

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AVIVA STADIUM PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC), HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY, 2013

ATTENDANCE

LOCAL COMMUNITY: Mr Greg Pepper (GP)
Mr John Dodd (JD)
Mr John Hunt (JH)
Mr Alfred Guinevan (AG)

COUNCILLORS: Cllr Maria Parodi (MP)

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL: Mr Anthony Flynn (AF)

LRSDC: Mr Martin Murphy (MM)
Mr Bill Enright (BE)
Mr Mick Davoren (MD)
Mr Roddy Guiney (RG)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Pdraig Power (PP), IRFU

VENUE: Aviva Stadium Management Building

1. **WELCOME:**

MM welcomed AF as new chairman of the PMC.

2. **IRFU PRESENTATION:**

PP made a presentation in relation to the upcoming Six Nations games against England and France. He began by acknowledging that mistakes had been made in relation to the provision of live music at the South African match in November. He said it was the IRFU's intention to work

closely with the local community.

He said he would outline the planned activities for the meeting and would like feedback from members of the local community present. He noted that the various proposals had still to get permission from Dublin City Council.

He said that the IRFU had taken on board the concerns of the local community following the Autumn Internationals and he felt that the new plan which he was going to present reflected this. He said that the idea for activity on the streets had come from research undertaken the previous year where fans said that they felt that there was a lack of atmosphere on the way into the stadium.

He noted that the international rugby team was the financial engine that enabled the IRFU to undertake all of their other activities. In that content he said it was important to ensure the best possible experience for fans so that the maximum crowds would be attracted to games.

He then proceeded to outline the proposed plan which envisaged the creation of five green zones and which incorporated both visual and aural entertainment. He noted that the IRFU would apply for the requisite licences and permissions from DCC but would hope to have the local community on board in advance of that. He said that at each of the five green zones there would be branding / bunting. He said there would also be fire eaters, stilt walkers and face painters for the children attending games. He said the intention was also to hand out green flags and paper scrum caps.

He noted that there was a live music element with mobile musicians on both Shelbourne Road and Bath Avenue and fixed musicians at the podium entrance, the flagpole area and Herbert Bridge. All of this, he stressed, was subject to getting permission.

PP noted that the music element on the day would be from 1:30pm to 3pm for the Ireland v England international and from 3:30pm to 5pm for the Ireland v France international. He concluded the presentation by asking those present for observations / questions.

AG requested more detail on the numbers of people, particularly for the mobile music. Following a discussion on same it was agreed that PP would send more details to MM. RG to distribute same to those at the meeting.

All residents present at the meeting expressed concerns in relation to the marching bands. JH/GP both stressed the narrowness of Bath Avenue and their concerns about crowds building up due to the band being on the road or people stopping to watch same.

AG questioned the perceived "lack of atmosphere" in the build-up to the

match. He noted the atmosphere in the various bars and also cited the band in the Lansdowne Hotel. He felt that there was a good buzz.

MM said that they would like to get the crowd into the stadium earlier. All were in agreement with this.

JD mentioned the various food trailers on Lansdowne Road. He said that he felt if they were to “disappear” then a band would be a much more palatable proposition.

PP re-emphasised the position of the IRFU wanting to work with the local residents to ensure there were no problems. He noted that following the South African game measures had been taken for the Argentinan game in November and that there had been no bands on either Bath Avenue or Shelbourne Road. He asked local residents to work with them in relation to the England game. He said that he would be more than happy to come back on the Monday after the game to take feedback. He reiterated the position that the IRFU were there for the long haul.

Summing up AF requested that the further detail be sent on to all at the meeting. He said the detail was most important. He said he would liaise with DCC events management team in relation to the plans submitted. GP felt that they would go along with the plans for the England game but they would need to be reviewed afterwards. It was agreed that this would happen. (Subsequent a meeting of the PMC was set up for Tuesday 12 February (two days after the England game).

