



G.A.D.R.A.

Griffith Avenue and Districts Residents Association **April Action Plan For Residents**

BUS CONNECTS

GADRA met with the NTA on 14th March (see our briefing document and meeting notes www.gadra.ie). At this meeting we learned of several issues that are of concern to us. The NTA have stated to the Press that they have decided to cancel their planned Forum for the Ballymun CBC (April 10th Ballymun Axis) arising from the fact that in GADRA's January Newsletter we encouraged all residents to attend both the Open Day (April 3rd) and the Community Forum in the Ballymun Axis Centre. The NTA told GADRA and the Times Ireland that, because of our Newsletters and our text alert system (0873658885), they have concerns for the safety of their staff, and would therefore have to hire security if the forum event in Ballymun were to proceed.

The NTA have now sent a letter to all public representatives in the area stating that have cancelled the community forum in and that they are moving the meeting to their southside headquarters in Harcourt Lane where they will have appropriate security arrangements in place. The NTA also plan to restrict the numbers attending to 50 - included in that number is as many public representatives as wish to attend. Individuals wishing to attend must register by email cbc@busconnect.ie (please note there is no phone or postal option to register). It appears that the NTA will then choose the 50 people they want to attend. This meeting is planned for 6.30pm on April 10th and we note that it clashes with the TII Metrolink open day in the Gresham Hotel putting residents at a further disadvantage. GADRA was made aware of the above unsigned email and have responded on behalf of all the residents on the Ballymun CBC (full letter is on our website). We have copied all TDs in the Dublin Central and North West Area and have written to Minister Ross on this issue.

GADRA represents the highest number of residents living alone in homes without cars and we try to use as many modes of communication as we can insure that all residents are informed – not just those who have internet access. We use newsletters, text and, where possible, local businesses to help us ensure that all residents are kept up to date on current issues. GADRA make no apology for doing this as we view this as a significant part of our role and believe we have been more successful in disseminating information on BusConnects than the NTA, who are publicly funded to do so.

We are extremely disappointed that, arising from our endeavours to ensure residents are aware of the NTA public consultation, the NTA now plan to cancel this form of consultation in our area alone. GADRA believe that all areas should have more consultation rather than less. GADRA also fought from the very start of these fora to ensure they were a genuine form of public consultation and engagement. They were originally set up without a formal Terms of Reference (ToR), which we insisted were required. When these were finally produced, they were not terms we felt we could sign up to, as they were only allowing one representative per organisation (regardless of the size) to attend. We cannot agree to a Community Forum that is not inclusive of all residents, including those on the planned diverted traffic routes. We also feel that it is essential that Dublin City Council attend the fora. DCC will have responsibility for all the diverted traffic on the roads surrounding the CBCs, in addition to implementation of the plan itself. All residents should look at the NTA maps to be clear on the volume of traffic that will be diverted to some of these small roads.

As the NTA are cancelling the Ballymun Forum, you should contact your local TDs and the NTA to request an inclusive consultation which is open to all residents, including DCC and TII (MetroLink) as key stakeholders. GADRA do not believe any resident along this CBC and surrounding roads can make an informed submission without being included in the process, without DCC's traffic plans for the diverted traffic, and without the Metrolink EIS which will detail the construction traffic routes.

Public Representative Contact Numbers:

Paschal Donohoe - 01 6183689	Noel Rock - 085 7049415
Mary Lou Mc Donald - 01 8683934	Dessie Ellis - 01 8347674
Roisin Shortall - 01 6183593	Shane Ross - 01 6707444
Maureen O'Sullivan - 01 6183488	NTA - 1800 303653

Please request meaningful consultation at this and at all stages of these projects, to ensure that all residents and commuters get a World Class transport system, that is inclusive and accessible to all. The closing date for submissions is 31st May 2019. GADRA encourage all residents to please, make a submission. At present there are still only two options put forward by NTA. Option A involves a one-way system diverting traffic onto small roads, which NTA has conceded has not been tried in Ireland, and Option B, which plans to destroy our beautiful mature trees and CPO of gardens along eastern side of Mobhi Road. We are asking why there is a need for a CBC along the route of a Metro, especially a CBC that is so radical in its impact on our environment.

