

Statements from our Public Representatives about the Official Opening of the S2S Cycleway in Clontarf



The Clontarf Residents Association have my full support in relation to this matter.

It is evident that the CRA have consistently and persistently raised legitimate concerns in relation to this project through the Environmental Monitoring and Liaison Committee and that your efforts are being frustrated

I have been a supporter of this project from the beginning, and still believe in the fullness of time that the project will be a success, however initiatives such as this one only succeed where there is goodwill on all sides. That goodwill is now being eroded by the insistence on proceeding with a media launch when so many issues are left unresolved.

I did indeed attend the launch as I am in support of the project with other public representatives. It is only since receipt of this email that I learned of the CRA's boycotting of the event.

It is clear now that an engagement between the CRA and local representatives is now necessary to ensure that the important safety matters are addressed.

Cllr Horgan Jones and myself will continue to support the Clontarf Residents Association.

Senator Aodhán Ó Riordáin

I did not attend this event last week because I have received many complaints from constituents that the reconstructed of James Larkin Road has serious road safety risks, especially, that no lane was provided for public service vehicles and emergency vehicles, and that works were incomplete. I have raised these issues with the Dublin City Council Director of Traffic, the City Manager and the National Transport Authority (NTA).



The key issue I have been pursuing with Dublin City Council is the narrowing of the James Larkin Road. Constituents have complained strongly that the James Larkin Road between the Causeway and the Wooden Bridge as it has been extremely narrowed with this project. While a separate cycle lane is of course welcome, the manner in which Dublin City Council have reconstructed the road, leaves no lane which can be used for buses, taxis, emergency services and public transport. I have flagged the fact that I believe the result of this is fundamentally unsafe a number of times with Dublin City Council. The initial 2008 proposal for this project, included a public transport lane, and I am unsure why this did not go ahead. The very narrow 2.5 km section of James Larkin now puts all the pressure on the Howth Road (which passes through Killester and Raheny Villages) and Malahide Road which transverses villages at Marino, Donnycarney and Artane. I am continuing to actively pursue this with Dublin City Council.

I am of course aware of the ongoing issues between many Clontarf Residents and Dublin City Council in relation to these works. A number of constituents have been in contact in relation to a range of issues, including the amount of delays the project has incurred, access to driveways and the placement of temporary bus stops. I made representations to Dublin City Chief Executive, Owen Keegan asking for these issues to be urgently addressed.

I know that residents association and locals have tried to work closely with Dublin City Council in relation to these issues. A number of constituents have conveyed to me that they have been left feeling that a number of outstanding issues, including the public lighting and footpaths, have not been resolved.

I will contact Dublin City Council in relation to the incomplete works you have mentioned below and will be asking for a schedule of works.

I would be happy to meet with the Clontarf Residents Association to discuss this further .

Tommy Broughan, TD



I did not attend the opening of the Clontarf cycle track. I am sorry to learn of your frustration with the remaining outstanding works.

I shall pursue these outstanding issues with the Area Manager.

Richard Bruton, TD

I did not attend the official opening as the works have clearly not been completed. I am fully aware of the ongoing issues of concern between Dublin City Council and the community and have been working with local residents to try and resolve these problems. The planning and implementation of this project from the outset has been quite shambolic as evidenced, in particular, by the controversy over the height of the sea wall. A final figure regarding the cost of these works is still not available.



Sean Haughey, TD



I believe our new S2S Cycleway will be a great asset to our area. I am in total support of the various local community groups, including the Clontarf Residents Association, Clontarf Business Association, Save our Seafront and Raheny Tidy Towns who have contributed to this project under the Environmental Monitoring and Liaison Committee (EMLC) which was set up in late 2015 to consult and liaise between

DCC, the community groups and the contractor.

I have been in close contact with this project through my colleague, Cllr Damian O'Farrell (Ind.), who has attended and contributed at all the EMLC meetings. In turn, I have been updating constituents on a regular basis regarding same and will continue to do so. I am of the same mind as Cllr O'Farrell and many of the community groups on the EMLC in that they feel they were treated unfairly and were not consulted properly given all the work they put into the project.

