

Item No. 5

A. Ballymun

Due to ongoing restrictions and in line with public safety guidelines, no public forums/safer Ballymun meetings have taken place this year. Our Housing, Public Domain and Community Development teams continue to link in with residents and vulnerable citizens to ensure that we continue to offer on-going support to all and address concerns/safety issues as they arise. We explored the option of holding on-line public safety meetings but there was little or no desire from residents to attend such meetings. We are hopeful that we will be in a position to arrange a public safety forum in the coming months as restrictions ease in line with the guidelines.

The main safety matters of concern raised over the past few months are:

- Reports of open drug dealing around the Courts and St. Josephs Hill
- Shangan Area (increased tension arising from local feud)
- Dolmen Court open drug dealing
- Damage to the Town Centre CCTV system
- Large gatherings of youths around Poppintree Parade shops
- Large gatherings of youths at the '7 pitches' area.

Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána meet regularly to address the above concerns, and other concerns raised by residents. In relation to the above safety matters, a number of actions were agreed and implemented. At the '7 pitches' site, Dublin City Council removed a boundary fence and a container and completed a full clean-up of the site. This has proven successful as it has significantly reduced organised gatherings at this location and has increased visibility into the site. In relation to St Joseph's Hill, Dublin City Council has requested a proposal for a housing development on this site.

The Gardaí have continued with operation Wreath throughout the summer and this has seen a positive impact on the area.

Figures in the table below represent the number of complaints received and interviews held by the DCC Project Estate Team from Jan to Aug 2021:

Estate Management January (8 months)

No of Anti-social complaints per 1997 act Drug Related	120
No of Anti-social complaints per 1997 act Not Drug Related	117
No of other Complaints	107
Total Complaints	344
No of Anti-Social Interviews per 1997 act (Drug Related)	94
No of Other Interviews	68
Total Interviews	162

Our Housing Manager and Project Estate Team have continued to work closely with local Gardaí to follow up and investigate complaints as received. We are available by appointment to meet any residents or Safer Ballymun attendees as required.

The Safer Ballymun Plan 2021-2024 was approved and adopted in March 2020. Following the last Joint Policing Sub Committee meeting on 21st June a number of commitments have been agreed between Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána and the Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force including:

- To re-establish the Safer Ballymun Steering Group.
- To appoint an External Safety Coordinator to coordinate the delivery of the Action Plan (it is proposed that the position will be advertised by early November).
- An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council have met monthly to address areas of concern and issues raised by residents and public reps. Short term actions have been agreed and implemented to address anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in specific locations.

B. Finglas

The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator, in conjunction with Dublin City Council and the local Gardaí, agreed to hold the Safety Forum meetings, online via zoom.

The meetings in the respective areas of Finglas took place via zoom on the following dates:

Finglas West – Wednesday 19th May.
Finglas South – Monday 24th May.
Finglas East – Thursday 17th June.

The meetings had very little representation from the community. The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator acknowledged apologies from local residents, some due to personal reasons and others expressing concerns that they were uncomfortable joining a meeting online.

The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator conducted a questionnaire via survey monkey to ascertain resident's views on whether they would prefer the Safety Forum meetings online or in person (subject to government guidelines). Over 80% of residents who completed the short survey expressed a wish to meet in person. Some acknowledged that they would not participate online due to feeling uncomfortable joining an online meeting and/or technology limitations.

Having reviewed the last round of meetings via zoom - and considered the feedback received from residents - the proposal is that by year end the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator will be in a position to arrange Safety Forum meetings in a suitable venue that will allow for social distancing, subject to Government guidelines.

The main policing issues raised individually to the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator since the last JPC meeting are as follows:

- Ongoing anti-social behaviour occurring in Johnstown Park.
- Reports of drug dealing occurring in the Ballygall Parade area.
- Increasing reports of drug paraphernalia found in the Finglas West Area.
- Drug dealing and drug use occurring at Barry Avenue/Road/Drive/Close/Park, at the Barry shops and in the public parks in the Finglas West area.
- Reports of large groups of individuals gathering bonfire material at Dunnes Stores car park and also reports of fireworks going off.

The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator will continue to liaise with relevant agencies including Finglas Addiction Support Outreach Team, HSE Social Inclusion Unit, Navan, the local Gardaí and Dublin City Council regarding reports of individuals dealing/using drugs and reports of drug paraphernalia/litter in the Finglas area.

Barry Area, Finglas West Working Group

Due to ongoing concerns and increasing reports in the Barry area of drug dealing and drug use, a Barry Area Finglas West Working Group was set up towards the end of 2020. There is representation from a range of key stakeholders on the Working Group. The purpose of the Working Group is to provide solutions on current challenges and to propose/agree actions to reduce levels of drug trespassing, drug dealing/taking and drug litter occurring in the area. The Group has met five times, with further meetings scheduled.