the PMC.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

JD raised the contents of a letter which LADRA had received from Estate Cottages, off Shelbourne Road. He said that this had highlighted a number of issues including fans urinating in the streets; the fact that residents found it difficult to get back into Estate Cottages once the roads had closed; the lack of official notification in relation to events; and the fact that there were no Gardai around in this area on match days.

JD said that he felt if there was even one Garda present at Estate Cottages this would make everything a great deal easier. It was agreed that JD would take this up with the Gardai at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that RG would forward relevant information to the letter writer as to upcoming matches.

MM noted that the boxing and community programme which had been successfully implemented at the stadium over the previous two years would be back again in May. This is a joint initiative by DCC and the IABA.

8. **NEXT MEETING:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday, 11 March, 2013, in the Stadium offices. Same to be held at **6:45pm (please note time)** to allow Councillors and DCC staff to come from another meeting.

RODDY GUINEY
14 February 2013

Circulation:

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