

## **Agenda 07<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

1. Minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. Traffic Management
4. Maritime Centre Update
5. Dog Fouling on Seafront and Village Upkeep
6. Beach Safety
7. Seafront Monument
8. AOB.

### **Meeting on 7th November 2015, 8pm, Maritime Centre**

In Attendance: Neil Walton, Helen McCauley, David McCoy, John Byrne, Mick McEnroe, Michael Keane

Apologies: - Mark Ballantyne, Seamus McGoldrick, Derek Parle, Paul Buchanan, Sinead Maguire

#### **Minutes:**

Ratification of Minutes of previous meeting proposed by Neil Walton and seconded by Helen McCauley

#### **Matters Arising**

DM disclosed that correspondence had been forwarded to Tom Kilfeather and Sligo Co Co to have the damaged stepway near the cannon repaired and this had been since repaired. DM outlined the lack of formal council response in relation to the coastal erosion issues that the council saw the erosion issue as one of reaction rather than preventative action. It was agreed to continue with further correspondence and to monitor the issue in the upcoming months.

**Traffic Management:** DM noted that it had been confirmed that traffic calming measures were being followed through by the council on the entrance to the village and was assured by Michael Carty that the timescale was prior to new season. A feasibility study was to be done by council to see which measure would be most appropriate. Sligo Co Co. also confirmed that no plans to improve car-parking at entrance to Knocknarea were on pipeline.

MMC noted that the bollards put in place by the council at the behest of the SDA and followed through by Cllr Sinead Maguire were a great success over the summer months. DMC outlined some of the works to be completed by council with cul de sac funding acquired by Sinead Maguire for a new pathway from the top-road to the roundabout. Funding was also secured for a new wall at the edge of the seafront (beside Kelly's B&B) by Councillor Maguire and Councillor McManus.

\*\*\*Car-parking on double yellow lines in the village was also brought up and was discussed. It was agreed to force action at next meeting prior to the new summer months. MMC also mentioned the funding that the SDA had secured to get works completed carpark on Knocknarea carpark (old carpark).

DM outlined that in response to calls to monitor safety issues on Knocknarea trail the council responded that no plans were in place to put handrails on the walk to the summit, or widen the pathway. It was seen as a "challenging walk" and that due care to personal safety and due care on behalf of patrons was inferred. The council also agreed to monitor the walk and fix broken parts of the walk as a matter of course. HMCG suggested that signage be put up to reflect that the walk was strenuous in nature.

\*\*\*Sinead Maguire had asked that the bye-laws issue be held over to subsequent meeting due to her enforced absence from meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> November. SM had outlined in her apology that she had some work done on this and would present at next meeting.

**Coastal Erosion:** In response to the request to approach Mr John Bartlett about the possibility of having undergraduates from Sligo IT carry out a feasibility study on coastal erosion, Mr Bartlett had relayed that he wouldn't be in favour of such a move as the students would not have the requisite experience to complete and that it would not meet with approval.

MMc relayed the history of the SDA engagement on the coastal erosion issue (including meetings with council officials, visits by Ministers) and asked that a 'wait and see' approach be adopted by the committee. There was tacit approval on this.

NW mentioned that no major erosion had taken place thus far in the year but that it should be closely monitored by all. MMC said that the winter storms were where the major damage would occur.

HMCG requested that the costing of any feasibility study be ascertained and NW agreed to approach David O Donovan of County Sligo Golf Club (who recently completed a feasibility study of a similar nature) with a view of getting an approximate costs.

#### Village Clean up

HMCG asked that a new Spring clean-up be scheduled for the new year. This was agreed to be completed in early March.

**Maritime Centre:** MMC outlined the update on the Maritime centre. MMC said that following the communication meeting with the community, the community were anxious to maintain a sea-view for any new surf centre. It was further outlined that this had been achieved with VOYA acquiescing to give the full 'Barry's site' to the community. MMC outlined that the maritime board spoke with Peter McCarrick on 'procurement of the site (the best way to proceed) due to the fact of the substantial public funds which were on hand.

