

Item No. 6

A. Ballymun

Safer Ballymun

The last meeting of this forum took place on Tuesday June 13th in the Council Chamber, Ballymun Civic Centre. It was well attended on the night by DCC staff, local residents, public representatives and the Gardaí.

The Gardaí gave the crime statistics for the period since the last meeting on April 11th. This was followed by a presentation on a new Domestic Violence Unit which is running a pilot programme in Ballymun to deal with this issue. There was a long discussion on the crime and anti-social behaviour in Ballymun which a lot of residents feel has reached a new high. Residents reported living in fear of gangs and drug dealing in particular seems to be rife.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 8th, 2017.

B. Cabra

Concerns have been raised regarding the serious decline in community policing resources / service for the Cabra Policing Forum area.

Community policing service to the Cabra East area which is served by Mountjoy Garda station has severely depleted.

Service to the Annamoe area is practically non-existent due to unavailability of community at Bridewell Garda station.

In relation to the Cabra West area, the community policing unit has been reduced to four Gardai.

The community policing sergeant is now operating on a part time basis.

Also the recently appointed detective sergeant for Cabra station has been allocated to a new role in Blanchardstown Garda station.

Faussagh Avenue.

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve the appearance and safety on Faussagh Avenue, a new batch of flowers have been recently planted. Many thanks offered to DCC for the supply of these flowers.

Encouraging to note that there was no damage to plants or planters which were installed last year.

ID Required Project.

Stickers have been produced and ready for distribution. It is important that as many people as possible display these stickers to highlight the constant awareness and vigilance of the community regarding home security. If anyone has friends or neighbours who could benefit from these stickers please contact forum co-ordinator.

Luas Line

SSJV is working towards the big milestone of energising the lines and wires during May and the first tram tests around mid-June. The project has now matured to the final phase with the over head contact wire installed this coming weekend on the St. Stephens Green to Abbey St section. This is the final section of overhead contact wire to be installed and will result in a continuous line from Stephens Green to Broombridge. There is a complex testing and commissioning programme which started on Monday 22nd May. This testing programme will continue over the entire summer. **It is important to note that the wires are now live.**

Meetings are ongoing with Gardaí, DCC, local individuals, clubs, and organisations.

C. Drumcondra

Drumcondra/Glasnevin Community Forum

The last meeting of this forum took place on Wednesday March 29th in the Maples Hotel, Drumcondra. There was a large group of residents in attendance as well as DCC staff, local representative and members of the Gardaí from Santry and Mountjoy Garda Stations.

The Gardaí gave their reports for the period from the last meeting and various issues were discussed such as criminal damage to cars in the area, burglaries, graffiti, personal assaults and traffic issues especially illegal parking. Residents were advised by the Gardaí to maximise their personal safety at all times. Samantha Fahy from DCU gave a presentation on the plans DCU have in place to ensure all their students use a sustainable form of transport to and from the college.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 28th.

D. Finglas

The latest round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings took place as following:
Finglas West - Monday 24th April 2017 in St Fergal's Boys National School.
Finglas East - Monday 15th May 2017 in St Canice's Boys National School
Finglas South - Monday 22nd May 2017 in St Helena's Family Resource Centre.

There was good attendance at the three meetings with positive discussions and issues brought forward by the community to the Dublin City Council, Finglas Gardaí and elected representatives present.

Traffic issues:

Residents in attendance at the Finglas East meeting raised concerns about dangerous traffic congestion along Glasanaon road and the fallout in Fairways estate. A question was posed if a section of the park could be used for a car park to relieve the traffic at this area? Even if the traffic is removed from Glasanaon road with railings etc., the residents fear the traffic issue won't be solved but moved further into Fairways estate. While it is acknowledged there is a move, city wide, away from the Dublin City Council prioritising and facilitating the use of cars it was felt this could help solve this problem.

Residents also raised illegal parking and traffic congestion issues around the Village, especially by Iceland. Residents feel the loss of the parking warden in the village is a massive factor with the increase of illegal parking.

Quad bikes and scramblers:

Wide concern for the use of scramblers and quad bikes was raised at the Finglas South and Finglas West meeting. The main concerns centred around enforcement and seizures of bikes, legislation, exposure of the issue, parental responsibility, outlet for young people in Finglas who enjoy riding quad bikes to do so safely, and physical environment.

Following the public forums a SARA problem-solving meeting was held in The Den on Thursday 25th May. The impact of the bikes on the community was highlighted and various complexities to this issue.

A steering group will be created to look at ideas raised on the night. The Finglas Safety Forum coordinator is also hoping to attend the various summer projects in the area and speak to the young people about the quad bikes.

As there is currently little engagement from young people to help solve the issue, the Finglas Safety Forum, The Den and FYRC will work with young people with possible proposal to design a new leaflet.

The proposal for new CCTV cameras in Finglas South was met with positivity at the meetings. Residents also noted the work done to reduce the burglaries in Finglas East over the winter period, but concern was raised over current burglaries and other anti social behaviour in Finglas South including the response times across the area.

The Finglas Safety Forum continues to work with the community looking at actionable solutions and has met with many residents, resident groups and community groups since the last JPC. Following a meeting with different groups, the Finglas Safety Forum coordinator attended the Older Persons Expo and the Home School Liaison Wellness day to raise the profile of the Forum, answer any questions and give out relevant information about issues of concern including bogus traders, cyber safety and community impact of quad bikes.

The Finglas safety forum coordinator has also responded to issues of anti-social behaviour in Violet Hill, Mellowes Park and Kildonan; working with the residents, youth service and Gardaí.

The next round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings take place:

Finglas West - Monday 18th September 2017 in St Fergal's Boys National School.

Finglas East - Monday 25th September in St Canice's Boys National School

Finglas South - Monday 16th October in St Helena's Family Resource Centre.