I attended on the 5th May in order to see for myself the issues that remain unfinished including electricity for light poles, pedestrian crossings and footpaths, and also to speak with officials and residents with differing viewpoints.

I will continue to support my community to ensure that this project is brought to a satisfactory conclusion including all outstanding seawall defence work. There is still a major Flood Defence project of work to do between the Wooden Bridge and Alfie Byrne Road and we expect to update residents and businesses on this shortly as they have long-standing property and insurance concerns. Damian and I have made it very clear to DCC that this community expects proper, on-the-ground (in-situ along the promenade) visual aids for any future Flood Defence Project and not just showing plans on paper which are impossible to visualize and in the end waste taxpayers' money when projects have to be redefined.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the community who worked directly on this S2S project or who voiced their concerns over the last 18 months. I know that the completed Cycleway will be something of which we can be very proud.

Finian Mc Grath, TD

I undertake to continue raising the issues that are of concern to the CRA and others in relation to the full completion of the project. It is only by consistently pressurising, (as opposed to grand standing) that we can get the job done to the satisfaction of us all.



I did not attend the official launch myself last Friday. I was conscious of the residents principled stand in not attending, I was also under pressure in my day job, as well as the fact that my bicycle was stolen a while ago, and as such my staying away was more of a combination of reasons, rather than a single one.

Official openings are just publicity events, many of which I have seen taking place early and some of which I have seen taking place a year or two after the event. Official opening dates are often set to suit the diary of a dignitary, a Minister or a Lord Mayor and/or to meet a deadline to draw down Government funds etc. I suppose organisers like to stick to their plans once the date has already been set.

Councillor Deirdre Heney



I was not in a position to attend the opening of the cycleway on Friday last as I was unavoidably otherwise engaged in the Law Library.

I am aware that the Lord Mayor Cllr Brendan Carr attended in an official capacity. I spoke to the Lord Mayor personally in advance of the opening, at the request of residents, and appraised him of the difficulties residents and businesses had with the timing of this "launch", in the context of the large number of outstanding issues that remain to be resolved.

The Lord Mayor has been advised of my personal concerns in relation to these outstanding issues, which included the necessity for crossings to allow cyclists safely access the facility.

I will continue to work with residents and businesses to ensure that this facility is one that the community can be proud of.

Councillor Jane Horgan-Jones

With regard to the opening of the cycle track last Friday, I did not attend.

Its usual that a project is in use by the public for period of time before the Lord Mayor would officially open it.

This project is far from been finished. We have a Part 8 planning outstanding also.

Councillor Seán Paul Mahon



I very much welcome our new S2S Cycleway which will have an enormous beneficial impact on our area and I am looking forward to using it myself. There has been major disruption for residents and motorists, particularly those living locally, and I would like to acknowledge their forbearance.

I did not attend the 'opening' of the S2S Cycleway on the 5th May in solidarity with all the community groups who had put in so much effort into the project over the last 18 months. I would also have liked a 'trial in use' period of the Cycleway whereby cyclists could still use and test it during this time but all substantial work and many snags would be completed before the actual official opening. The community groups and elected public reps were not consulted on DCC's chosen date for the official opening. We feel that there is still a substantial amount of work to be completed – most particularly there is no electricity for the new light poles along the Cycleway, pedestrian crossings were not completed, the path on the seaside is also unfinished as well as other health and safety issues. We also feel that by having this premature opening of the project the momentum to complete certain outstanding issues will have been lost. I requested a short delay to the official opening and indicated that I would not be in attendance as I felt that the community groups involved in the project had been treated poorly regarding this issue.

