



# Safer Ballymun Community Safety Forum

## MINUTES

MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JULY – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

BALLYMUN CIVIC CENTRE

<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. Aibhlín apologised for the fact that there was no representative from BRL available for this evening's meeting.</p>
<p><b>Presentations</b></p> <p><b>Health for All</b></p> <p><b>BADIG</b></p> <p><b>Issues Arising</b></p>	<p>Manus Bree spoke about the work that the Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership and the HSE have done to develop the national policy of Health and Equality, as it has been proven there is a direct link between people's health and their social circumstances. Mentioning a survey that the Ballymun Whitehall Area Partnership had undertaken, he said that people's health can often be affected by anti-social behaviour and stress caused by poverty or financial problems. He stressed the importance of getting people to work together and be involved in community activities to alleviate these issues. Manus noted that a new report has just been published by the Government, <i>Healthy Ireland</i>, and said that there are copies available if people are interested in reading its findings.</p> <p>Alex Sproule spoke about how BADIG was formed in April 1988 by Kathleen Maher. One of their most recent initiatives is highlighting parking on pavements. Its purpose is to raise awareness within our society about the importance of motorists taking the needs of people with disabilities into account when parking. Daily life for people with disabilities can be very difficult if their movements are obstructed by careless parking. It was agreed that enforcement is an issue and Alex said he would make contact with the Garda Traffic Department.</p> <p>Mary Taylor said that difficulties can arise when only one side of the road has been dished. This will be addressed as part of the BRL transition process.</p> <p>Bernard Young said it often happens that the Gardaí get a call about illegal parking and the car is gone by the time they get</p>

<p><b>Issues Arising</b></p>	<p>there. It is important to educate people on this issue. He mentioned parking tickets issued in Longdale Terrace which were struck out in court by the judge. Various parking issues were raised in connection with Shangan, Gateway Crescent and Balbutcher Lane (Hollytree) Mary Taylor said DCC are not obliged to provide parking for everyone and there is an ongoing management issue with the underground car park at the swimming pool.</p> <p>Bernard Young said he will have a look at Hollytree and the issues there.</p> <p>A resident asked if the red-bricked ramps on Shangan can be repaired. Mary said she will check if there is a budget available for this.</p> <p>A resident said he has a photo of a house that has a driveway and the 2 cars belonging to that residence are parked on the footpath outside.</p> <p><b>DCC Update</b></p> <p>Mary Taylor had the following updates for the meeting:</p> <p>On the 29th of July Balbutcher Lane had 8 tenants and Joseph Plunkett Tower had 19 Tenants. This does not include the 12 community groups that were in Balbutcher Lane flats on the 29th of July.</p> <p>In response to a request for information on the CCTV system at the previous meeting, Mary explained that all CCTV cameras in Ballymun are on a wireless network which is managed by DCC via a service level agreement. Faults are reported to the concierge by email and crews work from Mon-Fri during daylight hours to repair these. Maintenance is carried out twice yearly and several poles have been modified/replaced due to ongoing vandalism. The Gardaí can also monitor the cameras from the Garda station and she stressed the importance of the co-operation of the public in reporting incidents.</p> <p>A resident said the contractors at Woodhazel/Coultry starts at 6am and are very noisy. This was to be addressed before as it was raised at a previous meeting.</p> <p>Various issues about dumping were raised such as the smell of rubbish dumped near Centra and rubbish being dumped at the back of the priest's house in Longdale Terrace.</p> <p>A resident said the road sweeper was operating in the area but omitted certain roads. Mary Taylor said she will check this.</p> <p>Councillor Montague said dumping had been witnessed at the foot of the CCTV camera outside DCU in the Community.</p> <p><b>An Garda Síochána Update</b></p> <p>Sergeant Young gave figures for offences in the Ballymun area for the period from 10/6/13 to 29/7/13:</p>
------------------------------	--

<p><b>Issues Arising</b></p>	<p>Serious Assault – 1  Burglaries – 18 (6 homes in Ballymun)  Criminal Damage – 39 (36 in the Ballymun area)  Drugs Section 3 – 23  Drugs Section 15 – 11 (5 in the Shangan area)  Section 23 Street Searches – 203  Public Order - 56  Robbery Person – 4  Robbery Shop – 1  Theft Shop – 17  Theft Person - 6  Theft from Cars – 16</p> <p>Details of incidents for the Whiteacre area since the last meeting were given – there were 13 incidents as follows:</p> <p>Public Order – 3  Section 23 Street Searches – 5  Criminal Damage – 1  Traffic – 1  Discharge and Seizure of Pellet Gun – 1  Miscellaneous – 2</p> <p>A resident spoke about 2 serious muggings that took place recently, one of them in broad daylight.  Councillor Montague said the drug dealing appears to have moved from Shangan to Whiteacre.  A resident said plants and flower baskets are continuously being wrecked near Coultrey Park although the situation in the park has improved slightly now that the decking is gone.  Sergeant Murphy gave an example of how two recently stolen bikes were recovered by using the CCTV.  A resident thanked Marie Balfe for following up and completing 2 jobs that had been raised at the last meeting.  The matter of the wording used by Eamon Farrelly at the last meeting regarding proposed funding for the removal of the bandstand was clarified.  Flooding issues at Silloge Avenue, at Woodhazel and at the Centra in Shangan were raised.  Mary Taylor mentioned that there is an issue with the contractor about the weed spraying and suggested that anyone with a concern should talk to her about it.</p> <p>Hugh Greaves spoke about the ongoing Alcohol Strategy and said that a recent household study had shown that there was an increase in the consumption of alcohol during the hot weather. He advised people not to buy drink for minors and urged the Gardai to continue the good work they are doing in this area. He reminded people they had an opportunity to comment on licensing issues through the JPC and said a submission had recently been made to the JPC to write to BRL to take the license off the lease of the Daybreak premises.</p>
------------------------------	---

<p><b>Issues Arising</b></p>	<p>A resident mentioned drink being delivered from an off-license in Poppintree and asked about the laws around this. Sergeant Young clarified that there must be an adult at the address to accept the alcohol but it is very hard for the Gardai to enforce this.</p> <p>The owner of the off-license in question said that they act responsibly at all times when selling alcohol and at least 2 deliveries every night come back where no adult has been present.</p> <p>Sergeant Murphy said the Gardai had reports of alcohol being sold out of cars which were of course illegal and stated that cash deliveries from off-licenses are illegal after 10pm.</p> <p>A resident asked if the issue of alcohol being delivered from off-licenses could be addressed with the Alcohol Strategy. Councillor Montague stressed the importance of the Alcohol Strategy as drinking is a huge problem in Ballymun and is undermining the community.</p> <p>A resident asked why the Minister for Health is planning to impose a ban on smoking but is not addressing the issue of alcohol.</p> <p>A resident thanked Donal Barron for getting the wall at Poppintree crèche repaired.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p>	<p>Aibhlín McCrann, independent facilitator, concluded by stating that the ‘talkabout’ would now take place and that the Agency Steering Group would discuss the issues raised at this meeting and report back to the group at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Next Meeting: September 9th 2013</b>  <b>Time: 7.00 pm</b>  <b>Venue: Council Chambers, Ballymun Civic Centre.</b></p>

**CONTACT NUMBERS:**

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