

Reclaim Fingal Alliance (RFA)Minutes of meeting held on Monday 28th May 2012**Present (the following people signed the register):**

Community	Name	Email	Mobile
Rush:	Brian Hosford (Chair)	bhosford@gmail.com	087 2254651
	Brian Dennehy	jbadennehy@eircom.net	087 2518063
	Sarah Stack	sarah.stack@pressassociation.com	
Donabate:	David Moore*	david_moore@eircom.net	087 2702844
	Charlie Weston	cweston@independent.ie	
Skerries:	Berniann Condon	condonb@tcd.ie	087 2070659
	David Cooke	dcooke@ardmoresound.ie	087 2347242
Saucerstown, Swords:	Eddie Fleming*	edatsaucer@hotmail.com	086 8264537
Loughshinny:	Bob Lattimore*	blattimore@arcal.ie	086 8205021
	Mary Markey	marymarkey1@gmail.ie	087 9836672
	Kevin Lattimore (?)	Klspark05@gmail.com	087 2626437
Ballyboughal:	Helene Dooley (Secretary)	leahurst@eircom.net	087 2325355
	Martin Tully	martinsnr@tullynurseries.ie	086 2551151
	Mike Hallinan*	mhallinan@gmail.com	086 2423831
	Pat McNamara	pat.mcnamara@dublin.ie	086 2659392
Lusk:	Brian Arnold	luskcommunity@yahoo.ie	
	Ruth Jenkinson	ruthejenkinson@gmail.com	087 6268138
	Gary Browne*	gary@totelfootball.com	087 2187033
	Damien O'Toole	camaderry4@eircom.net	086 2499650
Clonshaugh:	Joe Jones	Joej4309@gmail.com	087 2204198
	Ed Ennis (?)	edrover@gmail.com	086 8237450

Other group members not present who wish to be circulated with the Minutes:

Community	Name	email	Mobile
Loughshinny:	Marian Bentley	marian_bentley@wavin.com	086 3212450
Lusk:	Ernie Donnelly	ernie.donnelly@iaa.ie	
	Lorcan O'Toole	lorcan@fctv.ie	086 2533833
Rush:	Jacqui McCrum	jacqui.m.mccrum@aib.ie	086 854 2220
Saucerstown / Swords:	Alan Lynch	2tig@eircom.net	
	Dave Clark	david888@eircom.net	083 356 8995
Skerries (Community Association):	Frank McKeown*	mckeownfg@yahoo.ie	087 2266922
	Sandra O'Sullivan	sandracosullivan@gmail.com	087 417 1809
Kinsealy group:	John Coleman	colemanjo@eircom.net	087 6865243
	Christopher Heavy*	chrisheavey@gmail.com	0863189889
	Philip Dunne*	phildunne@gmail.com	0868650856

Malahide: Denise Boyne denisemboyne@eircom.net 086-2079640

* Community Representatives

Minutes of previous Meeting:

These minutes were agreed and passed.

Matters arising from these Minutes:

The action list was reported upon. A decision was taken by the group to set aside Action 1/1 (public debate to be aired on the internet) for the present. All other actions had been completed, with the exception of the following which are being followed up on:

Ref: (# of month)	Description	To be actioned by:
7/1	Costings from solicitors (adherence of first consultation process to relevant EU Directive)	Berniann Conlon.
14/1	Representatives to approach respective community groups regarding fund-raising	Community Reps – on-going
15/1	Harvesting of resident's email addresses for updating	ongoing
1/4	Seek out local solicitor/barrister who would be prepared to draft letters (pro bono) for the RFA to sign	On-going within each community
2/4	Submit a Freedom of Information request to Fingal County Council in relation to the latest report produced by GDD	Brian Hosford Eddie Fleming In train.
3/4	Update signage within communities to focus consciousness at a local level on the WWTP	Each community group In train
4/4	Attempt to seek out an economist who would be prepared to comment publically on the WWTP	Brian Hosford – meeting arranged for mid-June
5/4	Feed stories/updates into local and, more importantly, national media	Sarah Stack, Charlie Weston – on-going
7/4	Bring pressure to bear on Min. James Reilly to follow through on his commitment to arrange meeting with Min. Phil Hogan	Brian Hosford Possibly during the quiet month of June
8/4	Bring pressure to bear on local T.D.s by organising a closed meeting between them and representatives of RFA. Request that Min. Reilly suggest a date before the end of May (preferably a Monday) and invite other political representatives to attend.	Brian Hosford Tentative arrangement to hold a meeting on 11 June
10/4	Organise and manage a strategy in relation to feeding into social media (Facebook, Twitter etc)	Pat McNamara to email his recommendations on how group members can be more effective in their presence on social media. Helene Dooley will circulate these recommendations

