

Item No.5

A. Ballymun

The last Safer Ballymun meeting took place in February, due to the COVID pandemic no meetings of this scale has taken place in line with public health guidelines.

At the February meeting, Mary Weir presented the Safer Ballymun Action Plan 2020 -2023. The plan was well received and widely welcomed on the evening. On July 22nd a Safer Ballymun Steering Group meeting was held to progress the implementation of the plan. Once the plan has been agreed and signed off by An Garda Siochaná it is proposed that we will commence implementing actions were possible in the current circumstances. It is also proposed that the Safer Ballymun Steering Group is extended to include young people.

We continue to engage with the community on any safety matters of concern and follow up on same. Our Housing Manager and Project Estate Team have continued to liaise and work closely with the local Gardaí to investigate any complaints received. We are available by appointment to meet any residents or Safer Ballymun attendees if required.

In light of the current public health guidelines/restrictions it is not possible to conduct a Safer Ballymun meeting in the traditional way. We are currently exploring options for future meetings and will continue to liaise with residents, residents associations, public reps, group and organisations within the area to deal with any matters or concern or identify issues.

It was previously agreed that we would look at the option of engaging a Safer Ballymun Co-ordinator, however, this process was stalled during the pandemic and we continue to keep it under review.

Our Halloween plans are well underway and we will do all possible to eliminate bonfire materials in advance. We are meeting Gardaí in Ballymun on Friday 18th September to put an operations plan in place. Unfortunately, our Otherworld Halloween Festival will be scaled back this year due to the pandemic.

Jackie O Reilly
A/Area Manager

B. Finglas

Due to the COVID Pandemic, the last of the Finglas Safety Forum meetings of 2020 occurred in January. In adherence with Government Guidelines it is not feasible to arrange public Forum meetings in the respective areas of Finglas. The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator, has and, will continue to contact residents involved in the Forum to discuss any safety related concerns.

The following policing issues have been raised by members of the community via telephone/email to the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator:

- Groups of individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour e.g. property vandalism in the Barry area, namely Barry Park.
- Multiple reports of drug litter/paraphernalia in Northway Park.
- Anti- social behaviour occurring at the shops on Cardiffsbridge Road e.g. drug dealing.
- Drug taking and dealing occurring at Kildonan Park and Mellows Park.
- Reports on the use of illegal fireworks and bangers, notably on Wellmount Green and Crescent.
- Numerous reports of anti-social behaviour occurring in the Ballygall area, Finglas East including drug dealing, illegal dumping, joyriding and begging occurring at the Ballygall shops.
- Anti-social behaviour e.g. property vandalism on Casement Grove.
- Drug dealing/ taking occurring at the vacant maisonettes in the Ballygall area.

Drug use/dealing drug litter/paraphernalia

Residents of Northway Estate raised numerous concerns of individuals entering the park and engaging in drug use/dealing with a significant amount of drug litter/ paraphernalia being found in Northway Park.

The Finglas Safety Forum has liaised with the outreach worker based at Finglas Addiction Support Team (F.A.S.T) who, in turn, has engaged with some of the individuals and linking/signposting them to support services deemed relevant i.e. the homeless services and addiction services.

The Finglas Safety Forum recently coordinated a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss potential solutions to try combat such issues. It was agreed that the Finglas Safety Forum would draft a flyer detailing appropriate contact details of who to contact in DCC to dispose of drug litter safely and minimise risk to public health and safety. The flyer will be circulated to all residents in Northway Estate.

A flyer was also recently circulated to Barry Close residents detailing contact details of various agencies to report drug activity. As a result a number of reports have been passed onto local Gardaí.

Michelle McNally
Safety Coordinator