

Item No. 6

A. Ballymun

The most recent meeting of this Forum took place on Tuesday April 10th in the Council Chamber, Ballymun Civic Centre. It was well attended on the night by members of the public, the Gardaí and local representatives.

The meeting began with 3 presentations:

- John O'Donoghue from Ballymun Tidy Towns gave an update on the work of this group and their plans for the future
- Lisa Swift gave an update on the Poppintree Park Run which takes place every Saturday morning and encouraged people to take part
- Kenneth Coakley of BRYR gave details of the upcoming Ballymun Running Festival on 8th & 9th May.

Following these, an extensive discussion took place about the ongoing anti-social behaviour in Ballymun. Several residents expressed their anger at what they regard as a total breakdown of law and order. Begging outside shops, open drug dealing, and gangs of youths hanging around and intimidating people were just some of the problems mentioned. Residents also expressed their frustration at the lack of visible policing in the area.

The meeting concluded with the following agreements:

- Leona Fynes to write to the JPC to pass on the concerns raised tonight.
- Leona Fynes to write to the Superintendent to invite him to the next meeting and to speak to him in the meantime about the issues raised.
- Leona to request a member of the Drug Unit to attend the next meeting on June 12th.

The next bi-monthly Safer Ballymun meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 12th.

A follow up meeting with DCC and the Gardaí, including Superintendent Brian Daly and several of his senior staff, took place on April 25th. Mary Taylor explained that this meeting was to highlight the issues raised by residents at the Safer Ballymun meeting on April 10th.

Superintendent Daly said that 60% of his current personnel are probationary Gardaí but he is expecting an increase in personnel in the immediate future. Many of his experienced staff have been transferred and his resources are low. He supplied a document to those present outlining details of both this increase and details of the proposed SAP (Small Area Population) policing method being introduced in the H District. Additional Gardaí will be assigned to hot spot areas particularly in Ballymun to address both drug and Public Order issues. He said he has confidence these measures will address the concerns residents have and said he is in favour of monthly meetings with DCC to discuss progress. Superintendent Daly also said he will prepare a presentation for the next Safer Ballymun meeting.

It is proposed a further meeting of this group be held on Friday June 8th, prior to the Safer Ballymun public meeting.

B. Cabra

Issues raised at the recent forum meetings

Reports of a large group of young people, male and female gathering at varying locations in Cabra West and City Centre. The concern was raised with regard to the aggressive and potentially dangerous conduct of these young people. The forum has met with local Gardaí and Cabra 4 Youth to establish the identity of these people with a view to a targeted response.

Concerns were also raised regarding the dangerous driving of motorbikes through the Cabra area. Gardaí in Cabra are in process of identifying those responsible.

There was a notable increase in crime/drug dealing in the general New Cabra Road area.

In relation to local Cabra Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme, Cabra 4 Youth have submitted an agreed proposal to manage an area which includes sections of the DMR West and DMR North City areas. This will involve the Cabra Garda Station sub district in DMR West and the Cabra East and Annamoe areas which are part of DMR North City.

Ongoing meetings with Gardaí, Dublin City Council, local individuals, groups and organisations.

C. Drumcondra

The most recent meeting of this forum took place on Wednesday March 21st in the Maples Hotel, Drumcondra. Gardaí from Mountjoy and Santry Stations were present along with a large number of residents, DCC staff and local representatives.

Garda Lynch gave the statistics for the period since the last meeting and noted an increase in the number of thefts from MPV's. Inspector Gallagher and Garda Dooley introduced themselves to the meeting and confirmed that 35 new Gardaí are being appointed to the North Central area in April and that 17 of those will be stationed in Mountjoy Station.

A new operation, Operation Tugboat has been set up which will target robberies to businesses and also thefts from MPV's. Crime in the area is relatively quiet at present and Public Order offences are down on this time last year but residents were encouraged to report any incidents of concern. The Gardaí were thanked for their excellent response to the recent heavy snow. It was reported that cars were parked in front of the bollards on Walsh Road, blocking the path of the emergency services – Mary Taylor clarified that the emergency services are aware that the roads have collapsible bollards. Residents requested if the bollard on the footpath could be made more visible as it was hard to see in the dark. Mary Taylor gave an update on behalf of Dublin City Council and spoke about bin tagging (instructions on how to use these to be circulated at next meeting) and the Discretionary Fund. There was a discussion about the traffic consultation on Walsh and Ferguson Roads and Mary said a report is to go before the North West Area Committee on April 17th after which a decision will be made by the Traffic Department. A discussion on city cycle lanes and DCC's

plans for same followed. Many residents said cyclists had no regard for the safety of pedestrians and often cycled at speed and without lights. Mary encouraged Residents Associations to contact DCU and St. Pats directly.