Cross Community Support for RFA:

Brian Hosford mentioned that the RFA had made contact on a number of occasions with Kinsealy and Malahide communities inviting both communities to join the campaign. Despite these efforts, neither community is engaging with the RFA. (A representative from Kinsealy attended the first few meetings). Brian stated that it could be problematic going forward if people in the area do not become involved. RFA members will continue to work with local communities to campaign against the WWTP being placed at any of the three locations. However, it is important that this issue is seen as being fought at both local and county (Fingal) level.

Community Responses to latest GDDS Report:

Brian Hosford asked the various community representatives to feed back their respective local communities' reaction to the latest developments:

Annsbrook/Ballyboughal – Mike Hallinan: Mike mentioned that the local chairman of the Ballyboughal group (Shane Grogan) was invited to attend the meeting but was unavailable. Shane Grogan was waiting to hear the outcome of the RFA meeting prior to holding one at local level. Mike also said that people were concerned as various farmers had been approached regarding the possibility of putting roads across their lands into the site at Annsbrook. He was not sure if this had happened since the Annsbrook site had been chosen as one of the final three. Brian Hosford clarified the situation, stating that other landowners of sites not chosen, had also been approached earlier in the year.

Lusk – Damien O'Toole: As there is now a 66% chance that the sewage plant (if it proceeds) will be based in Lusk, Damien said that the initial reaction within the community was one of annoyance and agitation. He called upon the RFA to agree a strategy to fight this project. He felt that despite all the work to date (by various communities and the RFA) the project was still forging ahead – public intervention had failed to change the process. He stated that the RFA needed to review its approach and its mission statement. The concept that this project will never happen was, he felt, unreal. To date, there is nothing to show that Fingal County Council, the Government or Greater Dublin Drainage will change their minds. Lusk have already mapped out their plan at the inaugural meeting in November which was:

- No single plant;
- No northern pipe;
- No site in Lusk.

Charlie Weston stated that the RFA strategy is to oppose a single plant at any of the sites and that it was imperative that the group stick to the original focus:

- issues regarding the original SEA;
- unrealistic costings for this project (backed by economist).

Gary Browne agreed that, in order to gain a total victory, the group must continue with the contention that a single large site anywhere in the Fingal area is unacceptable. Berniann Condon stated that if the RFA go down the line of splitting the county, the GDD will have won the battle; divide and conquer is their aim. This needs to be fought by Fingal community as a whole.

Consensus was reached that the RFA would continue to fight this campaign on behalf of all the communities within the Fingal area (including Clonshaugh – community partly on the periphery). Any alteration in the RFA intention at this point in time would result in total loss of credibility for the group and the group might as well disband.

Saucerstown - Eddie Fleming: Eddie stated that there was a lot of apathy around his locality about this whole issue. Personally he was still involved in the campaign and he stressed the importance of sticking together in this regard.

Skerries – David Cooke: David has been analysing the figures in the latest report. He estimates that expenditure on the pipe alone (based on the figures within the report) will run at somewhere in the region of €440m with the plan costing between €800/900m. There are a number of issues which need to be brought to the Government's attention, including the revised population analysis and the issue regarding maximum capacity in Ringsend. David is currently writing up a 6 page rebuttal which he will condense into a 1 page press release which needs to be circulated to the TDs and the Councillors. Confusion reigns at the moment and this needs to be addressed. David will include Pat McNamara in his circulation of his findings.

Berniann Condon stated that the Skerries community were still seriously concerned about this plant, especially with regard to the marine outfall. She discussed this on the TV3 programme. Skerries had put up an information stall at the recent RAS gathering (last Sunday). They were organising a demonstration for Wednesday (30/5) at 2pm outside the Fingal County Council offices which would culminate in a photo-shoot – this would mark the start of the non-statutory consultation process (first open day). Brian Hosford reminded the group that this consultation period will continue until 16/6 (last open day) (the group may seek to request an extension).

