



**Greystones Harbour Community Liaison Committee
Meeting No. 9**

February 17th 2009

Present: Sean Quirke (Wicklow County Council), Grainne McLoughlin (Greystones Town Council), Marie Burbridge (Redford Park Residents Association), Ciaran Demery (North Beach Residents), Kathleen Kelleher (Wicklow County Council), Derek Mitchell (Greystones Town Council), Ciaran Hayden (Greystones Chamber of Commerce), Mary Egan (Harbour residents) Sean Whooley (Rathdown Park Residents Association). Dr Chris Smal (Friends of Historic Rathdown) Tom Fortune (Greystones Protection & Development Association), Dr Chris Smal (Friends of Historic Rathdown)
Sispar: Brendan Sheehy, Catherine Rogers, Imelda Shanahan (TMS Environment), Seamus Sorohan (Sisk-Lagan JV), Sean Mason (ARUP),

Apologies: Niall Ferns (Coastguard), Paraic Keogh (Sispar)

1. The meeting was opened by Sean Quirke and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2. Project development programme status

Brendan Sheehy informed the meeting that programme is currently 3&1/2 – 4 months behind due to adverse weather conditions and undercurrents in January. Extended working hours from March to the end of August within the scope of the EIS are currently being considered. Works will be confined to the North Breakwater critical works only; details are yet to be agreed. Ciaran Demery voiced his concern at the delay in the programme and requested a new revised projected programme. Brendan Sheehy stated the programme remains the same and the intention is to make up for lost time by working these proposed extended hours. Sean Quirke advised that the provisions of the EIS still apply. Derek Mitchell queried whether this work will be noisy, Brendan Sheehy stated that the intention is to have a supply of materials on the shore in advance of these works and that there will be no deliveries during these times. Mary Egan requested a definite programme for these extended working hours. Brendan Sheehy advised that it will be very difficult to do more than a few days in advance as advantage needs to be taken of clement weather conditions.

Mary Egan stated that there was noise constantly and stated that the dredger had been working 24 hours. Mary advised that there was a constant buzzing from 10pm on. Brendan advised that this is most probably the generator on board the dredger and that Sispar will investigate this. Derek Mitchell requested clarification of what kinds of work will & will not be undertaken, Brendan stated that mainly blocks will be placed and that materials will be available on shore prior to commencement so noise disturbance should be minimal. Sean Quirke advised the meeting that noise monitoring would be undertaken during these times.

3. Environmental Monitoring

Imelda Shanahan gave a presentation on the noise, dust and vibration monitoring since the last meeting.

Additional dust monitoring results for November & December were given, it was noted that results are now back below limits since the highs recorded for October.

Imelda reminded all present on the locations of the noise monitors. Mary Egan asked if it was possible to view the monitors on site. Brendan Sheehy advised that they are clearly visible on the plan provided. Sean Quirke stated that there is a health & safety issue with access to the site and that the monitors can be photographed & the photographs issued.

All noise results up to 31.01.09 were issued in hardcopy. Imelda reiterated the significance of the L1 readings. Where exceedences are recorded and site activity is responsible this is clearly recorded.

Ciaran Demery queried whether the piling activity is included in this report. Imelda Shanahan advised that since piling started in February this data would be included in the February results.

4. Costal Erosion

Sean Mason (Arup) gave a presentation on costal erosion and beach nourishment.

Sean stated that the proposal was to manage the rate of costal erosion / retreat and not stop it. Historically erosion has been 0.5m per annum from Greystones to Bray Head. Calculations to keep the erosion at a "no works" level provide for 4,000m³ of nourishment and an additional factor of safety of 50% was provided equalling 6,000m³. An initial 30,000m³ is proposed and the first 10,000m³ was placed before work started at the landfill and gap bridge. In future nourishment will be placed where required. Sean advised that a survey of the entire north beach would be carried out a minimum of once per year with the first survey due in March '09. Sean explained the monitoring & measurement process and advised that while some accretion had been noted at site, no significant change has been noted at the centre of the beach and there is no substantial movement at the cliffs but that there is considerable loss of beach towards Bray Head. He advised that this 15m movement is nothing more than was expected had work not gone ahead.

Kathleen Kelleher (Wicklow County Council) stated that in her opinion there has been significant erosion and queried whether the blocks stored close to the cliff edge could be stored elsewhere.

Brendan Sheehy advised that the blocks are placed 7.5m from the cliff edge on tarmac and that engineers have investigated this and the situation is continually being monitored. Sean Mason stated while the shingle is eroding there is no evidence at the moment of cliff erosion at this location. Ciaran Demery raised the issue of previous slippage to the cliff. Sean Mason advised that this occurred prior to the placing of blocks and was a result of an outlet pipe discharging in the area. Ciaran Demery stated that this was a Sispar outlet, Brendan Sheehy acknowledged this and Sean Mason advised that a study was undertaken and the present situation deemed to be safe.

