



Safer Ballymun Community Safety Forum

MINUTES

MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER – 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.</p>
<p>Presentations</p> <p>Dr. Mona O'Moore Trinity College</p> <p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>Donal Barron introduced Dr. O'Moore, who works in the Anti-Bullying Unit in Trinity College, and she spoke about her experience in dealing with bullying. She said bullying touches everyone in some way as it had so many effects and it can take many different forms for example, cyber bullying. She said everybody can make a difference and the stigma of bullying can be removed if people express their disapproval and encourage people to report such behaviour. She stressed that victims of bullying should suffer no shame. Dr. O'Moore said the unit she works in at Trinity College is moving to DCU and concluded by officially launching Safer Ballymun week.</p> <p>Fiona Gallagher, Principal of Trinity Comprehensive, spoke about the activities in the school during their anti-bullying week. She said the school actively encourages students to report bullying and engage in a restorative process whereby the issue is resolved with the active participation of the people involved. When asked by Councillor Montague in more detail about the restorative process Fiona said it is a very effective part of the school's Code of Discipline and Anti-Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Angie from BRYR said young people nowadays are very informed about bullying and events such as quiz nights are often held in the Reco.</p> <p>Deputy Ellis asked about cyber bullying and Fiona agreed it was a huge problem and a process which involved the bully's parents and often the Gardai in an effort to resolve.</p> <p>A resident who alleged he is being bullied agreed to speak to the Gardai after the meeting and another agreed the issue of</p>

<p>BRYR</p>	<p>bullying is a huge challenge for everyone. Dr. O'Moore said research shows the restorative approach is the most effective way of dealing with the issue and advocated parents getting as involved as possible to resolve any issues.</p> <p>Mark and Tanya from the Outreach team in BRYR gave an overview of the various outreach programmes they run and spoke about their efforts to mentor and support and build relationships with vulnerable young people in the community. They are 9 years in existence and run weekly workshops as well as various outdoor and evening activities in a safe environment which promotes personal development and good social behaviour.</p>
<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>Angie from BRYR said BRYR cannot carry much more as the recent Social Welfare cuts had seen a big increase in the attendance of 17-25 year olds to the Centre. Brian Mongey who is a Director of BRYR urged the Public Representative to be mindful of the effect cuts are having on the centre as it has lost the equivalent of €350k in the last 5 years which is causing huge problems for young and vulnerable people. Deputy Ellis asked if there is a marked increase in people seeking help at weekends and more homeless people in general seeking help – Angie said they often have to get staff in at weekends for crisis cases and agreed there are very few emergency beds as the rent allowance had been reduced but the cost of rent has not gone down.</p>
<p>Otherworld Festival</p>	<p>Brian Mongey of DCC spoke about this upcoming event which has become a national model for other local authorities. It is a partnership movement which begins with workshops in early October and culminates in a fantastic night of festival events which attracts in the region of four thousand people and is finished off by a display of fireworks. The commercial value to the area is worth in the region of €100k and the event itself has proved hugely successful in reducing the number of callouts to the Fire Brigade on the night.</p>
<p>Local Drugs Task Force</p>	<p>Hugh Greaves spoke about the Voluntary Code on the Responsible Retailing of Alcohol in Ballymun which has been proposed in the absence of legislation. He outlined the rationale behind the proposal of such a code and spoke about what the proposed code will cover in relation to the sale and delivery of alcohol.</p> <p>DCC Update</p> <p>Donal Barron had the following updates for the meeting:</p> <p>Parks Department and the HSE are working together on this issue of rodent control</p>

<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>The cyclical maintenance programme in relation to the CCTV cameras is complete People are asked to be vigilant in reporting any collection of materials for bonfires at Halloween 6 tenants are left in Joseph Plunkett Tower and DCC have adequate properties to facilitate moves?</p> <p>A resident asked if the CCTV cameras can be fitted with PIR sensors or if they can flash as a deterrent as he feels the level of anti-social behaviour that still exists indicates they are either not being monitored, not working or pointing the wrong way – Donal said they are monitored 24 hours a day and can be moved or turned if the Gardai are notified. Rubbish on Balbutcher Lane was reported so that it could be moved before Halloween. A resident raised the issue of boiler maintenance, broken door handles and manhole covers as Health and Safety issues that have not been addressed and also asked if the vet in the basement of JPT is being moved? Donal confirmed to residents that a PO has been issued to the HSE to deal with the rodent problem in the area. A resident complained about the lack of security in JPT and said she has been waiting 4 years to get housed – Donal said he will discuss her case with her during the talkabout. A resident gave 5 different dates that the Fire Brigade were called out to fires in Coultry and asked how long more the park is going to be left wide open – Aibhlin said the Steering Group will discuss this issue again. A resident raised the issues of the cul-de-sac in Silloge Gardens not being cleaned and a fence in Owensilla Terrace which is falling down and said the 6 weeks between meetings should be adequate time to address these issues.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána Update</p> <p>Sergeant Young gave figures for offences in the Ballymun area for the period from July to September</p> <p>Assault Causing Harm – 4 (down 64%) Burglaries – 32 (up 19%) Criminal Damage – 65 (down 36%) Drugs – 49 (down 8%) Possession of Offensive Weapon – 7 (up 17%) Robbery of Shops – 2 (up 100%) Theft from Cars – 24 (up 20%) Stolen Cars – 15 (down 35%) Theft from Shops – 52 (up 206%) Theft from Person – 15 (up 150%) Public Order – 71 (down 20%) Drink Driving – 11 (down 21%) Seizure of Cars – 76 (down 19%)</p> <p>Sergeant Young said the Gardai are monitoring ongoing</p>
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<p>Issues Arising</p>	<p>issues in Coultry Way, Coultry Park and Plunkett Tower. He said Junior Cert. night celebrations in Ballymun passed without incident and urged anybody with concerns about safety at Halloween to contact the Gardai and/or DCC.</p> <p>Residents expressed concerns about anti-social activities in Coultry Way and Balcurris Park between the hours of 10pm and 6am and asked if the Gardai will be stepping up patrols during these times.</p> <p>Deputy Ellis was concerned about the increase in theft and robberies – Sergeant Murphy said this is mainly due to drive-offs from petrol stations and thefts of I-phones.</p> <p>Councillor Montague reminded people that software can be added to I-phones that can deactivate the phone if it is stolen and asked if the restorative practise used in bullying cases could be useful for low-level anti-social behaviour – Dr. O’Moore said this practise can have a universal application in many settings.</p> <p>A recent crash at the Horizon building was raised – Councillor Montague and Deputy Ellis agreed this was more evidence that lights are needed in this location and Sergeant Young confirmed a request for traffic lights has gone to TAG.</p> <p>Marie Balfe spoke briefly about the various events to take place during Safer Ballymun Week such as clean-up days, swimming classes and the open day in the Garda Station and urged people to pick up a brochure and attend what events they could.</p> <p>Superintendent Moran said the open day in the Garda Station is from 10am and everyone is welcome.</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: December 9th 2013 Time: 7.00 pm Venue: Council Chambers, Ballymun Civic Centre.</p>

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