

Press Releases - Cabinteely residents concerned about the future of their village - 4/11/00

Cabinteely residents concerned about the future of their village

On Oct 24 a meeting of residents and concerned bodies meet in St. Brigids Parish Centre to discuss the Carrickmines Area Action Plan and the imminent construction of the Foxrock Church to Bray QBC. Both plans could have a severely detrimental effect on the village.

Cabinteely & District Residents Association have made a detailed submission to the Council and are concerned about the following items in the Action Plan;

Proposed direct access to Old Bray Road from housing plot 1

This access route is to be provided through a house facing onto the Old Bray Road, which would be demolished. The residents recommend that this be removed from the plan and instead a road be included that links to the main spine road running through the area covered by the action plan.

Closing of section of Lehaunstown Lane

. Under the plan a section of Lehaunstown Lane will be closed to facilitate the building of an Irish school. This will leave residents further up the lane with no access to the Brennanstown Road. They will have to use the roads crossing the new housing estates to get out.

After the residents had outlined their concerns Councillor Butler stated that his was well known for being pro development however in this case he felt the council were making a mistake. While pointing to the map of the area action plan open on the table, Councillor Butler informed the meeting that he, in conjunction with the other councillors, controls the area action plan for the Carrickmines Area. In the presence of next year's Cathaoirleach,

Betty Coffee, Councillor Butler gave the meeting an unequivocal commitment that he would vote against any area action plan that did not meet the requirements of the residents as outlined at the meeting.

The meeting went on to discuss the imminent construction of the QBC from Foxrock Church to Bray. Residents stated that Cabinteely already suffers an extreme problem with parking. The Bank of Ireland is expanding its facility in the village and parking spaces are normally fully occupied all day. Any increase in parking as a result of commuters will bring the area to a standstill. The residents have requested that parking controls, such as those proposed in the Buchanan report, be introduced in the village immediately. One resident said that this might simply have the effect of pushing commuter parking into the surrounding residential estates, she stated that a Park & Ride facility was essential.

Councillor Butler informed the meeting that the Bus Corridor Improvement Measures were the subject of a Part 10 planning procedure. As such he said that the elected representatives had no input into the procedure and could have done nothing to prevent the imposition of the QBC.

Councillor Costello disagreed with Councillor Butler on this point. QBC's have resulted in all day illegal parking in many residential areas adjoining QBC routes. Councillor Costello told the meeting that he felt that the role of a local councillor is to try to prevent unfortunate mistakes that were made in other areas happening in the area one represents. While all the residents and the local councillors want to see the QBC in place, Councillor Costello stated that this should not be at the expense of the local community. A number of methods to amend the QBC plan to include a simultaneous provision of a Park & Ride facility were available to the Councillors. It was open to the Councillors to bring forward a rescinding motion calling on the Council to put in place at least one park and ride facility along the route of the QBC before proceeding with the project. Another alternative would have been to place a Section 4 notice before the manager instructing him not to proceed with the QBC until at least one Park & Ride facility was in place along the route.

Councillor Costello told the meeting that he couldn't understand why the Council had put in an application to the DTO for funding for the building of the QBC but didn't accompany this with a simultaneous application for funding for a Park & Ride facility, why weren't they working on the two elements to the project simultaneously? Council officials have only begun seriously examining a number of potential sites recently. Councillor Coffee

warned Councillor Costello that tying the progress of the QBC to an upfront provision of a Park & Ride facility would be a very dangerous road to go down as where ever a park and ride facility was placed there would be complaints and objections. Councillor Costello stated that this was exactly the reason why Council officials should have started working on the Park & Ride facility a year ago so that the complaints and objections would have been dealt with by this stage and we would have at least one site would be in place. According to Councillor Costello the Foxrock to Donnybrook QBC has been in place for 13 months now and not a single Park & Ride facility has been provided along the route.

To underline his point Councillor Costello read out a Council reply to a question Councillor Gilmore had placed concerning an estate affected by all day illegal parking as a result of the Foxrock to Donnybrook QBC.

“The success of the Stillorgan QBC has resulted in a large number of commuters using the QBC to travel to the city centre. Many of these commuters are parking on the surrounding road network. A section of Springfield Park is being used by commuters to park and take the QBC.”

The meeting ended with an agreement to set up a meeting between the residents and officials of the council.