



# Safer Ballymun Community Safety Forum

## MINUTES

MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

BALLYMUN CIVIC CENTRE

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| <p><b>Introduction</b></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><b>Presentation - Youth Guarantee Scheme</b></p> | <p>Fiona Descoteaux from Ballymun Partnership spoke about the new Youth Guarantee Scheme, an initiative (which is a pilot scheme in Ballymun) to target 18-24 year olds who are unemployed in an effort to help them rejoin the workforce. There are currently 750 18 to 24 year olds from Ballymun on the live register. The target group is broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those who have achieved Junior Certificate or less</li> <li>• Those who have achieved Leaving Certificate</li> <li>• Those who have a level of further education e.g. a PLC</li> </ul> <p>Fiona invited anyone who required any further information to contact her and she would be happy to oblige.</p> |
| <p><b>Issues Arising</b></p>                        | <p>A resident asked about the difference between this scheme and the original aim of the Job Centre – Fiona said this scheme is part of a National plan and that there is a very specific framework involved.</p> <p>Councillor McAuliffe lamented that older unemployed people are not part of the target group but understood it had to be specific, and said the scheme will be advertised widely through social media and that BRYR and YAP will also be promoting it.</p> <p><b>DCC Update</b></p> <p>Mary Taylor introduced the 2 new Project Estate Officers, Leona Fynes and Connell McGlynn, who will be managing estate management issues in Ballymun East (Connell) and</p>                                      |

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| <p><b>Issues Arising</b></p> | <p>West (Leona) as a result of the staffing changes occurring due to the wind-down of BRL. Leona is also the new Safer Ballymun Co-Ordinator. Mary said a new Ballymun Town Alliance will replace the BRL board and this will promote the continuing Social, Economical and Physical development of Ballymun. The demolition of the last blocks will hopefully take place during the summer and work is currently underway to mark the demolition of JPT with a community event. All ideas are welcome for this. Illegal dumping continues to be monitored closely – Jackie O’Reilly, Public Domain Officer, is viewing footage captured by the CCTV cameras and Leona and Connell are interviewing people in relation to this. The co-operation of the public is vital in dealing with this issue.</p> <p>Several instances of dumping were discussed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 30 bags of rubbish being dumped beside Sandyhill Gardens</li> <li>• Rubbish left in the open space at Belclare Grove</li> <li>• Rubbish dumped in Shangan Gardens</li> <li>• A clean-up was requested at Poppintree Church</li> <li>• Constant dumping of rubbish on St. Margaret’s Road</li> <li>• A resident stated the footpath on Santry Avenue has not been cleaned for 6 months</li> </ul> <p>A resident asked about new dumping bye-laws – Mary Taylor said she will check this as she is not aware of new laws.</p> <p>A resident asked about the possibility of getting the cameras to flash as if taking a picture of someone dumping – Mary said that this can make cameras a target. She said collecting the rubbish straight away every time it is dumped just leads to more dumping.</p> <p>A resident asked if the open spaces can be used for allotments – Mary said not all are suitable and it is currently under discussion as to what the most suitable use for these spaces is.</p> <p>A resident asked for an update on the podium in Coultry Park – Mary said there is no funding in place at the moment to deal with it. Deputy Ellis said he attended a meeting with Brendan Kenny about this and he confirmed no funding is available at present. Deputy Ellis asked about the possibility of the shrubbery being removed from St. Margaret’s Road to tidy it up and make it more difficult to dump there.</p> <p>Mary Taylor said that we are working with Fingal County Council to deal with the serious issues here. She said it is also not an option to name and shame people who dump anymore. It was suggested that perhaps the Steering Group might send a letter to the Minister of the Environment to query why the names of those who have been prosecuted for illegal dumping cannot be published.</p> <p>A resident asked if the fencing near Musgrave’s, which has blocked off the wheelchair ramps, is a Health and Safety issue.</p> <p>Councillor McAuliffe confirmed a PO was issued to the HSE to deal with the infestation of rats in certain areas.</p> |
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| <b>Issues Arising</b> | <p>A resident asked about the number of evictions in relation to anti-social behaviour made by DCC last year – Mary said that evictions cannot be sought until an independent appeals process is set up – Deputy Ellis said this will be part of the new Housing Bill later in the year – Mary Taylor confirmed evictions on anti-social grounds will be pursued then. Donal Barron confirmed that a conviction for illegal dumping has recently been secured.</p> <p><b>An Garda Síochána Update</b></p> <p>Sergeant Bernard Young gave figures for offences for the period from 9/12/13 to 9/2/14:</p> <p>Assault Section 3 – 7<br/> Assault Section 2 - 16<br/> Burglaries – 33 (9 in Ballymun area)<br/> Criminal Damage – 54<br/> Drugs Section 3 – 22<br/> Drugs Section 15 – 9<br/> Drugs Section 23 - 180<br/> Robbery of Shops – Nil<br/> Robbery from Persons - Nil<br/> Theft from Cars – 29<br/> Theft from Shops – 32<br/> Public Order – 22<br/> Seizure of Cars - 45</p> <p>Sgt. Young mentioned several issues that were raised at the last meeting such as parking at the schools, the junction at Balcurris Road and the discharge of firearms. He went on to say that there were 4 incidents reported in the last year in relation to discharge of firearms. He also mentioned an incident where 2 swans were attacked by dogs (this is an ongoing investigation) and said that extra resources are being deployed in the Balbutcher area.</p> <p>Clarification was sought about the camera in Coultry Park that was damaged by bullets – Sgt. Young said there was no report of any damage to the camera by DCC.<br/> A resident mentioned the problem of motorbikes in Coultry Park as ongoing.<br/> The issue of parking at the Leisure Centre was raised with many local residents unhappy that they had nowhere to park – Deputy Ellis said local businesses were also suffering. Sgt. Young said there are plans for meters at Supervalu next month and that residents could also park underground - he said he will talk to the staff in the Leisure Centre about this issue.<br/> A resident complained that at a recent funeral in Shangan the footpath was completely blocked by cars parked on it resulting in wheelchair users being obstructed – a representative from BADIG stated that a presentation was</p> |
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| <p><b>Community Alcohol Strategy</b></p> | <p>made last week to the Traffic Committee in relation to the Parking on Pavements initiative and a letter of support for this was given in on behalf of Safer Ballymun.</p> <p>Hugh Greaves spoke about how this strategy is progressing and asked for suggestions for the next public information campaign. Aibhlín suggested this might take place at the next Safer Ballymun meeting. Hugh said that with St. Patrick's Day coming up and also the summer months ahead, it is more challenging to find ways to minimise drinking and that clarification is still needed on the delivery of alcohol to private premises.</p> |
| <p><b>Issues Arising</b></p>             | <p>Deputy Ellis said that alcohol must be paid for on the premises that hold the licence.</p> <p>Councillor McAuliffe said progress is being made on this issue by the JPC but that clarity is needed in relation to cash and credit card sales being legal or illegal – he said in the meantime it would be helpful if a voluntary code for traders could be agreed.</p>   |
| <p><b>Conclusion</b></p>                 | <p>Aibhlín McCrann, independent facilitator 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><b>Next Meeting: April 14th 2013</b><br/> <b>Time: 7.00 pm</b><br/> <b>Venue: Council Chambers, Ballymun Civic Centre.</b></p>   |

**CONTACT NUMBERS:**

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| ○ Leona Fynes, Co-Ordinator                 | 01 2225702  |
| ○ Ballymun Garda Station                    | 01 666 4400 |
| ○ An Garda Síochána Confidential Phone Line | 1800 666111 |
| ○ Ballymun Civic Centre                     | 01 222 5646 |