



Ballymun Concrete News



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News letter

Successful Crackdown on Drug Abuse in Ballymun Town Centre. *Exclusive By Seamus Kelly*

The action taken by Gardai and Security recently against anti-social behaviour in the Ballymun shopping centre, has yielded tremendous success. New security in the shopping mall with back up from active Ballymun gardai, has finally taken effect. Alleged drug dealing has dramatically dropped in the centre as gardai and security teams escort known drug abusers out of the mall with little or no resistance. In the past year, shoppers had been terrified to shop in the shopping mall with alleged drug abuse being an everyday event. But thanks to new shopping centre manager Mr. Martin Griffin who introduced the new security measures, shoppers can feel a little more at ease while shopping.

Traders feel the security and police are doing a good job and hope this will continue. John Kane of Centrepoint said, "It's a fantastic improvement, people now feel safer coming into the centre. It looks like it's on the way back and that's great encouragement for the future," he said. Manager of Spar Store Ballymun, Mr Joe Maguire said, "In the past few weeks security has improved in the centre and the guards are doing a fine job."

When asked about the improvements in the centre, Mr Paddy Brennan community activist in Ballymun for over 14 years, stated: "Over the past few weeks you don't see too many of these undesirables knocking around

the centre. The security is working and police presence is always there now."

Ballymun community activist and W/P candidate in the local elections, Councillor Sean O' Cionnaith said: "The guards are giving the current security great back-up in clearing drug abuse and anti-social elements from the centre," he claimed.

Shopping centre manager Mr Martin Griffin, said the measures he has taken in the shopping centre to tackle anti-social behaviour, is being done in the best interests of the local community and traders. He also indicated that any decisions taken by him, are a direct result of consultation with Ballymun Developments Ltd, Ballymun Drugs Task Force, Gardai, traders and community. "I wish to make it quite clear I intend to make Ballymun Town Centre as shopper friendly as possible. I've attended various meetings in Ballymun to discuss security measures for the centre. There are a few hurdles to overcome yet and I am in the process of securing new traders for the centre. Recently, several new outlets have been opened, the fruit and vegetable shop, the electrical, and of course the furniture store," he said.

Garda Inspector Gabriel MacIntyre of Santry Garda station, said he is pleased with the new security measures and garda presence in the centre. "We have the situation under

control and we will continue to be active in dealing with crime from whatever quarter. We are also happy with the current security in the shopping centre. However, we will remain vigilant at all times and our CCTV cameras will record any suspicious activity in the area," he said. In addition, the Inspector stated the Gardai are "very grateful to the shopping centre manager Mr Griffin for all his efforts."

Vote Vote Vote

Don't forget Friday June 11th to Vote in the Local and European Elections. Your Vote will make all the difference.

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