

Item No. 5

A. Ballymun

The Ballymun Safety Strategy 2021 - 2024 was approved and adopted in March 2021. Following the last Joint Policing Sub Committee meeting in September, a number of commitments were agreed between Dublin City Council, An Garda Siochana and the Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force. An Garda Siochana and Dublin City Council have meet monthly to addressed areas of concern and issues raised by residents and public reps. Short term actions have being agreed and implemented to address anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in specific locations.

Dublin City Council & the Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force have secured funding to appoint an External Safety Coordinator to coordinate the delivery of the actions in the plan. We have finalised the job specification and the position will be advertised in the coming week.

A meeting will be arranged in December with the Safer Ballymun Steering Group with a view to agreeing a process to re-establish the steering group in 2021 to broaden the membership and ensure we include youth participation in same.

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.

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

- Open drug dealing around the Dolmen Way
- Anti-social behaviour & drug dealing at St. Josephs Hill
- Large gatherings of youths around Poppintree Parade shops
- Unauthorised access to construction sites.

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

Estate Management January – October 2021

No of Anti-social complaints per 1997 act Drug Related	134
No of Anti-social complaints per 1997 act Not Drug Related	153
No of other Complaints	128
Total Complaints	415
No of Anti-Social Interviews per 1997 act (Drug Related)	127
No of Other Interviews	89
Total Interviews	216

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

Jackie O Reilly
A/Area Manager

B. Finglas

The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator, in conjunction with Dublin City Council and the local Gardaí, agreed and arranged dates to hold Safety Forum meetings in the respective areas of Finglas on the following dates:

Finglas West, St Fergal's BNS – Monday 8th November 2021.
Finglas East, St Canice's BNS – Tuesday 9th November 2021.
Finglas South, Erin's Isle –Monday 15th November 2021.

Alternative venues/rooms for Finglas South and Finglas East were explored as the previous venue where the Finglas South Safety Forum meeting was held was not feasible to allow for social distancing. Similarly, the room used for the Finglas East meeting was not suitable for the same reason. Thus, to ensure and comply with Government guidelines whilst ensuring a safe environment for attendees at the meetings, suitable venues/rooms were arranged to enable face to face meetings with adequate space. All attendees were required to show COVID vaccination certificates/ proof of immunity on arrival. Hand sanitiser and masks were provided.

The main policing issues raised at these meetings and directly to the Finglas Safety Forum Co-ordinator were as follows:

- Concern expressed over an increase in car thefts and assaults figures.
- Resident raised concern of cars speeding along Tolka Valley Road/ St Helena's Road and asked if checkpoint could be carried out. Joy riding in Barnamore was also raised.
- The need for the position of a Community Segreant to be filled.
- Scramblers/quad bikes being used in an anti-social manner in public green spaces and on public roads causing safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
- Drug activity, individuals urinating and drinking on the green area opposite The Cardiffsbridge Inn pub site. Similar activity reported along the bus stop on Cardiffsbridge Road and on the grounds of the Church of Annunciation, Finglas West.
- Open drug dealing in the Barry area, in particular Barry Close and Avenue identified. Increase in reports of drug activity occurring at the Barry Shops.
- Reports of drug paraphernalia found in Finglas West area, namely Barry Park, Northway Park, Mellows Park, incidents also within and outside the grounds of St Joseph's GNS.
- Groups of youth people engaging in anti-social behaviour activity at Griffith Heights, Finglas East, e.g., intimidation, vandalism e.g., throwing stones, smashing windows and egging houses.
- Reports of a large group of young people gathering in the Finglas Village area namely, shops facing the garage on McKee Avenue engaging in anti-social behaviour in the evenings.

- Ongoing begging outside Grove Park shops.
- The misuse of e-scooters on footpaths causing safety concern particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

As part of a Christmas campaign, similar to last year, Finglas Safety Forum, in conjunction with Finglas Community Policing Team, will be circulating a poster via social media platforms to highlight the dangers associated with the misuse of quad bikes/scramblers to the local community.