

Community News

CROKE PARK AREA



Croke Park Stadium, Jones's Road, Dublin 3. Email: info@crokepark.ie

SUMMER 2006

Dear Resident...

First of all I would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to our recent circular and for registering with us. As I have said on many occasions our wish is to be in contact with as many of our neighbours as is possible and to keep you informed about what is happening in Croke Park.

We really were delighted with the response to our circular. We delivered over 4,500 circulars and almost 2,000 members of the local community responded with details. Everyone who responded will be circulated with our newsletter and will automatically go into any draws we have in relation to tickets.

It has been pointed out to us that our leaflet distribution did miss out a number of streets and we are currently organising another leaflet drop to those streets. If there is someone in your area who would like to register they can do so at any time. As I said our only wish is to keep everyone informed as to what is happening.

We fully realise the impact that matches and concerts have in the local area and it is our wish, in the first instance, to minimise that impact whenever we can. Recognising that there will be an impact whatever we do, it is also our wish to put something back into the community.

Currently a great deal of progress is being made in both areas with new initiatives being devised and in some cases about to launch.

Park and Ride

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, Croke Park, at the request of your local Dublin City Councillors, set up a committee to explore what might be done to alleviate both the traffic and parking problems. This committee consisted of representatives of Dublin City Council, the Gardai, Croke Park and all of the key public transport companies. It also contained a number of local Councillors.

The committee met on eight separate occasions and I certainly believe it has come up with a number of excellent innovations both in terms of a "residents only" parking scheme, and also a campaign to encourage more people to use public transport. A fuller report on the recommendations of the committee is set out on the second page of this newsletter.

Tickets

As set out in our recent circular everyone who registered with us went into a draw for tickets for the recent Billy Joel concert. Following the draw 800 lucky winners each received two tickets for the concert.

Since that draw we have been asked on many occasions what is the situation for GAA games. As you may know previously we also made a certain number of tickets available for purchase. As you will see from the panel on this page it is still our intention to do that in relation to the All Ireland Finals.

Community Forum

We have long maintained that there has to be a better way of ensuring that we interact with the entire local community. Building up our direct database was the first step in this process. What we now plan to do is to set up a Community Forum which would be

representative of all interests in the community. It is our intention to set this up with an independent chairman and representatives of the community groups, local business, elected officials and other organisations.

It is further our intention to set up a Trust Fund which would be distributed on an annual basis by the Forum. It would be used to finance deserving projects in the immediate area.

I would hope to be in a position to announce full details of the Community Forum and the Trust Fund in the next issue of this newsletter.

In the meantime if you have any queries or any suggestions in relation to any of the above initiatives please contact us at the address above or by email at info@crokepark.ie. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

PETER MCKENNA,
STADIUM DIRECTOR

Please Note:

In the week following the All Ireland Hurling Final (3rd September), the GAA intends to place a section of steel mounting bracket together with some dummy light fittings on the front edge of the new Cusack Stand roof. This site investigation is for the sole purpose of assessing the optimum fixing design for the proposed floodlights, the subject of a current planning application Reg. Ref. no. 2058/06 and appeal reference PL 29N.217907. This investigation does not include turning on any lighting. The investigation is likely to take 4 to 5 days depending on wind conditions.

Tickets for GAA Games...

Given the capacity of Croke Park, tickets are available for most games from normal outlets such as Ticketmaster, County Boards etc. The intention is to make a limited number of All Ireland Final tickets available for purchase by members of the local community. If you are on our database you will automatically go into a draw for two tickets for the All Ireland Hurling Final. A separate, similar draw will take place for the Football Final. You will be notified if you are successful and you will then have a number of days to call in to purchase the tickets.

Parking, Traffic and the Promotion of Public Transport

Late last year Dublin City Council recommended that a comprehensive study should be done in relation to the traffic/parking situation around Croke Park on match days. This resulted in the setting up of a committee to look into the matter. This committee represented a wide cross section of interested parties including the local community, the Gardai, Dublin City Council, Dublin Bus, Iarnrod Eireann, Bus Eireann and Croke Park. A number of local Councillors also participated.

In addition to the voluntary representatives on the committee Croke Park also funded professional help to undertake research and to look into the various solutions that might be recommended.

From the outset the committee accepted that any solution needed to adopt a "carrot and stick" approach. It was felt that people would need to be discouraged from parking close to the stadium if better use of public transport was to be achieved. The overall objective of the committee was to put in position a plan that minimised the impact of fans parking on match days.

This in turn led to the committee deciding to look at two distinct areas namely – a residents only match day parking scheme and a Park and Ride scheme that would encourage fans not to bring cars into the area.

Residents Only Parking

Whilst initially it was felt that it might be possible to introduce a "residents only parking scheme for match days" it was found that to do this would require a change in primary legislation.

