



Safer Ballymun Community Safety Forum

MINUTES

MONDAY 9th DECEMBER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

BALLYMUN CIVIC CENTRE

<p>Introduction</p>	<p>The Facilitator, Aibhlín McCann welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining that it is an action-based problem solving forum which entails a partnership approach between DCC, BRL, An Garda Síochána and the community to make Ballymun a better place in which to live, work and visit. She requested that issues which didn't refer to community safety should be kept for the 'talkabout' at the end of the meeting and advised that the theme of this week's meeting is community and personal safety. Aibhlin asked that anyone who was interested in getting a copy of the minutes to sign in on the attendance sheets.</p>
<p>Presentations</p>	<p>Lynn Boylan from the Tidy Towns Committee gave a short presentation about the successful work being done in Ballymun through the bio-diversity action plan. Ballymun recently won National and Regional awards. She spoke about the 1000 trees that were planted in Poppintree Park, the wildflowers at the shopping centre, and the bird-watching being promoted in the schools. Coultry Way was mentioned for the amount of work being done there and the judges noted the very real sense of community spirit there. Lynn concluded by saying the Community grant would be available in January and some slides of the area including garden competition winners were shown.</p> <p>Manus Bree from the Ballymun Intercultural Group spoke briefly about the work of this group in light of the fact that 20% of people in Ballymun are non-nationals. He mentioned an Intercultural Day and English courses that are being planned and informed residents about a way of highlighting racial abuse.</p>
<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>A resident mentioned that the football tournaments were a huge success in terms of promoting intercultural relations and the Deputy Principal from Trinity Comprehensive said that the emphasis in the school is to foster the development of people, regardless of their nationality.</p>
<p>DCC Update</p>	<p>Donal Barron spoke about the ongoing litter/dumping problem in the area – blue bags given out to residents groups were found dumped full of rubbish and the problem is particularly bad in the Balbutcher Lane area and near the Virgin Mary</p>

<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>School. Donal said the junction at the Horizon building was on a high priority list and said more properties in the area will be insulated in 2014.</p> <p>A resident asked if bags of leaves could be collected and mentioned the gullies being cleared? Another resident asked about the fencing at Shangan and said the motorbikes are back there. A resident asked about the rubbish left in back gardens and said it was causing a problem with rats. A resident expressed disapproval at the after hours service being based in town and complaints not being logged locally as he had a heating complaint. He also had an issue with door handles requiring repair. Donal said there is a procedure that is followed to ensure complaints are followed through at a local level and said the handles are being snagged at present. A resident said that it was necessary to contact the Gardaí about bonfires at the back of the shops/apartments on Poppintree Parade. It was also mentioned that the Public Domain Officer in Finglas will supply paint to remove graffiti and the Tidy Towns Committee also have an anti-graffiti kit.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána Update</p> <p>Garda Stephen O’Carolan gave figures for offences for the period from 21st October to 9th December:</p> <p>Assault Section 3 – none Assault Section 2 - 7 Burglaries – 20 (8 in Ballymun area) Criminal Damage – 51 Drugs Section 3 – 26 Drugs Section 15 – 6 (16/11/13) Cannabis, (1/12/13) Heroin and Cannabis Drugs Section 23 - 31 Robbery of Shops – 2 Robbery from Persons - 4 Stolen Cars – 0 Theft from Cars – 16 Theft from Shops – 18 Public Order – 30 Section 41 Road Traffic Act – 59</p> <p>Halloween Night: 24 incidents Public Order Offences – 4 Drug Searches – 2 Criminal Damage – 1 Minor Assault – 1 Burglary – 1 Traffic Incidents – 13</p>
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<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>Unauthorised Taking – 1 3 persons arrested at Whiteacre – large bonfire</p> <p>A Safer Ballymun week Open Day at the Garda Station on 24/10/13 was very well attended by a number of primary school students in the area and was deemed to be a very positive exercise. A football match between the PSNI, An Garda Síochána and local travellers was a great success.</p> <p>A resident expressed concern at recent shootings in the area. A resident asked if the CCTV cameras in Coultry Park had been targeted or shot at. Garda O’Carolan was not aware of this and said that he would check it.</p> <p>A resident warned people to be careful of what they stored in their sheds, as thieves are targeting these.</p> <p>A resident complained about the illegal parking at the side of Gateway by parents collecting children from the school, and people were urged to report this to the Gardaí.</p> <p>A BADIG representative mentioned their Parking on Pavements leaflet highlighting this issue – Councillor Montague said people don’t realise the impact this has on disabled people. He noted that Clare from BADIG had been invited to talk to the Traffic Committee in DCC.</p> <p>Garda O’Carolan confirmed that the Gardaí are actively issuing tickets for illegal parking.</p> <p>Councillor McAuliffe clarified that the JPC had managed to confirm that it is illegal to accept cash at a person’s door for the delivery of alcohol – Aibhlín said that perhaps An Garda Síochána could speak further about this issue in the New Year.</p> <p>Marie Balfe gave a short update on the happenings during Safer Ballymun week and also mentioned the success of the Otherworld Festival.</p> <p>Aibhlín said that this was Marie’s last Safer Ballymun meeting as she was retiring. She thanked Marie, on behalf of the steering group and all the residents for the work she had put in to Safer Ballymun during her tenure.</p> <p>A resident thanked the Gardaí and DCC for their help when he was the victim of anti-social behaviour recently.</p> <p>Various residents expressed thanks to DCC and the Gardaí who attend these meetings and take criticism constructively.</p> <p>A resident said Safer Ballymun allowed local residents express their views. Another said there is a need going forward to revive the Forums and residents’ associations to ensure a sustainable community.</p>
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Conclusion	<p>Aibhlín McCrann, independent facilitator wished all the attendees a happy and safe Christmas and concluded by stating that the ‘talkabout’ would take place. The agency Steering Group would discuss the issues raised at this meeting and report back to the next Safer Ballymun meeting.</p> <p>Next Meeting: February 10th 2013</p> <p>Time: 7.00 pm</p> <p>Venue: Council Chambers, Ballymun Civic Centre.</p>
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CONTACT NUMBERS:

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