

A. Ballymun

4th of December 2018

The Safer Ballymun meeting was held on the 4th of December. The Dance Academy in the Ballymun Regional Youth Resource centre (BRYR) presented an overview on 2018. The presentation concluded with a display of dance. Some young people spoke of their experience with the dance troop. They noted the importance for youths in the area to have access to such a service as it helped to avoid antisocial activities. The Gardaí gave an update on the policing stats for the Ballymun Area. Sergeant Andy O'Connor of the Drug's Unit gave an update on the quantity of drugs seized in the area and encouraged residents to contact him in confidence with any information they may have. It was noted how joyriding of stolen cars has increased in the area.

12th of February 2019

The Safer Ballymun meeting started with a presentation from the Ballymun Action Disability Group. It highlighted the problems residents with disabilities have in accessing areas of Ballymun. A brief video showed the access issues caused by parking cars on footpaths.

Robert Murphy (Tidy Towns) gave a presentation on the work the Tidy Towns Committee undertake throughout the year and made a request for people to join their team.

The Gardaí gave an update on the policing stats for the Ballymun Area since the December meeting. Inspector Paul Murphy was introduced as the new Inspector to the Ballymun Area. The residents commended DCC and An Garda Síochána for their work in the area.

The next Safety meeting is scheduled for April 9th

B. Cabra

An awareness leaflet was distributed to all homes in the Cabra area alerting residents to the dangers associated with using cannabis. A leaflet and poster campaign took place in December advising parents around the dangers and nuisance of motor and quad bike activities.

A media and poster campaign was launched at Christmas providing 12 Tips for a Safer Christmas.

A safety forum meeting was held in January 2019, the following matters were discussed:

- Residents showed appreciation for the awareness campaigns and An Garda Síochána's action around bike/quad activities at Christmas. Gardaí at Cabra reported a number of vehicles were seized and numerous arrests made.
- Residents welcomed the new facilities at Cabra Garda station to cater for the deaf community in the Cabra area.
- Concerns were raised again regarding the depletion of resources in the Cabra/Finglas Drugs Unit.
- Serious concerns were raised regarding antisocial behaviour (ASB), drug abuse/dealing and serious violence in and around the St Attracta Road area. Following a discussion on Garda resources, particularly community policing, the Forum co-ordinator suggested to invite the Garda Commissioner to meet with Cabra Community Policing Forum to discuss this issue.

- In relation to young people engaging in ASB and minor assaults in the Cabra area, it was agreed that a targeted response is needed to identify and challenge those involved.
- The Gardaí and Dublin City Council were thanked for their assistance at the local Christmas Tree Lighting and Community Fair.
- It was noted the process for the closure of the laneway at the rear of Faussagh Avenue shops had commenced.
- Concerns were raised again regarding issues of car parking at Broombridge LUAS station.

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

C. Finglas

The first round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings for 2019 took place on the following dates:

Finglas East –Monday 28th January in St Canice’s Boys National School.

Finglas West - Monday 11th February in St Fergal’s Boys National School.

Finglas South – Monday 18th February in St Helena’s Family Resource Centre.

The main issues raised at the Finglas East meeting were as follows:

- A request was made for the lighting on Grove Park Avenue to be reviewed.
- Attempted break-ins at Fairways Estate was noted.
- Cars stolen in the Ballygall area.
- Ongoing issue around the misuse of quad bikes and scramblers was raised e.g. noise, risk to safety of motorists and pedestrians. A question of users holding a valid licence and tax was raised. A request to block the ‘escape route’ on Ballygall Parade/Crescent.
- Illegal dumping at Glasanaon Road, Mother of Divine Grace and Ballygall Crescent was reported.
- Issue of rat infestation in the Maisoneettes on Ballygall Crescent and Grove Park was raised.

The main issues raised at the Finglas West meeting were as follows:

- Reports of horses kept on the green area at Dunsink Avenue.
- Request for Dublin City Council (DCC) to review public lighting on Dunsink Drive.
- Reports involving shop lifting at local shops.
- Ongoing anti-social behaviour at Cardiffsbridge Road Shops and reports of alleged drug dealing at Tesco’s Express, Spar shop and the Church of Annunciation was raised.
- Concerns raised with regard to begging outside Lidi, Aldi, Statoil garage (North Road) and McDonald’s.
- A number of cars were reported damaged on Plunkett Road and Casement Road.
- Illegal dumping at Fergal’s Lane, St Michael’s School laneway and the green area opposite Erin’s Isle was raised.

The main issues raised at the Finglas South meeting were as follows:

- A rise in the theft and damage to cars in the area.
- The ongoing issues relating to scramblers and quad bikes, specifically in the Cardiffsbridge Road area. A Request for DCC to install railings on the green beside Dunnes Stores, Cardiffsbridge Road.
- Illegal dumping was reported at St Helena's Road, Barnamore, Scribblestown, Valeview, Cloonlara Road, Tolka Valley Road and Hazelcroft Green. A request for additional litter bins was noted.
- A request for increased Garda visibility in the area.
- A request for DCC to install hoarding around the Church of Annunciation to help prevent anti-social activity.
- A request for the Taxi Rank in Finglas Village to be relocated.
- A request for DCC to examine newly erected speed signs in the area as they are causing confusion.

Business Watch Scheme

At the end of last year, the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána invited local businesses to participate in the Business Watch Scheme held at Finglas Garda Station. There was reasonable interest and a number of local businesses attended. An invite to launch the scheme will issue shortly.

D. Drumcondra Glasnevin

The most recent meeting of this forum took place on Wednesday 28th November. It was well attended by local residents, public representatives, DCC and Gardaí from Mountjoy and Santry Garda Stations. The Gardaí discussed the latest crime statistics for the period since the last meeting. Some residents expressed concerns over an increase in the number of burglaries and a decrease in the number of detections. Griffith Park was mentioned as an area of concern, although it was noted that the shrubbery has been cut back and the public lighting has been checked and found to be adequate. Gardaí reported a spike in the number of phishing calls and warned residents to be vigilant. They advised to ring 999 or 112 in case of emergency.

Mary Taylor, DCC gave an update from the previous meeting. A number of public domain issues were discussed, these include leaves on Griffith Avenue, the presence of knotweed at Glasnevin Hill as well as other issues such as blocked gullies and lights in need of repair. Mary explained the procedure on the allocation of the discretionary budget for the North West Area following a question raised by a resident. The meeting concluded with a general discussion on noise pollution in the area. Many residents felt they should be represented by DCC in discussions involving Bus Connects, the Metro link and proposed new bus corridors.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 20th.