Residents queried why there are so many traffic lights between the Skylon Hotel and St. Pats – Mary noted that the query had gone to the Traffic Department. Residents requested a representative from the parks department to attend the next meeting. Other issues discussed included the Metro North, the bulky household waste collection service, traffic issues such as cars double parked (which need to be reported to the Gardaí) and the recent renaming of Drumcondra Bridge.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday June 20th.

D. Finglas

The second round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings of 2018 took place on the following dates:

Finglas East and Meakstown - Monday 30th April 2018 in St Canice's Boys National School.

Finglas West - Monday 14th May 2018 in St Fergal's Boys National School.

Finglas South - Monday 21st May 2018 in St Helena's Family Resource Centre.

At the Finglas East Forum meeting in January, some members from Meakstown Community Council asked about the possibility of Finglas Safety Forum organising an additional forum meeting specifically for the Meakstown area.

A number of matters needed to be taken into consideration before a decision to organise an additional forum meeting was made. Thus, a meeting was convened in February by the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator with the Gardaí, community representatives and the Task Force Coordinator in attendance. Following discussion, there was a consensus agreement that, rather than hold a 4th meeting, to invite a representative from Fingal County Council to attend the existing meetings in Finglas East area along with representation from the Gardaí and Dublin City Council. It was also decided to rename the Finglas East meetings as 'Finglas East and Meakstown' as a way to promote and increase inclusivity.

There was representation from Fingal County Council at this meeting. The increase in the number of residents in attendance was not anticipated. Efforts were made to manage the meeting as best as possible. Despite this, a number of residents had expressed their disappointment with both areas combined into one forum meeting. Some of the views/ comments made by residents were mainly in relation to the one forum meeting not being practical nor suffice to cater for the large number of both Finglas East and Meakstown residents due to the inadequate amount of time to ensure everyone who wishes to raise their issue(s) has the opportunity to do so.

Given the feedback received from some residents, the Finglas Safety Forum plans to reconvene a meeting with the relevant stakeholders to look at alternative ways forward in advance of the next meeting as this format did not work well.

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

- Potholes requiring attention e.g. Sycamore Road was raised.
- Issue around parking at Clune Road, Finglas Village and the bottom of North Road was raised and the worry that there could potentially be a significant increase in traffic, if and when, the crèche opens. It was noted that a traffic plan would be required. Illegal parking on Lanesborough Road was also raised.
- Issue around break-ins in areas such as Clune Road and Hampton Road were raised. Concern of around 10-15 individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour in the Ballygall Parade area and Glasanoan Court e.g. throwing objects at houses was also raised. Issues were also raised in relation to anti-social behaviour, drug-dealing, intimidation, armed robbery and begging in the Cityside area.
- Jamestown Road, St Margaret's Road and Jamestown Road: Lack of traffic safety and a need for improvements due to huge exposure of traffic, speeding and concern regarding pedestrians' safety was raised. Concern in relation to the crossing from Hamptonwood to Mayeston was also noted.
- Canice's Church: Suggestion for a pedestrian crossing to be put in place at the steps of the Church and/or possible children crossing signs to encourage drivers to slow down was made.
- Baleskin Centre: Concern around reported drug dealing happening at the Centre was raised.
- Concern regarding gangs of around 30 individuals hanging around the Four Star on McKee Avenue/Food Fare throwing stones at these shops and smashing bottles/cans was raised.

