



**PUBLIC MEETING  
SOUTH WEST INNER CITY LOCAL  
POLICING FORUM**

**ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, THOMAS STREET**

**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**

**Chair:** Jack Roche

**Attendance:** Inspector Karen Barker; Community Garda Mick Martin; John Paul McCabe (Dublin City Council)

**Minutes:** Rea Lavelle

**General:**

Chair outlined purpose of the meeting and introduced Gardaí and Dublin City Council staff in attendance. Members of public were also encouraged to leave their email addresses, so they can receive updates to the issues raised at the meetings, and notifications of upcoming meetings.

Floor was then opened to questions and comments from the public.

**Questions/Issues Raised by the Public**

<b>Issue/Question</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Action</b>
A Meath Street business owner raised the <b>lack of parking on Meath Street</b> , which is deterring customers from the shops located there (lots of parking tickets given). His suggestion was a set-down zone where parking would be allowed for a short time. The plans for improvements /changes to the area were questioned.	Cllr Criona Ni Dhalaigh offered to organise a meeting with businesses to discuss upcoming plans. John Paul McCabe (JPMC) also offered put through suggestions to DCC parking section if the details are forwarded to him.	Insp. Barker promised to look into necessity of ticketing. See also 'Response' section.
<b>Lack of resident permit parking</b> was raised by a person living in the area; on market days (Thu-Sun) impossible for many residents to park near their homes.	JPMC said that residents would also be asked to attend the meeting/discussions about area plans.	
Instead of much needed <b>family homes</b> being built, planning permission is being sought for more hotels, with <b>student accommodation</b> also overrepresented. No community consultation. Schools are closing down because of lack of children; what is DCC doing about this?	JPMC stated that pending planning applications can be viewed on the DCC web-site, however, the focus of this particular forum is not planning.	Cllr NiDhalaigh has initiated setting up a monitoring committee to look at the planning in this area.
One of the public present welcomed the hotels in the area, but also urged DCC to buy land and build <b>more housing</b> stock.		
Concern expressed about the constant building works/impinging on existing residential accommodation/ <b>residents not being informed about developments</b> /impression that land had been 'given' to millionaire developers, received a cheer from many of those present. Lack of	JPMC said he would seek a meeting with the relevant personnel at DCC to consult with residents and other stakeholders. Insp. Barker also stated that the Forum could act as a way of initiating these talks	Meeting/consultation to be set up between residents and DCC. The Forum will endeavour to oversee that this

community centre was also mentioned.		will happen in a timely manner.
Issue/ Question	Response	Action
<b>Too many bicycle stands</b> /Dublin Bike stands in the streets contributing to the parking problem.		To be discussed as part of the planned area consultation.
Resident living close to a particular <b>pub</b> mentioned the <b>noise</b> caused by the majority of its clientele being outside on the street on weeknights.	Insp. Barker took note of the pub and told the resident that it was in breach of its licence if this was happening regularly.	Insp. Barker to liaise with resident/Gardaí to investigate further.
<b>Open drug dealing</b> is happening all throughout the day in certain areas. Only Garda activity seems to be very visible check points. No Gardaí are ever seen walking around and no plain clothes either	These armed Garda checkpoints are effective in dealing with certain types of crime.	
The <b>lack of community Gardaí</b> was brought up in the next comment; fires are being lit every night in rubbish containers taken from properties; a <b>bin</b> had in fact been <b>set on fire</b> during the meeting around the back of the Church.	Insp. Barker spoke of the severe lack of personnel in the force, but stated that there is now some light at the end of the tunnel with 7 new sergeants due to start in the area.	DCC have CCTV footage of these fires and will call in parents of those responsible. Open space at Pimlico will also be fenced off.
<b>Park behind the Church</b> has been used for drug-dealing and taking for 20 years and at the moment is particularly bad with injecting and needles. Park is also dark and not open very often, which only deters working residents from entering. Is there a long-term solution?	The wall is currently being restored and after this Cllr Ni Dhalaigh said the area committee is planning to look at the park's usage. St. Aodoen's Park had been transformed with planting etc. and something like this could be the solution.	Insp. Barker said to email her suggestions /concerns about the park.
<b>Anti-social behaviour around the Church</b> is worse than it ever was and includes drug-taking, sexual acts, defecation and verbal abuse of the staff / priests. DCC and Gardaí need to look at these areas that are known to be difficult. Too much concrete and not enough green space.	The issue regarding green space will be looked at by the area committee.	
Groups of people and individuals are engaging in <b>anti-social behaviour/all-day drinking</b> , as well as behaving disrespectfully to charity workers and volunteers who provide their meals, washing facilities etc.	The same trader warned those present not to approach any of the troublemakers, and only to give information to Gardaí in private. Crack cocaine being pushed on Thomas Street.	
Issues around Guinness' include <b>lack of bins, bad traffic management, and dog and horse dirt</b> (which are affecting businesses in the whole wider area).	There had been so much dumping <i>around</i> bins that many had been removed.	Joint Policing Committee setting up a Working Group to look at horses.
The <b>welfare of</b> many of the <b>horses</b> in the area is also a concern; in addition, horses are supposed to have licences, passports	Cllr Ni Dhalaigh said that the working group is hoping to get DCC to employ a vet to inspect	Garda Martin had been trying to deal with the horse issue

and microchips but many don't, and there are very few checks taking place. Can more resources be put in place to enforce this?	horses and to enforce welfare and licensing around them. Lack of Garda overtime an issue.	for 5 years. Offered to sit on the working group.
Issue/ Question	Response	Action
It was requested that the narrow <b>lane</b> leading from Manning's on Thomas Street to Hanover Lane be closed as it is a <b>venue for injecting drugs</b> and very dangerous.	A request needs to be put in with DCC to end right-of-way.	JPMC promised to look into the issue of the lane.
Another <b>Lane near Vicar Street</b> , where a removable gate had been installed, was also a topic for discussion.	Public should email Rea Lavelle their exact concerns about this lane: <a href="mailto:rea.lavelle@dublincity.ie">rea.lavelle@dublincity.ie</a>	Rea to pass any correspondence to relevant DCC staff.
What plans have been put together to deal with anti-social behaviour around <b>Halloween</b> ? Are there all-day activities available for children/families? It would be important to have activities to engage the older children also, to keep them away from bonfires.	DCC and Gardaí have a plan in place and are taking Halloween very seriously. Insp. Barker urged all present to discourage usage of tyres in bonfires especially. JPMC had a flyer detailing the Halloween hotline numbers and all the activities taking place in the area.	Public asked to report bonfire materials to 01 222 2222 or 01 679 6186 (Evenings and Weekends)