

	PUBLIC MEETING SOUTH WEST INNER CITY LOCAL POLICING FORUM ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, THOMAS STREET Thursday, 7th March, 2019
	Chair: Jack Roche Attendance: Inspector Karen Barker; Inspector Paul Maher; Community Sergeant Ian Lambe; Community Sergeant Mick Nagle, John Paul McCabe (Dublin City Council). Minutes: Rea Lavelle

General: Chair introduced Gardaí and Dublin City Council staff in attendance; Inspector Paul Maher had recently joined the Forum and Inspector Barker was thanked for her contribution over the years; this was to be her last meeting as she is moving to other duties. John Paul McCabe was also attending his last meeting as he had also been promoted to a different area; it was not clear as yet who would take his place as the Dublin City Council representative on the Forum's Management Committee.

Inspector Barker gave a report on the Garda activity in the area; operation THOR, for example, is targeting known anti-social behaviour hotspots.

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

Questions/Issues Raised by the Public

Issue/Question	Response	Action
Construction of new Children's Hospital is causing problems around Mount Brown, with HGV's speeding; illegal parking of contractors and sub-contractors. Some residents had taken photographic evidence of this activity	A community Garda had spoken to the main contractor BAM about speeding. Insp. Barker was also going to give her email address to send photographs to directly.	Referral will be made to the Garda HGV section.
Several issues with horses and ponies in the area were raised; unlicensed carriage horses with no nappies, racing through streets and through red lights, speeding through narrow lanes, sometimes handled by very young drivers. Horse excrement on the streets also an issue. This is giving the legitimate, licensed carriage drivers a bad name also; licenses used to be checked but this hasn't happened in a long time. The horse welfare charity 'My lovely Horse Rescue' also looked for an update to the welfare issues they had previously brought up. Enforcement needed in this regard.	The steering group to look at horse welfare, including that of carriage horses, has met once; it is seeking a representative from Dept. of Agriculture to join it. Molyneux Yard had been targeted by a Garda operation. Superintendent John Gordon intends to have a mechanism in place whereby public can report issues like carriages speeding or horse welfare directly to community Gardaí and public was encouraged to report even if the speeding carriage is gone.	Public can report a problem with horse waste by contacting DCC Customer Services Department on (01) 222 1000 or by logging onto www.dublincity.ie and clicking on the "I Want To" button then "Report It" and follow the instructions for logging a complaint or service request Insp. Maher also responded to say that he will work with licensed carriage drivers as well as the public on horse welfare.
Carriages carry no visible identification mark. How can a member of the public complain about a carriage?	Licensed carriages carry a plate; other carriages are unlicensed. A new system is planned but is delayed.	A JPC initiated working group is reviewing all issues related to horses.

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<p>Who monitors horses/ponies seemingly kept in DCC owned flat complexes? Shetland ponies are being led around like dogs; horses and ponies are tethered in playgrounds and allotments.</p>	<p>This issue will be brought up at the next meeting of the horse welfare group by Cllr Criona Ní Dhálaigh; this group has high ranking DCC representative/s.</p>	<p>Suggestion to convene a local Horse Liaison group to address local issues.</p>
<p>Lack of Garda visibility across the area, as well as regular patrols of the known ASB/crime hotspots was pointed out by several members of the public. Some residents too afraid to report issues or come to meetings. Around James' Hospital LUAS stop is a hotspot for drug dealing, racist-motivated attacks and robberies; visible Garda presence, on foot, was called for.</p>	<p>A number of new Gardaí are due to start at the end of March. There is now a dedicated community engagement Superintendent, and Gardaí will be allocated to each neighbourhood. Insp. Barker encouraged residents to speak to her, or the new appointed team, directly or through community representatives.</p>	<p>Gardaí took note of The issues around James' Hospital, and will add the location to THOR patrol.</p>
<p>Groups of up to 30 youths, often on bikes, were reported to be terrorising some locations. The local petrol station had been particularly targeted by these groups with robberies, attacks on staff and abusive behaviour towards customers. Extensive, clear video footage is available but still nothing can seemingly be done. One Garda had responded recently with a commitment to deal with this issue directly. This gang target other retail outfits also; one business on Meath Street shut for the day because of them recently.</p>	<p>Ins. Barker asked to be passed on more details of the group of youths after the meeting, as well as the details of the Garda who had offered to help. Public were again encouraged to report sightings of this ASB activity, so that the issue of gangs can be prioritised.</p>	<p>Insp. Maher noted that ASB orders may be issued to some youths. Members of public were encouraged to forward him photographic evidence of the ASB (if it was safe to take photographs)</p>
<p>Current problems around the Merchant's Quay area include human excrement. It was also pointed out that the injection centre opened in Paris had been given 40 extra police; can this level of policing be matched here if the injection centre opens?</p>	<p>Gardaí are aware of the issues around Merchant's Quay and have been targeting the area. It was not possible to comment on the exact numbers of extra Gardaí that may be deployed if planning for injection centre goes through</p>	<p>Paula Byrne, the MQI representative, noted that MQI have an community engagement team, who have referred the defecation to DCC Public Domain.</p>
<p>Drug-taking, urination and human excretion taking place at John's Lane Church, however, Gardaí were complimented on taking action as a member of the public wrote to the Superintendent about this issue.</p>	<p>A community Garda had been liaising with the churches in the area in relation to the drug-activity and other anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Human excrement can also be reported to DCC Customer Services Department on (01) 222 1000 or website (see details in previous section)</p>

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The removal of Carman’s Hall from community use was mentioned; there is also no swimming pool, or sports playing field , in the area, which means there is not much to do for young people.	JP McCabe noted that the St. Teresa’s Gardens sports pitch will be available soon; communities are being heard when they raise these issues	
It was commented that Gardaí had not been helpful if members of public had rung to report ASB/criminal behaviour, if they had been upset and perhaps used a profanity. One resident had resorted to ringing 999 as there had been no response from Kevin Street station.	Insp. Barker was already aware of this issue and was speaking to her team about their response. Public encouraged to try not use profanities. It was noted that Kevin Street is very busy at times, but the issue is noted, and it was reiterated that more Gardaí are arriving	
The issue young people acting up in DCC flat complexes of which they are not residents was raised; what powers does DCC have in this regard? A DCC tenant said that DCC tenancy agreements place responsibilities on tenants in case of anti-social behaviour by visitors	DCC Housing Team is working with parents of youths identified as being involved in ASB, however, the wording in Tenancy Agreements restricts DCC powers when ASB is committed in other complexes/areas.	ASB still needs to be reported; Gardaí can act if enough reports come in. Leaflets for confidential Crimestoppers helpline were available; the number to ring 1800 25 0 25
Only two public representatives were present at the meeting and question was raised whether they had all been invited.	All public representatives in the area had been invited. An invitation is also sent to the contact list gathered from previous meetings, and some postering is done around the local area, however, it is not currently possible to leaflet every door.	
Drug use in St. Catherine’s Park is still ongoing, and community can’t use the park. Opening hours are restricted so benefit to the community is small.	A crime prevention officer has been targeting the park. Opening hours are under review and should be extended in summer months.	
One member of the public noted that Gardaí need to be aware of the full legal definition of an assault on a person.		
DCC traffic unit had targeted a long-standing street trader, as her van is parked nearby. Another resident reported that parking by contractors, students etc. in the area means that residents have to pay to park in nearby streets despite paying for a Resident Permit as there are often no spaces free in the street covered by the permit.	JP McCabe took note and will bring the issue to the attention of relevant DCC section.	