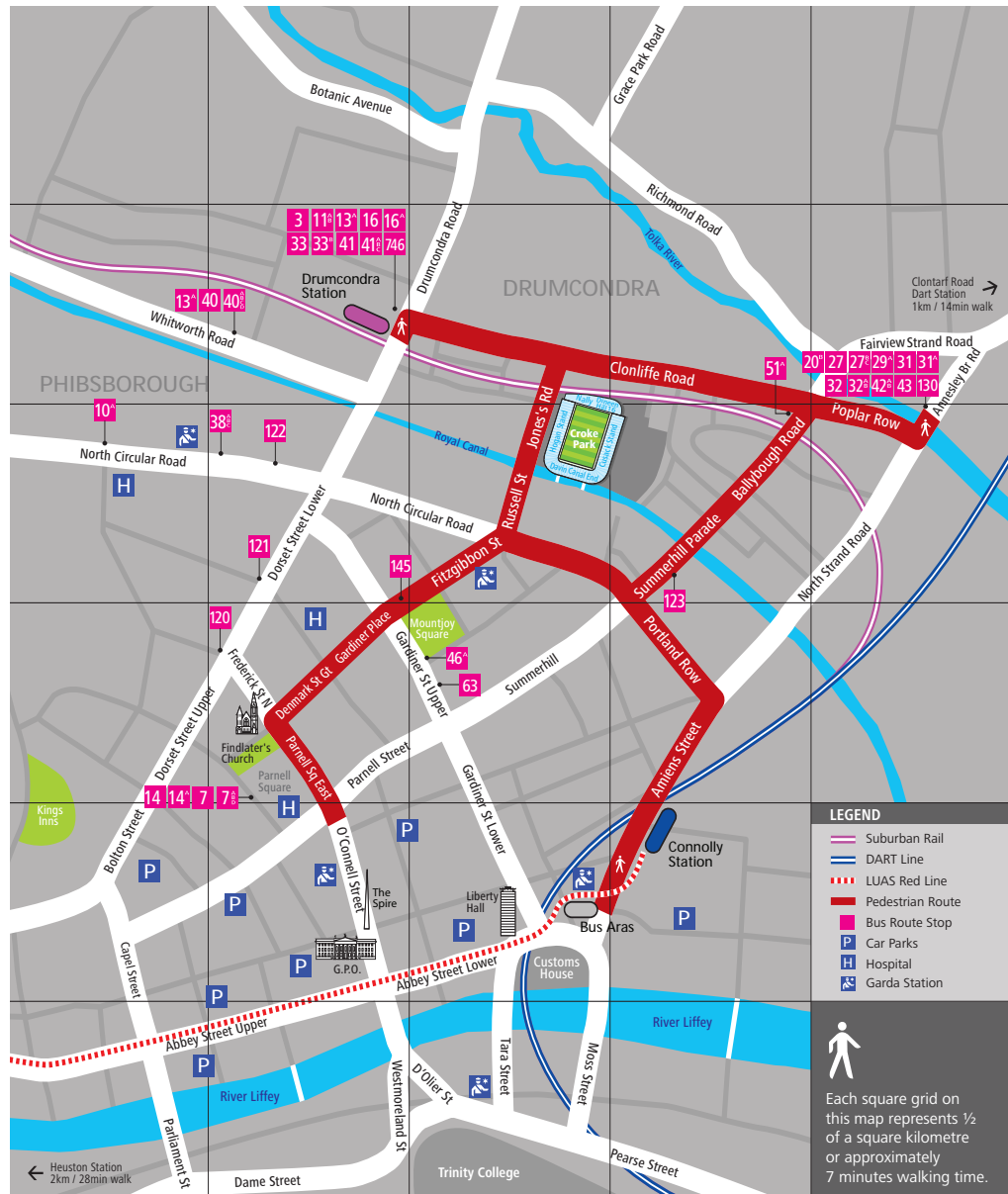
Presentations have been made to both the Minister for Transport and An Taoiseach. All were in agreement that such a scheme should be brought in.

In addition research was undertaken in the local area of Iona and over 90% of people said they would welcome such a scheme. The scheme is currently being progressed.

Park and Ride

The situation in relation to Park and Ride proved to be more problematic. A number of possible locations for such facilities were identified. These include Goffs, off the N7 which might take cars coming from the South and the National Exhibition Centre, off the Airport Road, which might facilitate cars from the North.

Advertisements were placed in national media looking for other outlets but the few replies these elicited proved to be unsuitable. Following further analysis it was felt that Park and Ride was unworkable for Croke Park for a number of reasons. Those reasons included the suitability of locations, the cost of operating these and



Pictured: The new map that was commissioned as part of an information campaign

most importantly the lack of success of Park and Ride schemes in the past when put in position for events such as the Tall Ships, the Tour de France and Christmas shopping!

It was noted, however, that the Governments Transport 21 initiative envisages serviced Park and Ride facilities around the Dublin commuter belt. It was agreed that Croke Park and Dublin City Council would monitor progress in this areas with a view to becoming integrated into such facilities as they come on stream.

The Existing Public Transport Network

During the course of its meetings the committee identified usage of the existing public transport system as being part of any solution going forward. It was noted that with the introduction of the LUAS, there was a stronger than ever public transport system. This now includes mainline rail, DART, LUAS and bus.

It was felt, however, that little had been done to promote this network to fans. It was further agreed that an extensive information campaign should be undertaken. At the heart of this campaign was the fact that it is relatively easy to walk to Croke Park from the nearest bus, DART, LUAS and mainline rail stations.

A new map was commissioned which is to be at the heart of the information campaign targeted at all potential Croke Park users. This will be promoted by way of a new leaflet, and an extensive advertising campaign.

The campaign is being supported by Dublin City Council, the GAA, the Gardai, Dublin Bus, LUAS, DART and Iarnrod Eireann.

