

Item No. 7

A. Ballymun

The last 2 meetings of the Ballymun forum took place on the 14th December 2016 and the 14th February 2017. Both meetings were well attended by residents, public representatives and the Gardaí.

Statistics for the area were given by the Gardaí at each meeting. Issues that were discussed at the December 2016 meeting included anti-social behaviour in the area, in particular the ongoing problem with drugs, gangs congregating in the parks, particularly Poppintree Park, and how to maximise the use of the CCTV system. A Garda from the Divisional Drugs Unit attended the February 2017 meeting and gave an overview of the challenges the Gardaí are facing in tackling the drugs problem, and the progress they are making. Various other issues on the night that were discussed included anti-social behaviour in the Courts and open spaces in the area, and illegal dumping.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 11th 2017.

B. Cabra

Cabra Community Policing Forum annual newsletter was prepared and delivered to all households in the target area: a positive response from numerous residents was received. A number of complaints was received at Christmas regarding motor bike activities in the Cabra West area. Although frustrated, most people accepted the strategy which was agreed and implemented. Numerous motor bikes have since been taken into possession of Gardai and arrests have been made. These measures and the engagement with young people involved and their parents will hopefully lead to positive outcomes.

There were a number of complaints made to the forum regarding excessive speed around Ventry estate. As a result, the forum is currently carrying out awareness campaign in this area.

Local residents are very pleased with the proposed Dublin City Council precinct enhancement on Faussagh Avenue.

The Cabra for Youth Community Garden is currently preparing for the 2017 season with further site clearance and planting.

In relation to redevelopment of the Lock Keepers cottage on Royal Canal, planning permission has been granted and Cabra for Youth are currently preparing a funding application and awaiting long term lease from Waterways Ireland.

Ongoing meetings with Gardai, Dublin City Council, and local individuals, groups and organisations.

C. Drumcondra

The final meeting of this forum in 2016 took place on Wednesday 7th December and was well attended on the night by local residents, public representatives and members of the Garda Síochána.

Gardaí from Mountjoy and Santry stations gave statistics for the previous period from the last meeting and the newly appointed Inspector to Ballymun was introduced. Issues discussed included anti-social behaviour in the area, in particular the recent spate of burglaries and bicycle thefts, and damage caused to a local playground by a

group of youths. Traffic issues in the area was also discussed, in particular the continued violation by motorists of the traffic laws and also the planned changes to the road layout at Ferguson/Walsh Road. Mary Taylor gave a summary of the work carried out during 2016 through the Discretionary Fund.

Dublin City Council and the Gardaí are reviewing existing meetings in the general Drumcondra, Whitehall, Santry, Beaumont and Larkhill areas with a view to optimising the area covered by local Safety Fora.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 29th.

D. Finglas

The following meetings have taken place in 2017:

Finglas West Safety Forum meeting on 30th January

Finglas East Safety Forum meeting on 13th February

Finglas South Safety Forum meeting on 20th February

There was good attendance at the three meetings with positive discussions and issues brought forward by the community to Dublin City Council, Finglas Gardai and elected representatives present.

Burglaries

Finglas East has experienced a large increase in burglaries since November 2016, which is a concern for residents. There was a positive response to the meeting and a strong presence from the Finglas Gardai on the night to answer questions and concerns from the community. The Finglas Safety Forum Coordinator has met with, and continues to liaise with residents in the area. As a result of the number of incidents and level of contact to the Safety Forum, leaflets and Beat the Burglar posters have been distributed in the community.

Fergal's Lane

Anti-social behaviour, illegal dumping and ongoing group intimidation centered around Fergal's Lane has seen residents at the Finglas West and Finglas South forum meetings call for closure of the lane. The level of success and reduction in anti-social behaviour following the closure of Charlie's Lane was also noted at the Finglas West meeting. Residents have collected over 100 signatures in support of the closure. The Safety Forum coordinator will continue working with the residents to seek positive solution.

The Finglas Safety Forum coordinator has designed and begun distribution of a Safety Forum leaflet to raise awareness of the Forum. The leaflet includes the 2017 dates for the forum meetings, useful numbers in Finglas i.e. DCC, Garda, Crime Victims Helpline and Finglas Safety Forum, information about the Forum and beat the burglar poster. Distribution of the leaflets has begun and will be carried out over the coming weeks.

The next round of Finglas Safety Forum meetings will take place as follows:
Finglas West - Monday 24th April at 7pm in St Fergal's Boys National School.
Finglas East - Monday 15th May at 7pm in St Canice's Boys National School.
Finglas South - Monday 22nd May at 7pm in St Helena's Family Resource Centre.