MMC told that Mr McCarrick advised that an Etender system be used to procure an architect as the design element and then similar for the build phase. The Maritime board then contact Jennings O'Donovan with a view to retaining their services to administer the e tender process. David Kiely was the chief contact with Jennings O Donovan who were seen as a company with great experience and impeccable standards in this regard. MMC outlined that over 100 architectural firms had expressed an interest in the project. 60% were Irish 40% overseas. MMC outlined that the closing date for applications was the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

HMCG enquired as to who would review the applications MMC outlined that a sub-committee of the Maritime board comprising of the County Ceo Ciarán Hayes, Derek Parle, Stephen Reid, David Kiely (Jennings O Donovan, Emmet (Sligo IT) would comprise the review panel. MMC also outlined that a parallel approach would be an architectural engagement from the Students of 4<sup>th</sup> Year architectural studies as their end of year project and the results of which would be on display to the general public. Nine of which made the display.

MMC outlined that it was the view of Maritime Board to move to planning in a timely fashion. HMC inquired as to how long once drawings were approved would planning take and this was confirmed as 3 months by MMC. MMC outlined the timetable of events as: - acquiring architect, getting drawings, approval from community, acquiring planning, appoint a project manager, acquire a

building firm. MMC outlined that funding would be through Sligo Leader, Sligo Tourism Development agency, Failte Ireland as well as funding from the sale of the Maritime centre to Voya. MMC also outlined that bridging finance would be needed also. MMC outlined that every stage it has been the view of the board to keep the community engaged and that after a long process were nearing the end.

MK enquired when Sligo Leaders next funding process would be available. MMC outlined that envisaged that it would be available in March or April.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Playground Issues**

HMCG outlined her concerned about the upkeep of the playground at the back of Strand Celtic. MM outlined that the maintenance of this was the responsibility of Strand Celtic. MM outlined the recent damage caused by footfall, littering, loitering and vandalism. MM went through the amount of finance it takes to maintain including funding through calendar sales. MM confirmed that the voluntary box at the playground is offset against the cost of insurance. Mk outlined that he would prefer a talking box to collect funds...or a glass box. DMC asked about a directional sign directing people to offer funding. MM outlined that he would review these options. MM then outlined that the full cost of the playground mortgage was due to be repaid in 2016. MM also confirmed that the name of the company who installed the playground was 'Go Play'. MM decried the lack of volunteers or Tus workers to assist with the physical upkeep of the park. MM also outlined how the caravan park assisted Strand Celtic during the summer months financially in exchange for caravan park patrons using the facilities. MM outlined that the park was completely self-financed with resources from the local community with no help from the council or other such bodies.

MM outlined that the playground would be ready for use prior to new season. MK agreed to acquire chippings for the 'Zipline' area of the playground.

Extensive praise was given to Robert Lyndsey for all his fine work both in and out of hours on the maintenance of the village.

#### **Cathaoirleach awards**

MM outlined that Councillor O Grady had approached him with a view to entering SDA into the Cathaoirleach awards. It was agreed by the group that SDA would enter in the category as best local community.

**Pride of Place:** MM praised the terrific work of the community on behalf of the SDA in coming together and for winning the award for the village. The whole community from the school, the churches, the sports clubs and societies, businesses, dollys cottage, golf club, creches all received a great deal of praise and appreciation. MM also praised the work of the POP working group of John Bartlett, Margaret Mulrooney, David McCoy, Michael Keane, Ann Gilmartin. Praise was also given to Helen McCauley for her clean-up prior to the Judges arrival.

A general discussion took place with regards to media event to celebrate the Pride of Place awarded to the village and it was agreed to celebrate and then get local media to cover it. It was agree to have a congratulatory evening to thank all those that took place. It was also agreed to donate to school to hold until new centre is built. The chair floated the idea to erect a sign on the entrance to the village it was decided to bring this up again with a view to having it erected prior to summer.

#### **Beach Safety**

JB outlined concerns about Beach safety for the new season and there needs to be a long term vision to curb dangerous conditions on the seafront. Two serious cases were reported in the water over the summer in which life was nearly lost and without beach or life guards it puts Strandhill beach in a precarious condition. NW advocated that change from Irish water safety to actual lifeguards is the only way to meet the danger. NW also advocated that the beach be made a dedicated surf beach only and to actively discourage any form of entrance to water by anyone other than surfers. MK and NW outlined that people quite often families became disagreeable when asked by either surfers or beach guards from refraining from entering the water. JB gave a brief outline of previous incarnations of a rescue boat. It was confirmed that the reason for it being ceased was due to prohibitive insurance details. NW affirmed that having a surf rescue system would be the only to maximise safety. This could only be done through the RNLI. It was agreed to approach again at the next meeting.

**The Meeting finished at 9.30pm.**