

Item No. 4

A. Ballymun

The Safer Ballymun is a partnership between the Community, Dublin City Council, the Drugs Task Force and An Garda Síochána. The focus is to engage in collaborative discussions to explore solutions to local safety concerns. The first public meeting of the Ballymun Safety Forum, since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, took place on Wednesday 15th June, in Trinity Comprehensive. The meeting was well attended and for the first time local youths came to the meeting.

Safer Ballymun have advertised on two occasions in recent months for an Independent Safety Coordinator to deliver the agreed Ballymun Safety Strategy, the role has not been filled to date and we intend to advertise again in the coming weeks.

Following the last JPC meeting in March, a number of commitments were agreed between Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána at subsequent meetings 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, including the local project on St. Josephs Hill in conjunction with DCC, AGS, Easy Street, St. Josephs School, the Jobs Centre and local residents, The Ballyrunners have just finished their clean up and planting project on St Joseph's Hill. The Arts Workshop took place in St Joseph's School with 5th and 6th class students whereby artists collated design templates. The corresponding mural is due to be completed in the coming weeks followed by an additional planting project at the Dane Road entrance to the hill and community mediation work between relevant local community representatives.

Dublin City Council have established a Youth Advocacy Group in Ballymun it is the intention that these youths will engage with the Safer Ballymun Network and will be represented on the Safer Ballymun Steering Committee. We endeavour to bring their voice, ideas and potential solutions to issues raised to fruition. We will initiate a process for local nominations onto the Safer Ballymun Steering Committee in the coming weeks.

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

- Anti-social behaviour and drug dealing at St. Josephs Hill
- Large gatherings of youths around Poppintree Parade shops / Community Centre
- Escalation of local feud Whiteacre / Shangan area
- Increased levels of anti-social behaviour at Hampton Woods

It is anticipated that we support a Ballymun Safety Week in October in the lead up to Halloween. Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána will put a local plan in place to address safety concerns around Halloween. The Otherworld Halloween festival committee have are in the process of putting a programme of events together.

B. Finglas

- The main policing issues directly to the Finglas Safety Forum Co-ordinator recently have been:
- Ongoing reports of drug dealing occurring and drug paraphernalia in Mellows Park and Northway Park, Finglas West.
- Significant concerns raised by a number of residents of drug dealing occurring namely in the Finglas West area e.g., Northway Park, Casement, Cappagh Shopping Centre as well at areas such as Lidl and Aldi on St Margaret's Road.
- Reports of increasing level of begging occurring namely at Lidl and Aldi on St Margaret's Road as well as Circle K (North Road).
- Anti-social behaviour occurring at Gortmore Drive e.g., joy riding and groups of individuals gathering engaging in drug dealing.
- Reports of residents experiencing intimidation and fear due to ongoing feud in the Finglas area.
- Reports of drug debt intimidation from family members.
- The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator continues to engage with relevant agencies in relation to the above matters, namely Finglas Community Policing Team and Finglas Addiction Support Outreach Team.
- The next round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings in the respective areas of Finglas will be organised early September. The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator will circulate dates of the next round of meetings to all relevant stakeholders and the local community once dates are confirmed.
- Plans for the Halloween Festival are underway and Dublin City Council would appreciate the continued support of An Garda Síochána before, during and after the event.