

**Strandhill Community Development Association
Agenda 1/11/2016**

- 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
- 2. Matters Arising**
- 3. Maritime Centre Update**
- 4. County Development Plan for Strandhill**
 - 5. AGM**
 - 6. AOB**

Previous meeting Agenda 07th 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.

Minutes of Meeting 7th April 8pm in Attendance: Mick McEnroe, David McCoy, John Byrne, John Bartlett, Paul Buchanan, Sinead Maguire, Michael Keane, Helen McCauley Apologies: Mark Ballantyne, Neil Walton, Derek Parle, Seamus McGoldrick

Ratification of previous meeting were proposed by Helen McCauley and Seconded by Michael Keane.

Matters Arising

Traffic Management

DMC outlined some of the progress/issues on traffic issues. Sinead Maguire outlined discussions that were ongoing with the council regarding traffic management issues at the entrance to the village, to the seafront and the top road particularly in relation to signage specifically to encourage visitors to use the car-park in Strandhill. DMC relayed that Mr Brian Flynn from Sligo County Council had been in contact asked the development committee to approve new red bollards that would be placed outside the Strand Bar and the Draft House. It was felt by the meeting that this would alleviate some of the traffic issues on the way to the seafront. It would also be a better solution than temporary cones. The committee asked that some effort be made to accommodate Bus parking in the village SMCG said that it would be raised with the council. It was felt despite suggestions at previous meetings that An Garda Siochána be not invited to scrutinise overtly parking issues on seafront but to see how the bollards fared.

JBT outlined his opinion that some form of manned barrier at peak times would be a possible solution as is used during the warrior's festival to prevent congestion at the seafront during the summer months – despite the bollards the issue of traffic on seafront is a major health hazard. JB felt the 'visitor experience' coming to the village was being hampered. PB agreed and added the possibility of the beach wardens doubling up to monitor parking could be trialled. SMCG outlined that the bollards would be a first phase measure for this summer to see how it worked and that then lessons could be determined for the future. MK outlined a preference for long term cobblestoning of walkway to front. HMCc agreed though unsightly the bollards are the best option for now. **The committee agreed to approve the use of bollards.** PB asked that speed bumps be used to the

entrance to the car-park to prevent speeding as cars were not slowing down coming down the road to the lower village.

With regards to the issues on the entrance to the village (St Anne's Church) that there were no current plans in planning for traffic management issues despite some rumblings from council officials that there were. It was agreed that traffic calming measures with the new Knocknarea walk were essential for pedestrian safety.

It was agreed that this be looked into asap. SMCG agreed to follow this up. SMCG outlined barriers that were preventing the council from using the car-parking adjacent from the Knocknarea walk due to insurance concerns on a private development (i.e. the rugby club)

JB recommended speed bumps be employed immediately. A 12 month forward plan for summer 2017 was envisaged by the committee to significantly reduce the traffic issues. MMc recommended the use of speed indicators on entrance to village similar to those at scoil Ursula – JB agreed with this. MK recommended such signage be put prior to St Annes Church as speed is already built up by this stage.

Coastal Erosion

DMC outlined that the Rosses Point feasibility plan on impact of coastal erosion was due to be completed soon at a cost of €50,000 paid for by OPW and it might be of some interest to the Development association if the findings conflicted that of the council (with reference to how future damage can be averted) . SMCG outlined about Minister Simon Harris' last visit and that he gave funding to the Rosses Point feasibility study and that she felt the same was given for Strandhill. SMCG agreed to follow up.

DMC also outlined that the breaches from the winter storms would be addressed before June.

A general discussion with all present ensued about the history of the erosion issues in Strandhill with contributions from all. It was generally accepted that the most pertinent area of concern was around the treatment plant and caravan park which is facing a serious tidal breach in the near future. JBt outlined that the area of immediate concern was the boggy area and that the council would have to build some form of path.

It was recommended to put up a sign at the entrance to the sand-dune on the south end of the beach to create awareness and to protect the dune. JB recommended special grass seed should be spread over the sand-dune to regrow the grass.

