

Item No 3

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.

Safer Ballymun has 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 June, a number of short term actions has been agreed and implemented to address anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in specific locations – including a local project on St. Josephs Hill in conjunction with DCC, AGS, Easy Street, St. Josephs School and local residents.

On Friday the 26th August, Dublin City Council organised a Family Fun Day on St Joseph's Hill to launch the new Community Mural, which was designed by pupils from St Joseph's Senior National School and completed by artists from All City during August. Both were deemed an extremely successful and fun event and marked the culmination of stage one of a process which set out to support the local community to re-envisage and re-own the grassed area at St Joseph's Hill, which has long been a renowned area for anti-social activity. Safer Ballymun are happy that the engagement of pupils and residents from the surrounding area, the added colour and related planting projects in this area has already created a shift in perception in relation to how this area can be viewed going forward. We will continue in our efforts however, a Garda presence on the Hill is vital to ensure it is a safe space for the community to utilise as an open space or a walkway.

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

- Anti-social behaviour & drug dealing at Poppintree Shops
- Large gatherings of youths around Poppintree Parade shops / Community Centre
- Continued escalation of local feud Whiteacre / Shangan area
- Increased levels of anti-social behaviour at Hampton Woods
- Lack of visible Garda presence on foot patrol in the community
- Reports in the rise in break-ins and damage to vehicles in Ballymun

It is anticipated that we will support a Ballymun Safety Day in October in the lead up to Halloween. Dublin City Council & An Garda Síochána are finalising a local action plan to address safety concerns around Halloween. The Otherworld Halloween festival committee have finalised the programme of events, leaflets will be distributed to each household in the coming weeks.

The next Safer Ballymun Community Forum will take place on Tuesday 4th October at 7pm location to be confirmed.

Finglas

Recent main policing concerns brought to the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator's attention include:

At the Merville Senior Citizens Complex in Finglas South, there have been numerous reports of antisocial behaviour. The grounds are being damaged by teenagers and children.

There have been allegations of drug dealing at Dunshogly Grove and Green in Finglas West. More incidents of drug dealing and intimidation have been reported at Finglas West's St. Canices Square.

Residents of the Finglas South neighbourhood near Wellmount Park have expressed worry over anti-social behavior by young people, fireworks, and bonfires. The Meakstown Park neighbourhood reported many of the same issues as well.

There have been reports of a rise in the number of individuals rough sleeping at Finglas West's Mellows Road/Park.

There was a report of the discovery of ammunition by children at Barry Park/Plunkett, according to a resident of Finglas West. On the same day, one of the children's family's vehicles was damaged.

The coordinator of the Finglas Safety Forum is still in contact with the relevant agencies, specifically the Finglas Community Policing Team, The Den Outreach Team (Crosscare), and the Finglas Addiction Support Outreach Team, on the issues mentioned.

October will see the scheduling of the next round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings in the various Finglas communities. The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator will notify the local community and all necessary stakeholders of the dates of the upcoming series of meetings. Dates are as follows:

- Finglas South Monday 10th October from 7-8.30pm in Erin's Isle
- Finglas East Tuesday 11th from 7-8.30pm in St Canice's Boys School
- Finglas West Monday 17th October from 7-8.30pm in St Fergal's Boys School
- Meakstown Wednesday 19th October from 7-8.30pm in Willows Football Club, Jamestown Road