



Safer Ballymun Community Safety Forum

MINUTES

MONDAY 14th APRIL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

BALLYMUN CIVIC CENTRE

<p>Introduction</p>	<p>Mary Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining that the independent facilitator, Aibhlin McCrann, would no longer be facilitating the meetings going forward due to cut-backs and budget constraints. She suggested discussing 3 main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to manage future meetings • Are people in favour of receiving minutes • Relocating the Safer Ballymun website
<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>Mary said that the facilitation of meetings in other areas is shared between Councillors and agencies and asked if people were agreeable to this going forward with Safer Ballymun. Cllr. Áine Clancy said this is a system that works very well in Cabra and also mentioned that minutes of the meetings are not posted out but recapped on before each meeting. A resident said they would prefer a hard copy of the minutes as not everyone has access to email. Mary concluded by saying that all information relating to Safer Ballymun will in future be available on the NWA page.</p>
	<p>DCC Update</p> <p>Mary gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names of people charged with illegal dumping cannot be reported • DCC did a walkabout with BADIG and a joint report will be issued shortly • BRL are working on Balcurris Park and the Gardai are continuing to monitor the area also • The issue of litter is being monitored on an ongoing basis and the PEO's are following up on cases with several fines being issued • St. Margaret's Road is being constantly monitored and over 16 tonnes of rubbish was removed from there recently • The issue of parking at the Leisure Centre is to be resolved shortly with the availability of 100 parking spaces underground but there is no date for paid parking at Supervalu yet

<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>A resident said that in relation to the facilitation of the meetings going forward, a neutral person should facilitate as everyone else has an agenda – it was agreed in future the meeting will be chaired by local representatives not inter-agencies.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána Update</p> <p>Sergeant Bernard Young gave figures for offences for the period from 9/02/14 to 14/04/14:</p> <p>Serious Assault (Section 3) – 3 Minor Assault (Section 2) - 10 Burglaries – 31 Criminal Damage – 60 Drugs for Personal Use (Section 3) – 25 Drugs for Sale (Section 15) – 5 Street Searches for Drugs (Section 23) - 188 Robbery of Shops – 3 Robbery from Persons - 6 Theft from Cars – 19 Theft from Shops – 29 Public Order – 19 Seizure of Vehicles – 63</p> <p>On St. Patrick’s Day there were 26 recorded incidents in Ballymun – 5 incidents of Public Order, 9 street drug searches, 5 traffic related incidents and 6 miscellaneous incidents. Sgt. Murphy visited several off-licences in the area to remind them of their obligations when selling alcohol and buses in the area were also checked that day. Large groups of young people were removed from Poppintree and Balcurris Parks the previous weekend and this will certainly be an issue for the summer.</p>
<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>A resident expressed concern over several safety issues such as bins being set on fire, the use of quad bikes on the roads and no visible foot patrol in the Coultry area since Halloween – Sgt. Young said the Gardaí do not chase people on quads for safety reasons but are pro-actively enforcing the law for insurance and driving licence offences.</p> <p>Deputy Ellis asked if the Gardaí are prepared for the Easter weekend to keep on top of the trouble and if there is any improvement in the number of burglaries in the area – Sgt. Young said an ongoing operation targeting criminals means they are refused bail if they have previously been in trouble.</p> <p>Mary Taylor mentioned the upcoming LiFT festival and advised there was a programme of events available.</p> <p>A resident mentioned dirty needles at the back of the Holy Spirit School that had been reported but not removed.</p> <p>Deputy Lyons asked if there is any plan to deal with the issue</p>

	<p>of crowds of young people gathering in the parks to drink and said that most of these are children of local residents and these parents need to be held accountable.</p> <p>Sgt. Young said that last year the Gardaí were very proactive in the evenings in moving the gangs along, confiscating drink and making arrests where necessary and said the Gardaí are duty bound to either bring those under 18 home or have them collected.</p> <p>A BRYR representative said they will be focusing on August to deal with issues that may arise and they are working on a strategy for East Ballymun to deal with issues there.</p> <p>Hugh Greaves spoke about the Alcohol Strategy in connection with Tackling Alcohol Together Week and directed people to the Drugs Task Force website for further information.</p> <p>Deputy Ellis asked for an update on the Shopping Centre – Mary Taylor said the site to the north is out to tender and the date has been extended due to the high level of interest – she explained that although DCC own some units NAMA own some too. A resident asked if a CPO was possible and Mary said it was but it is not required at the moment.</p> <p>A resident asked for an update on the dumping bye-laws – Mary clarified that householders must declare who collects their bin or a fine can be issued if they are suspected of illegal dumping.</p> <p>Leona said that Litter Wardens are going through bags that are dumped and there is a system in place to deal with offenders. During 2013 in the NWA 56 litter fines were issued, 17 were appealed, 24 were paid and 4 were prosecuted.</p> <p>A resident asked if there is any update on the pyrite situation – Donal said certain houses in Carton and Owensilla will have to be done and the programme is moving along.</p> <p>A resident asked if there could be 2 microphones available at the next meeting.</p> <p>A resident asked about the houses that were damaged on Oldtown Road – Mary said these were private houses and they have been repossessed.</p> <p>A resident asked about the house in Longdale that is boarded up and being used as a dumping ground – Donal said the house has been abandoned and DCC are trying to get a Surrender of Tenancy as well as keeping the area cleaned every week.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Mary Taylor 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: May 26th 2014 Time: 7.00 pm Venue: Council Chambers, Ballymun Civic Centre.</p>

CONTACT NUMBERS:

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