The Skerries community were also concerned as they are aware that the water is currently being surveyed (for Greater Dublin Drainage). Berniann mentioned that in view of the various pipelines already around the area (Eirgrid etc) they would be constrained as to where this new pipe can go and there is a genuine fear that it will be pushed closer to the Skerries Protection Area.

Loughshinny – Bob Lattimore: Bob warned that the project would follow the line of least resistance in relation to choosing a site and therefore the communities as a whole must be united in their campaign. He stated that he has encountered anger and dismay that, despite over 10 thousand objections this is not going away.

Clonshaugh – Joe James: Joe stated that the proposed site is on his parents' land. The community is small and dispersed. There is a high degree of annoyance at the lack of information from the GDD. He stated that only one household received a letter regarding the project and that was his parents. (It also appears that the access road will be on the back road). Joe felt that the large businesses in the area (Northern Cross etc) could be tapped in to for support but, being realistic, they will fight their own case. He stated that the letter his parents received from GDD was very informal, requesting access to the land to survey it.

Rush – Brian Hosford: Brian expressed surprise at the selection of two sites in the Lusk area. He stated however that the threat from the marine outfall pipe and the resulting pollution means that this issue has not 'gone away' for the community of Rush.

Co-location of the Waste Sludge Centre:

Berniann Condon reminded the group that it is also the intention to locate the Regional Treatment plant on the chosen site – reference to this is contained within the report and should not be overlooked. This plant will be problematic in terms of odour nuisance.

Parliamentary Questions:

Berniann Condon stated that she had spoken to Brendan Ryan who has agreed to assist by feeding through PQ's to Brendan Howlin. This approach will ensure that contact will be on record.

Tactical Elements:

Closed Meeting 11th June 2012:

Brian Hosford highlighted the fact that out of the seven local TD's elected, 6 are government TD's. The constituencies are being redrawn at the moment and it was agreed that the TD's for Dublin West (including Leo Varadkar), Dublin North and Dublin NE be invited to a closed meeting on June 11th to discuss the WTP. Charlie Weston once again highlighted the need to bring this issue to a national level.

Public Mobilisation:

Public attendance at open days in Fingal County Council is very important. It is also important to give each community a template based on David Cooke's analysis on which their queries can be based. Each resident should engage in this process by asking at least one question of the team.

The RFA should consider requesting a further extension to allow all households to signal their objections again. A similar approach should be taken to the last time – submissions put through on the last day of the public consultation process.

Brian Hosford stressed the need to bookend this process – protest at the beginning and the end of this non-statutory consultation process.

Gary Brown stated that communities must go along with the 'game being played' by GDD. As GDD are answerable to the EPA they must be seen as ticking all the boxes and that they are obliged to respond to each submission. Charlie Weston stated that communities should be instructed to include the following at the top of each submission '**SUBMISSION MADE UNDER PROTEST**'.

Summary of Actions to be taken:

Ref: (# of May)	Topic	To be actioned by	Due date:
1/5	Produce and circulate rebuttal based on content of latest GDD report. Also produce press release.	David Cooke	
2/5	Upload press release into Social Media outlets	Pat McNamara	Follow on from 1/5
3/5	Circulate press release to media	Charlie Weston/Sarah Stack	ditto
4/5	Produce template of queries which can be raised by individual communities during the current non-statutory public consultation process	David Cooke	ditto
5/5	Organise the dissemination of this information to individual communities	Community Representatives	On-going
6/5	Co-ordinate production of this round of submissions – each one to be marked SUBMISSION MADE UNDER PROTEST at the top of the letter	Each community group	On-going, culminating with handover on last day of consultation process
7/5	Co-ordinate communities attendance at GDD open days (including preparation of appropriate questions for individuals)	Each community group	On-going – 30 th May to 16 th June 2012
8/5	Organise attendance at the protest at Fingal Co. Council offices (to mark the start-up of this consultation process)	Community Representatives	30 th May, 2012 at 2pm
9/5	Organise public rally to mark the close of the consultation process (last open day).	Community Representatives	16 th June 2012
10/5	Contact all TD's (local, Dublin West/North/North East) inviting them to attend a closed meeting with the RFA	Brian Hosford	Possible meeting date 11 June 2012
11/5	Engage residents of Clonshaugh and surrounding areas, with a view to setting up local action groups in these areas.	Joe Jones	On-going