AG/JD said they would consider the more detailed information and would revert back but they felt that, like GP, they would be happy to go along with the plans for the England game and then to review the situation afterwards.

AF said that any permissions would be contingent on there being a consultation both with local business and local residents. Those residents present said that the meeting should not be taken to be the consultant with local residents. Those present said that the additional information would be circulated to the various members of the residents associations.

At this point in the meeting PP, AG and JH left the meeting.

3. **APOLOGIES:**

It was noted that apologies had been received from Cllr Dermot Lacey.

4. **MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 13 November, 2012 proposed by JD and seconded by GP were agreed. Agreed minutes to be put up on the Aviva Stadium website.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

Following a discussion on the vacancy on the PMC it was agreed that AF would request that someone from planning take up the position previously occupied by Gerry Folan.

6. OPERATIONS UPDATE:

MM said that since the last meeting of the PMC there had been two matches Ireland v Argentina (capacity 45,000) and Leinster v Clermont (45,000) . MD said there had been no complaints from residents in relation to either game. He noted that there had been a small number of complaints in relation to operational matters from attendees.

MM also noted that the next fixture in the stadium would be on 6 February when the Irish soccer team plays Poland at 7:45pm. Following that there will be two rugby internationals against England (Sunday 10 February) at 3pm and France (Saturday, 9 March) at 5:30pm.

7. COMMUNITY FUND

RG updated meeting in relation to the Community Fund. He noted that there were still six projects to draw down funding from the 2011 fund. He said that four of these were, however, in the process of receiving their funds.

He said that all six projects had been written to and five of the six had now come back. He noted that he had explained to those above that if funding could not be drawn down by the end of February that the monies would go back into the overall fund. He noted that he had reassured all concerned that if they had been approved for a grant on one occasion the likelihood was that if the project came up again that they would be approved.

In relation to 2012 fund he noted that there were a total of 12 projects which had still to draw down their funding. He said that this amounted to €27,500.

He noted that the 2013 fund was now open for applications. He said that he would be sending out information in relation to same to local Councillors, politicians, etc in the coming week.

GP requested a copy of documentation in relation to one of the 2011 projects. RG undertook to send on same.

RG updated meeting in relation to the proposal from BADRA. He noted that BADRA had come back and said they were completing their business plan and other documentation and they would be back once they were complete. It was agreed that, if necessary, a separate meeting of the PMC would be set up to hear presentation on same.

RG noted that there was one new application in relation to 2012 fund. This has been received from Donnybrook Fair in relation to a Christmas party. He noted that he had asked for advice on same from the independent assessor who felt

that this was outside the catchment area.

Following a discussion on same it was agreed that RG would write to Donnybrook Fair explaining the situation.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

MP raised the question of public order offences in Bath Avenue Gardens in the aftermath of the Leinster match of 15 December. She said that she had received complainst from a number of residents in relation to both trespassing and public urination. She said that she had brought this up at previous meetings of the PMC and it was her understanding that the Gardai would policy the area. She said she felt it ws totally wrong that people were asked to police their own streets. She said that a number of people said they were terrified given that there were no Gardai present. MM said that he and MD would raise the matter at an upcoming meeting with the Gardai. He said that they were circulated on the minutes.

MM said that he would request that the Gardai attend the next meeting to discuss any of the issues raised.

GP raised a question in relation to a humming noise which went on in the evenings in O'Connell Grdens. GP said that this had been going on every night over a six week period. MD said he would check it out to see if any noise originated from the stadium. He said he would come back to GP on same.

JD requested information on timing around matches including road closures etc. MD said he would send on material to JD. He also said he would send on a copy of the list of events. MP asked if she could also be circulated on this information.

9. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the PMC will take place at 6:30pm, in the Stadium Management Buliding on 12 February, 2013.

RODDY GUINEY
17 January 2013

Circulation:

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Councillor Maria Parodi
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