



COISTE CHONTAE AONTROMA

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

30th June 2015

Without Prejudice

Maria Toner
Secretary Casement Social Club
Casement Park
88- 104 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AN

Maria, a Chara,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Secretary of Antrim County GAA on behalf of the County Executive Committee and from the outset I want to expressly state the Antrim County GAA's strong ambition for the Ulster GAA Provincial Stadium to be built on the Casement Park site. The new Casement Park will continue to be Antrim's home ground and a place where we can develop and enhance the Association in Belfast and across our County. It will be a place for schools and clubs and for the entire Community young and old. This will bring Ulster GAA Football finals to Belfast for the first time since 1971 and the new Handball Centre in the stadium will ensure that Casement can also play host to Provincial Handball finals. I am confident that this is something that you and the all members of the Casement Park Social Club will support.

Antrim County GAA want a strong and mutually beneficial partnership with the Casement Park Social Club and are keen to re-establish trust in order for all us to work together to make the new Casement Park a reality.

Over the past number of months I have been involved in on-going discussions and engagement with the Casement Social Club Committee as part of the interim Casement Social Club Workgroup which involves representatives from the Social Club, Ulster GAA and the Casement Park Project Board. Antrim County GAA fully endorses and supports the on-going dialogue, discussions and subsequent agreements that have been reached by the workgroup and are keen that the work continues in a spirit of partnership. All discussions to date have been done in

Runaíl Proinsias Ó Coinne
ANTRIM GAA

Unit 2
Social Economy Village
18 Hannahstown Hill
Belfast, BT17 0XS
Tel 028 9030 0172
email secretary@antrim.gaa.ie





COISTE CHONTAE AONTROMA

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

line with the agreements of 28th March 2014 and 14th April 2014. Both agreements remain in place and serve as the road map for all on-going dialogue.

Since July 2013 the relationship between the Casement Social Club and Antrim County GAA has been fractious and this is something that we as an Executive Committee regret. We acknowledge that some of our actions up to this point were not conducive to the establishment and maintenance of a positive relationship, including the decision to issue letters to Social Club members over outstanding debt. Those actions were unnecessary and ill-judged. In order to build trust and to enhance good faith between both parties I would like to express our regret for these actions to the entire Casement social club membership and look forward to working with you to redress this hurt.

Casement Social Club has been an important part of the fabric of Antrim County GAA and has been a significant financial contributor to the on-going development of our County and I want to recognise that support formally. Indeed I would welcome the opportunity to attend a full meeting of the Casement Social Club to express that view in a public forum.

Ulster GAA have already committed to ensuring that the Casement Social Club will be included in the new Casement Park Provincial Stadium as outlined and agreed in the first and second agreement between all parties. Provision will be made for the Casement Social Club in the new Casement Provincial Stadium complex at an agreed location acceptable to the Casement Social Club membership. The nine-person committee as outlined in the first agreement will take forward the administration and operational issues for the new Social Club once the location and plans for the new Social Club are confirmed and agreed by the entire Casement Social Club Members. The Social Club's advisors have been provided with four options and we are awaiting final confirmation on the arrangements regarding the preferred location, so that revised drawings can be finalised. The Ulster Council of the GAA and Antrim County Committee GAA have already presented a number of potential location options within the new Casement Provincial Stadium through Heron Buckingham JV, and we hope the Trustees of Casement Social Club shall use their best endeavours to determine their preferred option promptly within the previously agreed parameters of detail around location, size, specification, independent access arrangements etc.



COISTE CHONTAE AONTROMA

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

As requested, by you, a legally enforceable commitment will be made by the Ulster Council of the GAA and Antrim County Committee GAA acting on behalf of the Trustees of Casement Park that provision will be made for the Casement Social Club on the redeveloped Casement Park site.

I want to also highlight as Ulster Council GAA has done in previous correspondence all the issues that we have agreed within the interim workgroup and these are outlined below:

- All memorabilia requested to date has been returned by Antrim GAA to the Casement Park Social Club care of a Club Trustee.
- A key to the oil tank will be provided to a Social Club representative for emergency access as requested.
- The Ulster Council of the GAA and the Antrim County Committee of the GAA have agreed to clear the outstanding VAT bill of the Casement Social Club discussed at previous meetings of interim Social Club workgroup.
- As requested, by your solicitors, we are currently preparing a response in relation to the £250k Diageo loan.
- As outlined and agreed in the first agreement between all parties interim premises will be provided at the previous agreed location. With the exception of the cost of rent which will be covered by Ulster GAA and Antrim GAA at approximately £25,000 per year, all other running costs and operational issues within the interim premises will be the responsibility of the Casement Social Club. As part of that work and at significant cost to the GAA, a planning application for the use of a temporary site was lodged last November 2014 to provide a modular building to accommodate the temporary re-location of Casement Social Club for approximately a two year period, with flexibility if required. This Temporary building will provide two bar areas, snooker room, darts area and ancillary space fitted out to the highest specification for the enjoyment of members. I would advise

Runaí: Prolinsias Ó Coinne
ANTRIM GAA

Unit 2
Social Economy Village
1B Hannabstown Hill
Belfast, BT17 6XS
Tel 028 9030 0172
email secretary@antrim.gaa.ie



COISTE CHONTAE AONTROMA

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

members that on 21st May 2015 Belfast City Council approved the planning application and that plans can now be made to move to begin construction. The total cost of providing this facility, when complete will be in excess of £500,000. These costs are being borne entirely by the GAA itself and represents a statement of intent by the Association to recognise the value and importance of the Social Club and of you as members within the fabric of Casement Park past, present and future.

Also the following items have already been provided.

- ✓ Outside lighting has been erected and put in place, at no cost to the Casement Social Club as requested.
- ✓ Heating Oil fills have been provided free of charge over the past year
- ✓ Heron Buckingham Joint Venture have agreed to provide a new membership and financial system in the existing Casement Park Social Club premises, which will be transferred to the interim premises and thereafter into the new permanent location within the Casement at a cost of approximately £9000 + VAT; this system has been ordered and the first payment has been made, and we are waiting to make the next payment.

Antrim County GAA are keen to commence a dialogue with representatives of the Casement Park Social Club. This could be done under the construct of the Ulster Council GAA/Casement Social Club interim work-group with Ulster GAA officials present or between both parties and if a Chairperson is required for the meeting former GAA President Peter Quinn has offered his services however if you would prefer a private meeting or another convenor we are content to work with your suggestions. It is my understanding that the Social Club committee have not responded to any of the recent requests by Ulster GAA to organise a meeting of the interim Casement Social Club workgroup and I would encourage all parties to commence meetings again under this construct.

Ruanal: Proinsias Ó Colúine

ANTRIM GAA

Unit 2
Social Economy Village
1B Hannahstown Hill
Belfast, BT17 0NS
Tel 028 9030 0172
email secretary@antrim.gaa.ie



COISTE CHONTAE AONTROMA

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

Finally I want to express the strong desire of Antrim County GAA to rebuild a meaningful relationship with the Casement Social Club and we will not be found wanting in terms of doing what is necessary to resolve any remaining issues.

Is mise Le meas

Frankie Quinn
Secretary- County Antrim GAA

CC: Members of the Casement Social Club

Runaí: Prolinsias Ó Colúine
ANTRIM GAA

Unit 2
Social Economy Village
18 Hannahstown Hill
Belfast, BT17 0XS
Tel 028 9030 0172
email secretary@antrim.gaa.ie

