

Item No. 10

A. Ballymun

The most recent meeting of this Forum took place on Tuesday October 24th in the Council Chamber, Ballymun Civic Centre. It was well attended on the night as it was also the beginning of Safety Week.

At the start of the meeting, six defibrillators were presented to various business groups in Ballymun. The Gardaí gave the statistics for the 6 week period since the last meeting. Issues discussed on the night included anti-social behaviour, drug dealing, residents concerns about material being gathered for use on bonfires and the upcoming Otherworld Festival.



Each year Safer Ballymun host a week of events known as Safety Week to promote safety in the Ballymun area. The week was launched at the local park run (5k timed run) in Poppintree Park. Dublin Fire Brigade and the Gardaí took part in this event with local groups and residents and other agencies. Over 100 people took part.

Other events included:

- A Safety talk by the Gardaí in a number of Senior Citizens complexes.
- Dublin Fire Brigade, Gardaí and Dublin bus gave a safety talk to the local junior schools in the area.
- The Ballymun Garda station held its annual open day which was visited by the local schools in the area.

- The local drugs task force held a Cyber Safety Talk for parents. A presentation of 6 defibrillators to local groups/businesses in the Ballymun area was made by the Local Drugs Task Force at the formal launch of the Safety Week.
- BADIG held a coffee morning to promote the work they do in the area.
- BRYR facilitated games in the local parks for young people on their midterm break from school. The idea of this was to promote using the parks safely.
- Safer Ballymun also sponsor the night leagues that are run by the local Gardaí for teenagers in the area for the month of October.

B. Cabra

Motorbikes at Christmas

Over the past number of years the problem on Christmas morning with motorbikes and scramblers has escalated. The forum are currently organising a leaflet drop alerting parents to the danger and nuisance caused by purchasing these machines as presents for Christmas. These leaflets will be distributed early December and will hopefully influence some parents to rethink their actions.

St Attracta Road

For a considerable time there has been drug dealing and antisocial behaviour on a constant basis at identified locations on St Attracta Road. The residents and the forum have been in regular contact with Gardaí and DCC in relation to this issue. However at Halloween the conduct escalated to a much higher level where building material was removed from a secure local building site to use in a bonfire on the road. The fire and the associated conduct led to serious fear and anxiety among local residents. Garda enquiries are ongoing.

Community Policing Cabra East

In recent times the forum has had numerous contacts regarding the decrease in sustained community policing service in the Cabra East area.

The forum co-ordinator has recently attended meetings with relevant Garda management in this regard and a further meeting will be held in January 2018 to review progress.

Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland

Extract from Commission web site

“The people of Ireland are entitled to have a professional and effective police service that they can trust and have confidence in to act not only within the law, but to the ethical standards appropriate to a modern police service; whose leadership and management have the capacity to provide such a service, to meet emerging challenges and to oversee and realise the benefits of ongoing reform initiatives; and that is subject to robust external oversight. To ensure that policing in Ireland continues to meet these expectations and commands the support of the Irish people it is appropriate that a Commission should be appointed to carry out a fundamental review of the role, structures, leadership and management, ethos and culture of policing and existing oversight and consultative arrangements. Such a fundamental review must encompass all functions carried out by An Garda Síochána (including community safety, state security and immigration) and the full range of bodies that have a role in providing oversight and accountability for their activities, including the Police Authority, the Garda Inspectorate, the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, Joint Policing Committees, the Department of Justice and Equality and Government having regard to the need for democratic and political accountability.”

Cabra Community Policing Forum has recently submitted a proposal to the above commission with emphasis on the need for a permanent community policing service.

Ongoing meetings with local Gardai

Ongoing meetings with Dublin City Council

Ongoing meetings with local individuals groups and organisations.

C. Drumcondra

Drumcondra Glasnevin Community Forum

The most recent meeting of this forum took place on Wednesday September 27th. Gardaí from Mountjoy and Santry Stations were present along with a large number of residents, DCC staff and local representatives.

Issues discussed on the night included anti-social behaviour in the area, in particular in and around Griffith Park, illegal parking, and the ongoing topic of the traffic trial taking place on Walsh and Ferguson Roads.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday December 6th.

D. Finglas

Introduction meetings/information exchange with services in Finglas.

Since taking up the position as the new Finglas Safety Forum Co-ordinator, Michelle McNally has taken the time to engage in various networking opportunities to introduce herself to and meet with the local people and groups within the community. Michelle is delighted to be working with the community, statutory bodies, elected representatives and organisations in this role and to continue doing so.

- Identify local social and amenity infrastructure in Finglas with Task Force Coordinator.
- Visit Finglas South and West area with Martin Hoey and Tony Byrne, Community Reps. Visit of Finglas South with two of the local residents from the area.
- Introductory visit to St Helena's Centre and meet with the manager and some of the project workers to obtain an overview of the various services/ facilities offered and provided at the Centre.
- Introductory meeting the Dublin City Council officers within the different departments.
- Networking meeting with Leon Kelly, Community Development Officer and opportunity to meet some of the local residents who attend the cooking group at Community garden, Greenview.
- Introductory visit to Finglas Centre and Better Finglas to obtain knowledge of the different services offered and provided at the Centre.
- Introductory visit to Odinswood Day Centre and an opportunity to meet and speak with some of the local residents that attend the day centre.
- Introductory visit to meet with some of the local project workers based at Finglas Youth Centre.
- Attended a half- day workshop that involved a discussion around how best to capture community development activities and whether community development and community

well-being can or should be measured. The workshop was set up as part of the project funded by Pobal entitled “Valuing Community Development through the SICAP programme”.

