



**G.A.D.R.A.**

Griffith Avenue and Districts Residents Association

## January Newsletter 2019

### **BUS CONNECTS**

The NTA have commenced consultation on 4 of the core bus corridors by setting up 'community fora' to which each resident association/group may send only one representative regardless of the size of the association. These fora were set up without any statutory basis and without terms of reference. Following our intervention they have produced a "Terms of Reference" which we find unacceptable and have contacted all public representatives to this regard. We are calling on the NTA to hold full consultation and to hold open days in all areas rather than leaving dissemination of critical information to resident associations and groups.

Dublin City Council unanimously passed a motion on Jan 7th calling for NTA to engage in full consultation on the core bus corridors and hold open days throughout the city so all residents can be consulted and make informed submissions.

We would like to thank Cllr Gary Gannon for proposing this motion and all councillors throughout the city for supporting it. The Lord Mayor will now contact the NTA to inform them of this motion.

We attended the Swords CBC forum (Jan 8th) with a watching brief as all the issues that are planned for Santry village will be replicated on Mobhi road. We were very concerned following that meeting and accordingly have written to the Chairperson (letter on our website/Facebook page). The NTA were looking for a one-way system through Santry however, we do not believe this was a serious option on their part and very worryingly a decision was made at the meeting to look at increasing number of CPOs and also increasing the land take from these homes. None of the residents affected were at the meeting nor was their representative body. We believe this is exactly what NTA plan for Mobhi Road i.e. announce an unworkable one-way system so that they will achieve their objective and end up with increased CPOs. We are calling on all residents and stakeholders to object to the one-way system and the CPOs in our area.

All residents from our area and especially Mobhi Road will need to attend these community fora. The forum that will deal with Mobhi road will be announced in February as the impacts of Metrolink will also have to be considered at the same time. We are asking all residents to contact their TDs to request full consultation on this phase of the project and to object to any plans by NTA to CPO our neighbour's gardens on Mobhi Road and object to a one-way system for traffic on Mobhi Road and the associated loss of trees. We feel that communities and individuals with particular challenges are being forgotten in this project. Please phone/ email or call in to your TDs and councillors weekly until we get some action on this issue.

We have requested funding for a once off independent assessment of the NTA proposals for our area given that we are uniquely impacted by 2 CBCs a metro, a TBM launch site, a planned Station and the loss of our bus routes and stops. The NTA has two separate companies working full time on these projects. We have asked Minister Ross, Paschal Donohoe, Anne Graham CEO of NTA for funding for an independent expert to look at all the NTA options for Mobhi Road and so that the option that is chosen causes the least negative impacts on the area especially Mobhi Road.

Regardless of NTA plans to limit attendees at these fora when the forum for the Ballymun/Mobhi road is announced we will be expecting all residents in the area to attend. Please sign up to our text alert scheme so we can keep you updated as to meetings/protests etc. Text your number to our phone- 087365885. There no need to send your name / address as under GDPR we only need your number to text information pertaining to the association's activities.

We are especially advising Mobhi Road and Ballymun road residents to become active on this issue now.

With regard to the Swords CBCs it appears that we are to lose the Bus Stop on Drumcondra Road (at the end of Homefarm Road) requiring our elderly residents to walk from St Patricks college to access Home Farm road which will no longer have a bus route. We are asking you to make a submission on this Swords CBC by objecting to the loss of our bus stop, to CPOs and to one-way routes.

There will be a special meeting in relation to the bus corridor one way system at Santry/ Omni on **Monday 28th January 2019 from 6.30pm-8.30pm in the Bonnington Hotel.**

**Representing 1000 homes in the Drumcondra Glasnevin Area [www.gadra.ie](http://www.gadra.ie)**

## METROLINK

We are still awaiting the new plans from NTA in relation to the Metrolink and are continuing to request the appointment of an Independent Expert for all the residents along the planned route. The Metro project and Bus Connects are interlinked on Mobhi road.

## DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Unfortunately we have ongoing issues in dealing with DCC who continue to refuse information thus leaving us to resort to requesting it under FOI. We have also made a complaint to the Ombudsman in relation to DCC ignoring the petition in relation to the Walsh road closure. The Ombudsman has carried out a preliminary review and accordingly has progressed the complaint to a full investigation.

DCC have decided not to record attendees at community fora therefore no one knows who is in the room when requests for road closures etc are being made. This refusal to engage openly is very time consuming and given our workload and volunteer status is most unhelpful. If you have an interest/expertise in accessing information or in this process we would welcome your help.

DCC are still refusing to record/webcast North West Area council meetings and councillors are refusing to move to city hall where webcasting is already available. None of the North West Area councillors requested the €20k required to install webcasting in the Ballymun chamber be funded out of the €1.2 million annual discretionary budget. It is also our understanding that some councillors requested nothing for our area out of this budget. We have asked DCC for the list of requests from Councillors for this budget but DCC have refused to give it to us again we have had to resort to requesting this information under FOI. We feel especially in a year with Local Elections due residents are entitled to know what their Councillors are or not doing and spending on your behalf. If you can spare the time we are looking for people to attend these area meetings so we can find out what is going on until we get webcasting – the meeting take place on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.30 in Ballymun Civic Center.

We will be asking each candidate standing in the May Local Elections to pledge that they will not sit in a chamber that does not webcast its area meetings. Already we have pledges from Gary Gannon (Soc Dem), Mary Fitzpatrick (FF) and Marie Sherlock (labour). Please make this along with Bus Connects and Metrolink a local election issue at the doors.

DCC are planning to change their administrative area following the local elections- this is very important to us as we need our administration area to reflect our election area. Otherwise we will have the situation where we will be asking public representatives to decide on issues and funding for an area that they do not represent. DCC have 5 options for decision at February Council Meeting. We have lobbied all political groups to support option 4 or 5 which moves us to inner city - mirroring the general election boundary. We know that DCC are in favour of option 2 or 3 combining the south and north inner city into a large area thus leaving us in the North West Area. We feel this is not in our best interest. This is a decision for Councillors so please make your opinion known to your councillors before February meeting.

The full discussion document is on our website as are the contact details for all public representatives.

## LEAVES

We would like to thank all residents who worked so hard on the collection of leaves. We have decided to look for better solutions for this annual problem and will be working on setting up a BETA project (DCC pilot study that can then be rolled out throughout the city) in association with the North West Area Partnership to assist with the leaf collection. It is hoped that we will get a more structured approach from DCC to the gathering of leaves which will then be used to create compost in the partnership community garden and distributed back to residents who would like same.

## CRIME

Our crime figures continue to rise and our detection rates continue to fall- we also continue to lobby for increased Garda presence, new initiatives and targeted operations within the area. We attend all relevant policing meetings but feel that crime is increasing and perhaps our policing area should mirror our council and election areas which would make lobbying and area administration easier on all fronts. The present boundaries are historical and have not changed with the changes in population or demographics.

2019 will be an extremely busy year and one which will determine our future for many years- please get active even if it is by email or phone. Contact your TDs on these issues. Sign up for our texts, make submissions and get ready for the increasing likelihood that we will end up protesting on the streets!

And Finally a welcome to all our new members in Homefarm Park.



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Residents Association

Phone number 087 3658885



Email [info@gadra.ie](mailto:info@gadra.ie)  
[www.GADRA.ie](http://www.GADRA.ie)



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