

Safer Ballymun JPC Report 27th March 2023

The Safer Ballymun is a partnership between the Community, Dublin City Council, the Drugs Task Force and An Garda Siochana. The focus is to engage in collaborative discussions to explore solutions to local safety concerns.

In 2022 Safer Ballymun advertised on two occasions the position of an Independent Safety Coordinator to deliver the agreed Ballymun Safety Strategy, the role has not been filled, we intend to advertise again early April.

The Safer Ballymun Steering Committee will meet on 14th March to discuss current safety concerns in the community, re-election of a steering committee and again advertising the role of an Independent Safety Coordinator for the Ballymun Area.

Dublin City Council have established a Youth Advocacy Group in Ballymun which has engaged with the Safer Ballymun Network and we are hopeful that some of these youths will be represented on the Safer Ballymun Steering Committee in the coming months. It is the aim of the Safer Ballymun Forum to bring their voices, ideas and potential solutions to issues raised to fruition in the coming year.

The main safety matters of concern raised in recent months are:

- Anti-social behaviour and open drug dealing at Poppintree Shops
- Continued escalation of local feud Whiteacre/ Shangan Area
- Silloge High levels of Anti-Social behaviour and criminality
- Ongoing local protests
- Increase in Nitrous Oxide canisters in the area
- Illegal parking on footpaths (particularly at schools /shops) and on the clearway at Gateway Crescent.

The next Safer Ballymun Community Forum will take place on Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 7pm.

Finglas Safety Fora Report

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

- Finglas South, Erin's Isle – Monday 6th March 2023.
- Finglas East, St Canice's BNS – Tuesday 7th March 2023.
- Finglas West, St Fergal's BNS – Monday 13th March 2023.

The meetings will be held in person and details of the meetings have been circulated to residents via the Safety Forum email, text and address database as well as via social media platforms e.g. Safety Forum Facebook and Twitter.

The main policing issues highlighted to the Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator recently have been:

- Serious concerns raised by the community around the amount of joyriding in the Finglas area estates, parks and main roads by scramblers, quads and cars.
- The anti-social behavior in the community, especially in the main village and around Tesco was highlighted by the community in each separate meeting.
- The visibility of Garda in the area was raised as a concern especially during weekends and at nighttime.
- The level of drug paraphernalia littered around certain areas in the east, west, and south was highlighted. The area at Dunnes stores especially was repeatedly raised.
- Reports of open drug dealing in the area raised by community reps and highlighted areas included Barry park, Dunsink, Wellmount, Royal Canal park, Mellows Park, and Hampton wood.
- Car thefts and break-ins in the area.
- Anti-social behavior and dumping around the vacant houses in Cloonlara.
- Levels of gangs hanging out beside Tesco was raised as a concern.
- Concerns over the level of anti-social behavior occurring again at Willows Park road - individuals vandalizing and breaking entrances to park.

The safety forum coordinator will be liaising with the Community Gardaí, DCC and Fingal after the meetings to highlight and relay the response to these issues to the community in the circulated minutes and at the next round of safety forum meetings later in the year.