In Spring/Summer 2015 when construction began on the S2S Cycleway (incorporating a flood defence scheme) there was local uproar and after Finian McGrath TD's public meeting in Clontarf Castle I called a 'Special Meeting' of DCC in City Hall where a commitment was given to set up an Environmental Monitoring and Liaison Committee (EMLC). This was set up to provide consultation and liaison between DCC, community groups and the contractor. I attended and contributed to all of the EMLC meetings and can attest to the tremendous constructive input that the community groups contributed to the project. For instance, I remember that DCC had initially planned to use 'ugly' precast concrete slabs for the seawall in the buffer zone of our UNESCO Biosphere but we objected and ensured that the area was treated in accordance with its environmental status. I know that only for these inputs the project would not be as functional or as aesthetically pleasing as it will be when it is finally completed.

The area along Clontarf Seafront is an environmentally special area and should always be treated as such. I welcome the final S2S completion as soon as possible and look forward to working on the Clontarf Promenade Flood Defence Project from the Wooden Bridge to Alfie Byrne Road. This needs to be completed as a matter of urgency in the interests of homeowners and business in the area. I have kept this matter to the fore of DCC's agenda and expect positive news very shortly.

Councillor Damian O'Farrell



I spoke at the EMLC and voiced my objections and concerns that the opening was premature. I expected all the works including the lighting, pedestrian crossing and CCTV masts would have been completed before the opening. The only exemptions I would have made would have been the Part 8 for the wall.

Councillor Ciaran O'Moore

I most certainly did attend the opening of the S2S stretch last Friday; it has been a long and difficult project for local residents and businesses but the main works are now substantially complete with great use being made of that new stretch of cycle-way on account of the recent fine weather.



As you highlighted there are still issues & snags to be resolved and I continue to raised them with DCC Engineers whether they come via CRA/CBA or directly from local residents and businesses. I expect to have a comprehensive response on your most recent list this coming Monday.

The largest component of work outstanding is now the reduction of the wall across a distance of approx 500m which was the negotiated outcome - I will be pushing for the Part 8 to be completed and the works done ASAP so that construction activity finally ceases and the area returns to normal.

Finally it is worth noting that the National Transport Authority were invited and represented at last Friday's event; as a primary funder for the S2S project it is important that I and others show support and develop strong links with the NTA with a view to securing funding for similar projects on the Northside.

Councillor Naoise Ó Muiri



I am pleased that the cycle-way is open after much delay; in time for the good weather we had in the last week. There were crowds out enjoying the new facility at the weekend and lots of families with small children.

I was not aware that you were boycotting the launch until after the launch. I received no request as a Green Party Area Rep or Clontarf resident to boycott the launch, nor was I informed that there were any outstanding issues; therefore I presumed everybody would be delighted that the cycle-way was completed, with an end of road closures with road works.

I note that on Friday 5th May that the CBA posting a statement on the Clontarf.ie website <http://www.clontarf.ie/news/cba-statement-re-official-opening-of-s2s-cycleway-inclontarf>. But as the launch was at 10am on Friday I would not have known in advance. The issues you have highlighted are the first that I have heard of them. My colleague Councillor Ciaran Cuffe would not have known of this either. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with the Residents Association to discuss the issues you raised in relation to the cycle-way and I'm, as always, willing to work with you to help resolve your concerns.

I think it would be productive to bring all parties concerned together, to resolve all outstanding concerns. That a timeframe be agreed and hopefully any issues resolved in time for the National Cycling Week and the very popular Bike-fest in St. Anne's Park. I had correspondence from the Residents Association in relation to the cycle-way at the Alfie Byrne to Amiens Street. Ciaran Cuffe and myself have raised those concerns about accessing the submissions online. We also made submissions to DCC traffic and sent you a copy. We met together to discuss the Alfie Byrne road with Deirdre Tobin, Cllr. David Healy and Kevin O'Farrell of the Dublin Cycling Campaign.

The local Greens gave out 800 flyers in the area to raise our concerns on the proposed design, removal of fifty mature trees and safety issues for all road users. A question was also put from Green Party Councillor and Chair of transport SPC Ciaran Cuffe on the cost of the Clontarf section of the cycle-way and the new part 8 etc. and I've forwarded on the response to the Residents Association.

I'm looking forward to a meeting and a speedy resolution with DCC of any ongoing issues.

Donna Cooney, GP Candidate