



Safer Ballymun Community Safety Forum

MINUTES

MONDAY 10th JUNE 2013 – 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. Aibhlín introduced Inspector Ken Keelan to the group and welcomed him to his first Safer Ballymun meeting.</p>
<p>Presentations</p> <p>People Make Parks</p> <p>BRYR – Easy Street</p> <p>Trinity Comprehensive School</p> <p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>There were 3 presentations at the meeting as follows:</p> <p>Jimmy Bell gave a short presentation on the <i>People Make Parks</i> initiative. This promotes the positive and safe use of local parks through sporting events and organised activities. He said a full programme of events for the coming summer will soon be available.</p> <p>Lisa and Ken from BRYR presented a very well received presentation on the Easy Street initiative which is aimed at helping vulnerable young people (the target group is 10 to 23 year olds). This initiative has proved quite successful to date due to the relationships built up between the staff and the young people with whom they engage. Residents welcomed the initiative and were very encouraging of the work that is being done by the team.</p> <p>Fiona Gallagher, Deputy Principal Trinity Comprehensive invited people to sit back and look at a short DVD made by the students to celebrate their school life, the wide selection of subjects they can study and showing how they can fulfil their potential. She stressed the work that is being done in the school to help young people meet their personal challenges and praised the young people for their pro-active attitude.</p> <p>Deputy Lyons commended all the presentations but in particular the work of the Easy Street programme and the positive influence it has had on young people in the area – he said the project should be more widely advertised.</p>

<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>A resident said BRYR and Easy Street are doing great work but have suffered from cutbacks made by successive Governments.</p> <p>Hugh Greaves clarified that funding for the Easy Street programme comes from a number of services and has not been cut since the programme started.</p> <p>Another resident said that younger children are already noticing the “coaches” from BRYR around the area by their distinctive clothing.</p> <p>DCC Update</p> <p>Donal Barron had the following updates for the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 tenants left in blocks 1 and 2 Balbutcher Lane • 47 tenants left in Joseph Plunkett Tower • Silloge blocks have been demolished and the contractor is removing the rubble at the site • Coultry Gardens is now gone with the area landscaped for the community groups growing vegetables • Shangan 5A/B are all allocated – we are awaiting the final tranche of units in Silloge 4. These units will be used to further clear the blocks • The Area Office is in the process of sending in an application to SEAI to improve the energy rating on some houses in Ballymun <p>Two separate residents said they had reported dumped rubbish in the proper manner and it had never been collected. Donal said he will follow this up with Jackie O’Reilly.</p> <p>Another resident said she had witnessed rubbish being dumped illegally and had reported the person but this person was still doing it.</p> <p>A resident asked could the cameras pick up illegal dumping during the night. Donal said the CCTV cameras are on at night and said it is very hard for DCC to gain a successful prosecution for illegal dumping.</p> <p>A resident said that Coultry Park had been cleaned up, decking removed and the CCTV camera appeared to be repaired just in time for this Safer Ballymun meeting. Donal said the camera repair is part of a cyclical maintenance programme – Aibhlín suggested more information could be provided on the cyclical maintenance programme at the next meeting.</p> <p>A resident said there was a fire in Coultry Park on May 18th and now the decking had been removed. Donal said there was a consequence to everything, and if the Park Superintendent spends money on removing the shelter that this could result in the loss of resources elsewhere.</p> <p>BRL Update</p> <p>Eamon Farrelly had the following updates for the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contractor has lowered the volume on the alarm in Coultry 6 site
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<p>Issues Arising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work on the gardens at Woodhazel is nearly complete • Work on the demolitions at Silloge are ongoing • The City Parks Superintendent has confirmed that he is proposing to consider the inclusion of funding for the removal of the podium/stage in Coultry Park in his budget for next year. • A resident asked about the 2 new buildings under construction in Coultry Park. Eamon said these will be used as a storage facility for the football club to store goalposts <p>A resident wished to convey congratulations to the U/16 Ballymun Kickhams team on their recent success and said the recent midnight leagues were hugely popular and successful. A resident asked would the budget extend to the demolition of Joseph Plunkett Tower and Balbutcher Lane when BRL left the area. Eamon replied that any works that have not been completed will be handed over to Dublin City Council.</p> <p>A resident asked about plans for the Shopping Centre. Eamon said the redevelopment is private, and that although Treasury Holdings is in receivership, short, medium and long term strategies are being put in place to develop the town centre.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána Update</p> <p>Sergeant Young gave figures for offences in the Ballymun area for the period since the last meeting on 15/4/13:</p> <p>Assault causing harm - 1 Burglary – 15 (9 were family residences in the Ballymun area) Criminal damage – 66 (mainly to mirrors/windows of cars) Drugs – 2 (cultivation of cannabis) Section 15 Drugs Act (supply of drugs) – 14</p> <p>There were 2 seizures of crack cocaine in the Whiteacre and Belclare area. This is a cause for concern due to its addictive nature and the aggressive nature of users, and the Drugs Unit are actively monitoring this scene.</p> <p>There was a large seizure as a result of a drugs search of a house in the Shangan Park area. Despite the loss of drugs and money the gang are back dealing in the area, An Garda Síochána will continue to target this group.</p> <p>Section 3 Drugs Act – Simple Possession – 38 Section 23 Drugs Act – Street Searches – there were 389 of these, of which 193 were in the Shangan/Coultry area. This demonstrates the ongoing issues of drug dealing in the area and the commitment of An Garda Síochána to tackle it.</p> <p>Robbery from Shops – 3 Theft from Cars – 14 Theft from Persons – 9 (these are snatches of I-Phones from the hands of persons using them which regularly occur at bus stops) Public Order – 52 (2 of which were in Poppintree Park) The issue of large groups of youths gathering in Poppintree</p>
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<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>Park (something that is happening in other parks throughout the city also) was highlighted. On Friday and Saturday night groups of as many as 300 young persons were gathering in parks around Ballymun. There was little alcohol involved and they were alerted to the meeting place by Facebook and came to play music. They dispersed from the park on request. The main issue that the Gardaí had with the group was that they were in the park after closing time.</p> <p>Search Warrants for Houses – 44 (11 of which were for the Shangan area targeting the homes of drug dealing.</p> <p>A resident expressed concern about the anti-social behaviour taking place on Coultry Way.</p> <p>Superintendent Paul Moran spoke about the launch of the Garda Youth Diversion Project on June 7th. GYDPs are a multi-agency partnership approach in tackling youth crime and anti-social behaviour at community level and are funded by the Irish Youth Justice Service. GYDPs seek to divert young people who have been involved in anti-social behaviour and/or criminal behaviour by providing suitable activities to facilitate personal development, promote civic responsibility and improve long-term employability prospects. For 2013, Ballymun District has been given additional funding for Operation Persist.</p> <p>Hugh Greaves informed the meeting as part of his Alcohol Strategy update that a system has been set up by the Joint Policing Committee to allow residents to make comments on applications to sell licences for alcohol. He encouraged people to send in their comments to Marie Balfe, Safer Ballymun Co-ordinator, contact no. 2225702, or by e-mail. Aibhlín mentioned that tonight’s Safer Ballymun meeting unavoidably clashed with a Council meeting and the Councillors had sent on their apologies.</p> <p>Paul Moran mentioned the Duathalon that is to take place on July 5th and encouraged people to support the event.</p>
<p>Conclusion</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>Next Meeting: July 29th 2013 Time: 7.00 pm Venue: Council Chambers, Ballymun Civic Centre.</p>

CONTACT NUMBERS:

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| ○ Marie Balfe, Co-Ordinator | 01 2225702 |
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