Derek Mitchell queried the drainage to the public park to lessen water discharge and subsequent erosion. Sean Mason responded that the objective is to leave the cliff as

natural as possible. Most slippage is occurring at the higher end/flatter slope where water is seeping out.

Ciaran Demery questioned whether costal protection would be provided where the damage is occurring. Sean Mason responded that protection would be provided where necessary.

Ciaran Demery stated that in September Sispar noted accretion of materials to the South end of the beach as a result of nourishment, he took his own measurements recently and found that there is substantially less material than was originally placed, therefore he concludes there is no accretion evident. Sean Mason responded that since the building of the causeway there is clear evidence of material build up. A certain amount of this is a result of the beach nourishment.

Ciaran Demery asked whether some of the material placed had been lost. Sean replied that some of this material has been washed away & some has been redistributed from where it was originally placed. Ciaran Demery stated forcefully that the beach is disappearing. Sean Quirke replied that the beach was eroding prior to Sispar's presence on site. Ciaran Demery questioned whether Sispar / Arup would give a guarantee that it is safe to walk north of the gap bridge and went on to say that it is a danger to life to walk at ½ tide north of the gap bridge as the cliff is slipping. Derek Mitchell stated that the area was always dangerous and Paddy O'Rourke requested that the meeting move on. Ciaran Demery became quite agitated, Sean Quirke called the meeting to order and reminded Ciaran and all present that the purpose of the committee is to communicate with the local residents and that Sispar / WCC will endeavour to answer any queries as long as they are asked in an orderly fashion.

5. Questions & Answers

The issue of how Sispar proposed to catch up on the programme was raised. Brendan Sheehy advised that this would only be possible by working extended hours. It was queried whether a change to the current planning permission was required in order to extend working hours, Brendan responded that the current planning permission allows for the proposed extended working hours for marine related construction. Provided the weather conditions are clement these extended hours could allow a significant amount of lost time to be recovered, some elements could also be accelerated as a result. Brendan re-iterated the fact that all parties involved would like to complete the project within the 28-month time frame while complying with EIS & planning permission.

Derek Mitchell queried whether the stone recovered from the Gap Bridge would be used for the public square. Brendan Sheehy advised that there was a proposal to use this in the landscaping of the park and Paddy O'Rourke stated that this could be reviewed. Dr Chris Smal stated that Friends of Historic Rathdown were promised that this stone would be included in the process; Sean Quirke suggested that it would be useful for FOHS to consider and suggest a possible use for this. Dr Small agreed. Sean Quirke added that a decision would not be required in the near future.

Kathleen Kelleher Queried whether access to the beach at the Gap Bridge can be improved. Brendan Sheehy stated some erosion form the stream has occurred and Sispar will investigate this with a view to improving.

Mary Egan stated that she had some serious noise issues and would like a specific reply. Sean Quirke mentioned that he is aware that Catherine Rogers had made several unsuccessful attempts to contact Mary in relation to previous complaints.

Mary Egan queried the completion date of the club buildings and the height of same.

Brendan Sheehy advised that completion for the club buildings is currently month 25 but that Marine Works may affect this. The Sailing Club building is two stories high in part. Mary questioned whether this was detailed in the planning, Brendan stated it was and Sean Quirke advised that the 2nd storey is not situated in front of the existing dwellings.

Mary Egan asked when the hoarding would be complete. Brendan Sheehy advised that a photography competition is in progress and Paddy O'Rourke advised that it would be some months before completion. Mary stated that she would like this done more quickly. Brendan stated that the current grey hoarding would be maintained and improved upon in time. Paddy O'Rourke advised that there is a proposal in place to improve upon the current hoarding to a high standard to which Mary expressed her disappointment at the perceived delay.

Mary Egan stated she would like the bin returned to the harbour, Sean Quirke responded that that item is not for discussion at this meeting.

Mary Egan expressed concern at the condition of the road surface at the bridge due to heavy traffic passing. Brendan Sheehy noted this and advised this will be addressed.

Mary Egan raised the issue of the public parking spaces being used by Sispar personnel thus occupying spaces intended for use by businesses in the area. Brendan Sheehy advised that no building workers were parking in this location as there is ample parking available at the compound. Ciaran Hayden mentioned that since the introduction of pay & display throughout Greystones it was possible that members of the public were availing of the free parking in the harbour.

Ciaran Hayden thanked Sispar for their efforts in making the hoarding more visually appealing.

Grainne McLoughlin queried when the berths would be available and whether the proposal to stack the berths was going ahead; Paddy O'Rourke advised that he will raise this at the next board meeting and that a number of methods are currently being examined. Grainne also mentioned that the website is not being updated very frequently and there is interest in the rate of activity in the area, Paddy O'Rourke agreed and stated he will have this improved upon.

5. Date and location for next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 21st April 2009 at 6p.m. on site at Greystones Harbour Development. The Harbour Users meeting is scheduled to take place before this meeting.