Representing 1000 homes in the Drumcondra Glasnevin Area www.gadra.ie

We learned from the NTA that Island Bus Stops (a bus stop surrounded by traffic, where passengers must cross cycle lanes to get to the foot path) are preferred by cyclists but viewed by disability groups as dangerous. The NTA plan to set up discussion group so that the visually impaired can explain their issues to the Cycling Lobby Groups. We feel it is up to the NTA to protect the legally held rights of the visually impaired passengers, and the NTA responsibility to ensure the safety of the cyclists. GADRA are appalled at the way the NTA are dealing with this issue and have pointed out that cyclists can choose whether they wish to cycle, but that individuals do not have a choice about their disability, which is why their rights are enshrined in law. We have repeatedly requested that the NTA should respect these rights. Please see our website, which lists in detail all our concerns regarding the Ballymun CBC. Accordingly, GADRA have requested a "Do Nothing" approach until Metrolink is operational and any additional requirements can be meaningfully assessed.

METROLINK

TII announced their new Preferred Route for Metrolink on March 26th. See www.metrolink.ie for full details. We have asked that TII put plans and maps into Ballymun Library. Of significance to our area is that the launch site for the Tunnel Boring Machine has moved to Northwood in Ballymun. There will be a station at the Homefarm pitch, which we believe will be a positive addition to our area. We made a submission to the design of this station at a very early stage and have requested that this station have only one ventilation shaft, positioned away from residential homes. The NTA are planning to use a single bore tunnel which will reduce the numbers of homes directly above the tunnel. We welcome the stated depth of the tunnel within this area, which appears to be greater than 20 meters. We note with concern the plans to put an Intervention shaft into Albert College Park, just at the Hampstead and Ballymun Road entrance – this may be an above ground structure. We have requested further information on this from NTA and have already requested that any ventilation fans associated with this structure be placed at the furthest point from residents' homes. **The TII are holding information days in Glasnevin Cemetery Museum on Thursday 11th April and Ballymun Civic Offices 15th April. Please attend these open days to ensure you are fully informed. Closing date for submissions on Metrolink is May 21st, 2019.** We await confirmation of a meeting date between GADRA and the TII. Over the consultation period, GADRA repeatedly lobbied for the NTA/TII to fund an independent expert for all residents along the Metrolink route. The NTA have agreed and have confirmed that one should be in place by the EIS stage. The TII are planning to do a leaflet drop to residents along the Metrolink route in our area.

COUNCIL ELECTION

DCC council elections will take place on May 24th, 2019. As the election boundaries have now changed, the area from Homefarm Road to, and including, the south side of Griffith Ave (including Island roads and Mobhi) will be in the Cabra/Glasnevin electoral area. Griffith Avenue North, The Rise, Hampstead and Ballymun Roads will be in Whitehall/Artane electoral area. As many of the decisions in relation to both BusConnects and Metrolink traffic management arrangements will be made by DCC, we need to ensure that all area council meetings are webcast, so to ensure full transparency on what decisions are being made and by whom. To this end we are asking all local election candidates to pledge they will not sit in a chamber that does not have webcasting. No sitting councillor in the North West Area has requested that funding for webcasting (€20,000) be allocated from the local annual discretionary budget of €1.2million at any stage during the past five years. While we believe Cabra/Glasnevin will sit in City Hall and will be webcast however, Artane/Whitehall councillors sit in Coolock where there is no webcasting. Artane/Whitehall will be combined with Donaghmede and Clontarf which will mean councillors are representing over 146000 people, so transparency is vital. We will be putting the names of candidates who support this pledge on our website - please ask any candidates about their position when they call to your doors. Remember, DCC are partners in BusConnects and Metrolink, so we need to elect Councillors who will work hard on our behalf at City Council level.

GADRA INITIATIVES

A GADRA member is currently undertaking a DCC sustainable gardening course, details of which are available on our website.

We are delighted that the area is to get four new benches, which will be enhanced by planters for sustainable pollinator flowers/grasses - our member will be planting these as part of their course.

GADRA's leaf composting project is underway, and we hope everyone will attend workshops in the coming months and again in October when we will be distributing the related containers.

Residents are arranging a clean-up in association with DCC Spring Clean on April 28th meeting at 2pm at the old Whitehall GARDA Station (gloves and bags provided).

GADRA are producing window posters for residents in relation to the BusConnects project which will say "Communities Not Corridors". We would like all residents to put a poster in their window to show their support for our neighbours. So please contact us if you would like a poster (sample available on website).

CRIME

There continues to be issues with crime figures and boundaries, so the DCC Policing Forum have requested Mary Fitzpatrick write to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) to look at policing boundaries. These are historical in nature, based on Garda Stations that are now closed, with the aim of having policing, DCC administration, and election boundaries matching.

As you are aware, we are delivering monthly Newsletters at present as we are facing so many big issues in our area. We need help delivering these as we try to get all 1200 homes delivered within 24 hours of printing.

If you could help, please let us know.

Get in Touch by Email info@GADRA.ie Phone 087 365 8885 and help if you can.



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