

## **NEWSLETTER TEXT**

Dear Resident

As I have said previously we want to keep you informed of all that is happening in relation to the stadium. Perhaps the most important item is the fixture list which sets out all of the major events planned for Croke Park in 2006. This is available on the website.

As you will see from the various items set out below there is a great deal happening at present. We are fully conscious that we are part of the local community and to that end we will continue to work to find ways of minimising the impact of stadium events on you our neighbours.

### **Welcoming Other Sports**

Undoubtedly the big news in relation to the stadium was the recent announcement that in 2007 we will welcome both rugby and soccer to Croke Park. As you will be aware the GAA took the decision to accommodate both sports whilst work was being carried out on the redevelopment of Lansdowne Road.

We will be working with both the IRFU and the FAI to ensure that their supporters will respect the wishes of the local community and that any additional disruption will be minimised.

### **Stewarding**

We are extremely conscious of the need for good stewarding on event days. To that end we joined forces with the IRFU and the FAI to create a Stewards Training Course. We developed this in association with FETAC. The resulting course has been recognised internationally. The first stewards to complete the course recently received their certificates from An Taoiseach. As part of their training it is explained to the stewards that we are part of a local community and that it is one of their duties to ensure that fans behave accordingly. We are confident that this initiative will help improve the situation for everyone on event days.

### **Floodlighting**

As I write this note we are finalising an application to introduce floodlights to Croke Park. They are, of course, a feature of all major modern stadia.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the floodlighting we have applied for is the best available. It has been designed to ensure that the majority of the light is contained within the stadium with the minimum of overspill. In the main the lighting will be mounted on the stands although there will be two lighting columns at the terraced end of the ground.

## **Concerts**

There will be three concerts in Croke Park during 2006. First up we have Bon Jovi who will play on Saturday, 20 May. The second concert by Robbie Williams will take place on Friday, 9 June and the third concert is Billy Joel which will take place on Saturday, 29 July. In each case we have applied for an extra hour in order to enable the artists derive the maximum lighting effects from what promise to be three great shows. The concert organisers and the stadium management will be meeting with the representatives of the local community to discuss arrangements well in advance of the concerns.

## **Independent Monitoring**

You will remember we commissioned an independent company to look at the stadium in relation to litter, parking and traffic on the days of big matches. Since then the company has also met with the relevant representatives of both the Gardai and Dublin City Council cleansing department to share their findings. These findings will be factored into the plans for 2006.

## **Park and Ride**

At the end of last year we set up a committee to look into the whole area of Park and Ride and to see how best we could discourage people from driving to games and parking in the local area. The committee which is jointly chaired by Croke Park and Dublin City Council also includes local councillors, representatives of Dublin City Council, an Gardai, Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann, Irish Rail and the office of the Director of Traffic.

The committee has met on a number of occasions and progress has most definitely been made. It is hoped to trial a Park and Ride initiative in June of this year. The committee is also examining the possibility of having Residents Only Parking Schemes on match days.

## **The Hotel**

Since our last newsletter the new Jurys Hotel at Croke Park is well up and running. We believe it is a real addition to amenities in the local area and we are delighted to see the support it has been receiving from the local community.

## **A New Agreement**

Currently we are working with the Croke Park Area Residents Alliance (CPARA) to put in position a meaningful agreement between Croke Park and the local community. At the suggestion of CPARA we have been delighted to work with an independent chairman to see how best the relationships can be managed for everyone moving forward. A number of meetings have taken place. We will keep you informed of progress.

**This Season**

I would like to once again take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and understanding last season. We do realise the impact major events have on the local community and we would like to reassure you that we will do everything we can to minimise the impacts of those events moving forward.

Best wishes.

Peter McKenna  
Stadium Director