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

- Joyriding: A Suggestion was made that tougher legislation needs to be implemented for the individuals involved in the joyriding incident that occurred in the Berryfield area on 11/05/18. Concern regarding the passageway way that leads into Berryfield from Dunsink was raised, particularly, when children are out playing/walking in this area and cars speeding.
- Ratoath Road/Dunsink lane: it was noted that horse owners need to have an enclosed area to keep their horses in.
- Juvenile Liaison Office (JLO) process: Clarity was sought on how this process is operating and how frequent referrals are being made as there are major problems with young individuals offending.
- Abigail Centre: Update on plans on where the Centre would be moving was requested.
- On-going dumping in Northway estate, St Michael's lane, Casement Drive/Road, Ratoath Road/ Dunsoghly/ Church Street/ St Fergal's lane and on Plunkett Road was raised. Resident also raised issue of dumping at St Canice's Court due to a fire recently in this area.
- Anti-social behaviour- Mellows Park: Concern of groups of teenagers around 12-13 years of age engaging in anti-social behaviour, drinking, drug taking and fighting happening in the park particularly in the good weather was raised.
- Drug dealing: On-going concern of individuals openly dealing drugs in Fergal's lane, Patrickswell, Barry Drive and Cappagh Road was raised.
- Northway Estate: Given the recent case of a young man convicted of child pornography charges, it was suggested that the community should be notified/alerted generally of such individual(s) if they are living locally within the area.

- Village Inn Pub: Issue of graffiti on the footbridge walls and some individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour was raised, e.g. smashing glasses directly outside the pub.

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

- Dumping on Cloonlara Road was raised e.g. tree waste being dumped over the garden wall covering the road sign bollard onto the grass verge.
- The joyriding incident that occurred at Berryfield on 11/05/18 was raised.
- Gortmore Avenue: Complaints of dogs roaming the streets was raised.
- Finglas Village: Request was made for the area to be cleaned up especially when tourists are in the area on the historical tours. Issue around potholes on the main road was also raised. Discretionary Funding: It was noted that €100,000 has been approved towards enhancing and improving the Finglas Village area.
- Drake Inn Pub onto the N2 road: A tree on the main N2 blocking the view of cars was raised.
- Tolka Valley Park: Request was made for the railings to be redesigned as they are not very attractive for the area.
- Cardiffsbridge Road/ Dunnes Stores: Request was made if Dublin City Council could talk to Dunnes about removing the barbwire on top of the wall as it very much an eye sore to the area.
- Berryfield Road /Valeview Crescent: Request was made for the Council to extinguish this laneway. It was noted that the laneway is used by most residents and it was agreed with the Council for two bollards to be put in place at this location.
- Berryfield Road: Request for a test to be done to examine the water was made as residents reports they are getting infections from the water.
- Roundabout at Valeview Crescent: Request for the roundabout to be redesigned due to it being at a 70-degree angle causing safety concerns was made.

Recent plans for additional cameras to be installed within the area received positive responses and feedback from the community. Gardai noted that some the locations where these cameras will be installed include the junction at St Helena's Road, Ratoath Road, Cardiffsbridge Road, Tolka Valley Road and Broombridge/Ballyboggan Road. Gardai thanked Dublin City Council for providing funding assistance to install these additional cameras within the Finglas area.

Quad bikes and scramblers:

The issue and safety dangers associated with quad bikes/ scramblers have been raised at all three recent forum meetings. The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator is planning to hold a meeting with the Gardaí, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, local TD's and councillors as well as community representatives and members from community youth projects within the area to discuss and look at potential solutions to help tackle this issue. The meeting is scheduled to take place on 7th June. In addition, the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator has met with some of the local residents in the community to establish their views on ways to help tackle this issue. Gardaí noted that over several months they have been liaising with Tesco's, Clearwater in respect to this issue and, as a result, Tesco's, Clearwater

have implemented a policy whereby they will not sell fuel to any unregistered quad bike.

Research project:

Finglas Safety Forum is planning to undertake a safety survey to ascertain the perceptions of safety among residents living and working in the Finglas Community Safety Forum catchment area. The views of those who attend the forum meetings are essential to the work of Finglas Safety Forum, however, it is also important to hear and include the opinions of the wider population of Finglas. The desired outcomes of this survey is to build knowledge and understanding of barriers that impede participation at the forum meetings as well as to inform stronger and wider community engagement across all social groups within the local area at the forum meetings.

Next round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings for 2018:

Finglas East and Meakstown - Monday 17th September 2018 in St Canice's Boys National School.

Finglas West - Monday 24th September 2018 in St Fergal's Boys National School.

Finglas South - Monday 8th October 2018 in St Helena's Family Resource Centre.