

Re: Páirc Uí Chaoimh

A Ard-Mhéara agus Comhairleoirí,

I met Mr. Frank Murphy of the G.A.A. today, Thursday, May 20th when we discussed the proposed upgrading of the stadium at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. As members are aware the G.A.A. are seeking lands from the Council to provide a second full size G.A.A. pitch adjoining the existing pitch. As outlined in detail in previous reports this presents difficulties.

Today, Frank Murphy produced revised drawings but the proposal for the provision of a second G.A.A. pitch was still being put forward. It would appear that the only change in the submission made on 20th May, 2010 from the submission made in March, 2009 is that 1.81 acres of proposed hard landscaped area and access routes would be licenced to the G.A.A. as required rather than be sold to them and that land required for 300 car parking spaces would remain in the ownership of the City Council. The Council has not decided that 300 car spaces be provided in the Showgrounds. This and other related issues should be informed by the report of consultants who will be looking at proposals for the overall development of the Showgrounds and the Atlantic Pond.

I had asked previously whether it was possible to avail of facilities at Páirc Uí Ring or at Nemo Rangers and avoid the need for a second pitch at the Showgrounds.

Frank Murphy set out the reasons why he did not regard either of these options as feasible. In the case of Nemo Rangers he said that they would not be able to get sufficient access for their needs. There was not sufficient spare capacity to accommodate their requirements. In the case of Páirc Uí Ring he explained that this was a grass pitch and they did not want to change it. They wanted to provide an all-weather pitch and therefore Páirc Uí Ring was not suitable.

I then put forward a suggestion which might resolve the issue. I asked if the City Council were in a position to make lands available to the G.A.A. for a full size all-weather playing field on the Straight Road beyond the County Hall, beside the proposed Park and Ride facility, could this meet their requirements and eliminate the need for a second pitch at the Showgrounds. The lands on the Straight Road are fully serviced and are adjacent to shops and other amenities. They are served by public transport and will also have adequate car parking in the adjoining Park and Ride facility which will cater for up to 1,000 cars.

It is intended to have the Park and Ride facility in place and operational next year. Were this suggestion feasible it would also avoid the need for the G.A.A. to pay several millions for land as arises in the case of the Showgrounds location.

The G.A.A. are not in funds to meet the costs of upgrading the Stadium but I understand that they are in a position to secure funds for the provision of an all-weather pitch. This could be done quickly in the Straight Road location.

Frank Murphy said he would consider the suggestion and get back to me.

**J. GAVIN,
CITY MANAGER.**

20th May, 2010.