

Special Meeting Environment Recreation and Amenity Spc Wed 11th April 2018

Two items on the agenda: 1. Draft Performance and Busking Bye-Laws

2, Draft Parks, Open Spaces and Beach Bye Laws

Item 1 discussed only.

Item 2 will be discussed at the next meeting of the Environment Spc on 30th May 2.30pm

Cllr Donal Lyons :

Not against busking

Circle acts was a concern and where they would go to

Noise Levels

Code of Conduct : among the buskers themselves ?

Cathal Conchuir:

Battery Operated amplifications could be designated areas ?

Circle Acts designated pitches ?

Under 16 exploitation of children

Adult supervision

Simon Heaslip

How to police the 2-3 that create PROBLEMS

Cllr Terry O Flaherty

Very upset that amplification be allowed on the streets ...referring to business community

However this is up to SPC to recommend and inform the decision

Cllr Donal Lyons

Some submissions were replicated

Cllr Mike Crowe

Gone on long enough ... recommend the Bye Laws ...no merit to defer

Cllr Cameron

Broad agreement for recommended Bye-Laws

Work on both documents, Bye laws and code of conducts

The code of conduct has merits he saw where it worked during the height of the season

Cllr Cathal Conchuir

Soul of Heart of Galway

Very good ideas, marriage of both ideas

Drastic consequences if busking was banned

Designated pitches?

Cllr Colette Connolly

Need busking Bye-Laws

Problems for access/noise level

Permit System won't work

Children under 16 abuse of a child

Caroline Stanley

Own experience of busking and respecting the business community

Police had the power to ask you to stop playing or to break the crowd up

Access is easier for all than then as at that time traffic was driving down the streets

In relation to children being abused, there has been no reports of any criminal activity in relation to children busking

In relation to repeat submissions of similar nature , any campaign gives advice on what people may right ,to inform ,to educate , also outside submissions are valid as these are the people who come to the city for the atmosphere created by the buskers if this was taking away ,they may not come

Designated areas for circle acts in other areas may not work as they do not have footfall traffic and do not result in raising income for buskers

In relation to banning amplification, some instruments are louder than amps currently used, how do we differentiate between this level , monitoring

Roundtable discussions needed on the issue to bring all parties together

Asked how many Cllr had met or gone to meetings organised by the buskers

Cllr Mike Crowe

Recommend the roundtable discussions between all parties

Recommend that the document go as is to Councillor with Director of Services Recommendation

Director of Services, Gary Mc Mahon

Even if Bye-Laws were adopted by Councillors now, they would not become actionable by law for 2/3 months, so would not have affect over Summer

439 submissions received ,90% not in favour of Bye-Laws

Majority of duplications were those in favour of Bye-Laws

Open a debate around circle acts, define them?

Issues around children are already covered by Child Protection Laws , Begging Laws

2 or 3 buskers causing problems

Suspend movement on Busking Bye-Laws till August

Simpler Bye-Laws

Who will monitor?

Busking is a major tourist attraction

Roundtable discussion with busker ,businesses, city council ,gccn community network reps,gaurds

City Council would monitor code of conduct during Summer months

Paul Batty Environment Dept

Recommend distance of 35metres , report on busking and noise levels

Cllr Keane arrived late

Responsibility to the retailer

Ambient amplification

Weakness in the code of conduct

Dosent adequately deal with noise for retailers

Circle acts issues

Proposal

Bring the proposed Bye-Laws to the Council

Removal of clauses -Convene a roundtable discussion before this meeting

Roundtable discussions take place on May 2nd 2.30pm Room 48 City Hall

Addendum to note from the meeting of stakeholders

Although there was a good deal of effort on the part of the council staff to show how code of conduct could possibly work and great work by the buskers Nicole and Emma ,it seemed like the business community were adamant that Bye-Laws be brought in and all the Councillors there today ..Councillors present were

Cllr Terry O Flaherty

Cllr Billy Cameron

Cllr Colette Connolly

Cllr Cathal Conchuir

Cllr Peter Keane

None want to be seen to be against busking but a solution was not reached.

Richard Hardiman spoke of working on a solution for 15 years and they have not seen anything that has worked .

The real crux of the issue when it came down to it was three or four acts causing issues and nothing being able to be done about it

Plus the circle acts creating choke areas such as River Island /Easons etc .. moving them on wasnt a solution as they would start up somewhere else creating the same problem in another area.

Garda Peadar Ryan spoke of the difficulty to enforce a law on the size of the amplifier but if the law was brought in against size they would have to enforce it.

With relation to children under 16 , children would be seen under the eyes of the law as under 18 if the busking permit was issued and the need to have a guardian accompanying them. So this is a current issue with current draft bye-laws.

The meeting while amicable didn't really have any great outcomes.

There was of course issues everyone agreed with but at the end of the day come May 14th ... it looks like councillors will vote the Bye-Laws in .

They have left the business community and buskers to come together before then to iron out some of the issues which may be amended in the document . Which they have agreed to do ...

Diarmuid Kearney was there aswell who did the report for acoustics before and he didnt recommend decibels as way of countering noise levels as the impact from other sources of noise may have a contributng factor giving basically a false reading for the busker which may not be to there benefit .

One suggestion was permits are issued to all who want to busk but would be taken away if they became a nuisance or caused disturbances but how that is ironed out is another thing .

Plus maybe the busking byelaws could be brought in on a pilot basis to see how effective they are and how prohibitive they may be