- Introductory visit to Finglas Gardaí Station to meet with the Community Policing Unit.
- Introductory visit to the Adult Education Service and subsequently gave a brief information session to one of the education classes attended by the travelling community, followed by discussion.

Attended the recent launch of the ‘Think Before you Buy’ campaign by Safer Blanchardstown aimed at raising awareness around recreational drug use and drug debt intimidation.

Safety Forum Meetings

The previous Finglas Safety Forum Meetings for the respective areas took place on the dates as follows:

Finglas East:

Monday 25th September, St Canice’s Boys’ National School, 7pm – 8.30pm

Finglas West:

Monday 2nd October, St Fergal’s Boys’ National School, 7pm – 8.30pm

Finglas South:

Tuesday 21st November, St Helena’s Family Resource Centre, 7:30 – 9pm

Finglas South

The main issues raised by the community at the recent Finglas South meeting were in relation to the following:

- Stop and search procedures of anyone under the age of 18. Gardaí notified residents that if there is suspicious activity/ interaction observed to report it to the Gardaí and they will respond and act appropriately.
- Break-ins at Dunsink and Wellmount area.
- Possibility of extra Community Garda within the Finglas area. Gardaí stated that an extra 18 guards in total would be coming to Blanchardstown and Finglas area but unsure of the extra number of Garda that will be based in the Finglas area. Gardaí also notified that they have extra resources on the ground; 2 extra patrol cars between 4pm-2am for both South and West Finglas as well as an extra-armed car.
- Litter on Scribblestown Lane not being fully cleared particularly at the bottom of the lane as it was noted Dublin City Council have cleared the top of the lane a number of times. Concern was raised regarding, what appears to be an issue over boundaries between Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council. DCC suggested going to the public reps in relation to this concern.
- Illegal dumping on Cloonlara Road and what action can be done in relation to it. Garda reminded residents to notify them and asked residents to ring 999 number.
- Confirmation requested if camera on St Helena’s Road can detect activity on Hazelcroft. Gardaí explained that the cameras are moved and controlled by the Gardaí but explained that they do not turn 360 degrees. Gardaí also stated that an anti-vandal pole has been ordered and to be fitted on Ratoath Drive. Also, Gardaí explained the camera on Barry has been upgraded to a high- defence camera to increase visibility.
- Concern over pedestrians crossing at Tesco’s, Clearwater due to the lighting not working. Dublin City Council explained that the entrance of Tesco’s is Tesco’s own responsibility and not DCC’s responsibility.

- On-going issue/concern around the use of quad bikes raised particularly around Berryfield area. Michelle agreed to follow up and get an update of the discussions and the previous meeting that was arranged by the former Finglas Safety Forum Co-ordinator. Michelle assured residents she would arrange a further meeting with them in respect to this issue. Michelle informed that would be linking in with and circulating a poster over the coming weeks to the local schools/ youth services/ community centres highlighting the danger and safety concerns of using quad bikes/ scramblers.
- Grass cutting not been lifted. DCC explained that DCC contacted the Parks' Inspector and contractor has agreed to lift the grass cuttings.
- Two kissing gates at the top of Berryfield have previously been requested but have not been put in place.
- Query over completion of the final roof in Scribblestown. DCC explained that the roof in question is not a flat roof issue.
- Possibility of extra cameras being installed within the area was raised. Gardaí notified residents they are waiting on paperwork back from the Commissioner to confirm if funding has been approved. Gardaí explained they have submitted their full application and presentation to the CCTV advisory has been done.
- Barrier near the front of Tesco's has been damaged a number of months and nine bars currently missing. Community rep explained this issue/concern has been raised before at the combined residents association meeting.
- Age limit in relation to young people getting access to fill petrol cans. Gardaí advised that they encourage garages not to sell petrol to the youths. Gardaí stated it is not a Gardaí prosecution but rather a civil prosecution and that he is unaware of any legalisation to state otherwise.

Finglas West

The main issues raised by the community at the previous meeting were as follows:

- Litter Warden needed in Finglas
- Horses starting to appear again on greens (there has been a DCC/Garda operation on this since)
- Garda & DCC asked residents to notify them about storing of bonfire material
- Garda asked residents to ring 999 number

Garda reported that there had been few incidents being reported to them in relation to the Abigail Centre

Michelle McNally, Finglas Safety Co-ordinator, to arrange to liaise with Gardaí and Dublin City Council and follow up on issues rose at the previous Safety Forum meeting.

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Major issues raised by residents:

- Dangerous parking along Ballygall Ave during school rush hours.
- Theft from residents' cars in the Fairways Estate.

Current project

The Finglas Safety Forum coordinator has designed and begun distribution of a poster to highlight the safety issues around use of quad bikes/ scramblers and try to deter parents

from purchasing such vehicles for their children in the lead up to Christmas. The poster highlights the noise and disturbance these vehicles can cause for neighbours and the local community as well as highlighting the fatalities that have and can occur as a result of misuse of these vehicles. The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator has circulated the poster via email to the local Home School Liaison Officers within the area and is planning to disseminate a number of posters to the local youth and community centres as well as the local sport clubs and schools. Poster has been sent to Northside People for circulation on 06/12/17.