Maritime Centre Update

MMc outlined the new developments with the Maritime Centre development – including going to tender on the design using the e-tender system. MMC outlined that Manolo and White Architects had won the contract and that part of the design team would be Barry Britton renowned local surfer. The winged design that won it was presented to the local community at a community meeting. From the initial communication meeting with the local community it was asked that frontage (view on to the seafront) be acquired on the centre so negotiations with VOYA resulted in the whole site being given over to the community (the site known as 'Mrs Barry's site'). The new design would incorporate the picnic area also. Planning is due to be submitted in the upcoming weeks. The maritime board would continue to discuss funding options with fáilte Ireland, Sligo leader and Sligo Tourist development Authority). Mmc outlined that the ambition is get planning without objections, to get funding and then to commence the project. MMC outlined that we would have to go back to

tender for the technical design build – the projected cost at this stage would be 500,000. MMC showed the designs including the new rubber roof.

MMC outlined that one of the items raised was the possibility of 'holiday pods' being brought in with the project. MMC said that this was resisted for fears that it could scupper the whole project. MMC said that it could be examined over subsequent phases but not the first phase. JB outlined that he felt that pods should be in the project to provide a revenue stream from year one. JB outlined a report carried about Bernard Hayes about the benefits of pods. SMCG said that the funding was not there to provide funding for the pods. MMC outlined that if the pods were put in that it would be create problems with planning. The advice from planning and Irish Water contained provision to provide water based on the same/similar consumption as the previous building, also local residents would object in the vicinity of the pods. MK agreed that pods would complicate planning. JB suggested that the pods be used as a revenue stream that the new centre would operate at a loss. MMC outlined that the feasibility study suggested that the centre would not operate at a loss but at a profit at least. MK suggested that the pods could be incorporated into later stages. MMC outlined that at the stage the maritime board had put the pods as a 'non-runner' at this stage.

JBT said that pods were not included into the original concept or plans and were not brought up before – the area outlined for the pods intended to be a market space or skate park as per original intention. JBT enquired as to how the pods became part of the discussion and to who brought it into consideration. MMC outlined that it came through an idea brought up at a community meeting but was not considered in the first phase by the board. MK said that it could not be considered at first phase but later phase. SMCG a full study for the future would have to be looked at on holiday pods for the future but not for phase 1. The board decided not to persue holiday pods at this stage.

MMC outlined his fears and frustrations in moving the project (community centre) forward due to ongoing concerns and opinions expressed by some within the community about the project moving forward. MK felt that it would be a huge attraction for visitors to provide adequate changing and showering facilities. There was a general discussion about the lower floor MMC outlined that this would be a commercial space. PB enquired as to the nature of the commercial space – this was yet to be determined. MMC outlined that it would not be a conflict with an existing business but that it would add to what the village already has. HMMC mentioned that the business could not be something that would conflict with the centre as a whole. MM agreed that this would not be the case.

MM outlined that the surf club would have to take ownership of the new centre. MMC outlined how Strand Celtic was being presently funded – including using the calendars to raise funds to pay back the bank loans outstanding.

HMCC enquired as to the use of the upper floor of the building. MMC outlined that this was a community space to be used by both the community and surfers. The model would be similar to Strand Celtic.

Beach Safety

PB outlined plans for a meeting for beach safety for the future including provisions for surf rescue in the new maritime building. PB asked for members of the board to attend. PB outlined his fears for the future and for water safety in Strandhill and that a plan was important moving forward. SMCG and DMC and JB agreed to attend the meeting in the coming week. It was then agreed for Paul to communicate back to Maritime Board and to Dev Association.

A general discussion ensued about the safety history at Strandhill. It was generally agreed that a review be necessary.

Dog Fouling Campaign

DMC outlined plans to raise awareness over the next few months to launch a campaign about dog fouling on the seafront. This to be done in conjunction with Sligo CO Co. PB and SMcg, HmcC outlined that people at present were collecting the dog faeces, bagging it and then throwing it away. It was agreed that an awareness campaign was necessary.

Monument on Seafront

MM outlined that he was approached with regards to replacing the seafront monument or keep the one that there. It was agreed to carry this over to a subsequent meeting. There was felt there was no opinion either way.

Bins on seafront

There was a brief discussion about the overflowing bins. DmcC Agreed to approach the local businesses about the issue.

Meeting ended at 22.20pm.