

An Garda Síochána

An t-Ard-Ceannfort,
Reigiun Chathair Atha Cliath,
An Roinn Thiar,
Staisiun Garda Bhaile
Bhlainseir,
Baile Bhlainseir,
Fine Gall,
Bhaile Átha Cliath, 15.



Chief Superintendent,
Dublin Metropolitan Region,
West Division,
Blanchardstown Garda Station,
Blanchardstown,
Fingal,
Dublin 15.

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Bí linn/Join us  

*Luaigh an uimhir thargartha seo a leanas, le do thoil/
Please quote the following reference number:*

Dáta/Date: 4th October 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Ballyfermot / Chapelizod Community Policing Forum on the 24th of October 2019 at the Ballyfermot Civic Centre at 7.30pm.

I refer to the above and write to you as Divisional Officer in the Dublin Metropolitan Region West Dublin and on behalf of Superintendent James Dalton, District Officer Clondalkin Garda Station.

It is proposed to hold a Community Policing Forum for the Ballyfermot/Chapelizod area to discuss policing and other matters in your area.

I would be obliged if you could attend.

The meeting will take place at the Ballyfermot Civic Centre on the 24th of October 2019 at 7.30pm.

I look forward to the pleasure of your company on the night.


FINBARR MURPHY
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Ráiteas Misin/Mission Statement:

An leibhéal insroichte is aired a bhaint amach maidir le Cosaint Phearsanta, Tiomantas don Phobal agus Slándáil Stáit
To achieve the highest attainable level of Personal Protection, Community Commitment and State Security

Ballyfermot / Chapelizod Policing Forum

Minutes of meeting held in Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre
on 25th July, 2019.

The Panel Consisted of: Kay Noonan-Cork, Dublin City Council,
Superintendent Brendan Connolly
Inspector Ronan Barry – Ballyfermot Garda Station

A large number of local residents were in attendance. Kay Noonan Cork chaired the meeting

Discussion

Kay Noonan Cork welcomed everybody to the 43rd meeting of the Policing Forum. Apologies had been sent from Councillor Daithí Doolan. She introduced Superintendent Brendan Connolly and Inspector Ronan Barry. She said that there would no presentation tonight.

A copy of the Agenda and contact details for reporting dumping and stray horses also a phone number for Ballyfermot Garda Station is available in a handout at the back of the hall.

The Superintendent gave a presentation:

Crime Statistics

| Type | Description | Jan to June 2018 | Jan to June 2019 | % change |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Burglary | Burglary | 47 | 54 | 14% |
| Robbery | Robbery from the person | 5 | 3 | -40% |
| | Robbery from establishment | 7 | 9 | 28% |
| Theft | Theft from Person | 10 | 2 | -80% |
| | Theft from MPV | 22 | 37 | 68% |
| | Theft fromshop | 58 | 74 | 27% |
| | Theft (Other) | 52 | 78 | 50% |
| Public Order | Public Order | 55 | 36 | -34% |
| Drugs | Possession for sale or supply | 22 | 43 | 95% |
| | Possession for personal use | 76 | 136 | 79% |

Garda Personnel

| | Jan 19 | Jun 19 | % Difference |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Inspectors | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Sergeants | 11 | 10 | -1 |
| Gardaí | 61 | 57 | -3 |
| Total | 73 | 69 | -4 |

Community Policing

| | Jan 19 | Jul 19 | % Difference |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Sergeants | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Gardaí | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 5 | 5 | 0 |

Note 1: 1 member currently utilised on plain clothes duties

Note 2: Sanction given to run a competition to have 5 more members detailed to community Policing in Ballyfermot

Crime Prevention Strategies in Place:

Operation Thor; High Visibility Policing – Beats; Operation Hybrid; Operation Irene; Inspection of Licensed Premises; 89 Juvenile referrals so far this year.

Community Engagement

Crime prevention talks; talks at residents groups and old folks clubs; High visibility Crime prevention patrols; monitoring of known offenders; objections to bail for persistent offenders; case management of juvenile offenders; monitoring and mapping of incidents ; community Police visit all elderly victims of burglary.

Operation Thor

Within 24 hours of burglary occurring the Community Policing Unit are tasked with:

- Visiting the property burgled and giving security advice to the injured party and surrounding houses;

- Personal call back to victims of crime
- Crime prevention advice given to residents.

Crime Victims:

- Feedback is being provided to victims of crime on the progress of investigations.
- There are a number of family liaison officers trained to deal with families and relatives of serious crime.

Garda Youth Diversion Projects:

A.B.L.E., C.O.D.Y., W.H.A.D.,

Note: There are other ancillary Youth Projects operating in the local parish areas with dedicated youth workers allocation to each of these projects. For example: B.S.I.I. in Cherry Orchard.

The Garda Schools Programme is continuing with Gardaí visiting schools to offer advice on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, road safety awareness and personal safety.

Partnerships:

Local Drug Task Force; Business Watch Scheme (2); Hospital Watch Scheme in Cherry Orchard Hospital.

CCTV

There are CCTV cameras at 20 locations in the Ballyfermot, Palmerstown and Cherry Orchard areas being monitored at Ballyfermot Garda Station.

This system is an extremely valuable resource to crime prevention and detection in the areas mentioned. An Garda Síochána work closely with Dublin City Council to manage some of these cameras.

FESTIVALS

30-6-19 – Chapelizod Village

14-7-19 – Constance Markievicz Family Day and Concert

14-7-19 – Stewarts Care Summer Fair

30-7-19 – Parkwest Run

31-8-19 – Rescheduled Cherry Orchard Festival from 30/6/19

PALMERSTOWN

2 DRUG SEIZURES – 2 persons arrested and under investigation.

Complaints of youths acting suspiciously in laneways – Gardaí on beat in this area where resources available.

2 handbag snatches: 1 near Liffey Valley walkway; 1 hand bag snatch Culmore Road. Both under investigation. Mind your property, report any suspicious activity

CHAPELIZOD

Anti Social Behaviour around river; anti-social behaviour around shops; complaint of drug usage in laneways. Increase in Patrols in the area. Festival went very well.

CHERRY ORCHARD

Increase in the number of assaults; increase in anti-social behaviour. New Garda Operation in place in the area from 17th June, 2019: 50 people arrested in Ballyfermot since this date; 6 arrests (to date) in relation to a serious assault; 78 cars seized under Section 41 RTA – no tax/ins/NCT; 21 houses searched under Misuse of Drugs Act.

INCREASE IN DRUGS SEARCHES AND DETECTIONS:

On the 4th July, 2019 large quantity of drugs found during a search of a property in Ballyfermot. Approx Street Value - €24,000 of Heroin, Approx Street Value €2,000 of Cocaine, large quantity of mixing agent.

| ISSUES RAISED | |
|---|--|
| De La Salle and Monastery | As of the 1 st July, 2019, this is 100% private property and in the possession of a developer. No reported issues at this location in the past number of months. Area is all bordered up and Security Plan in place |
| Gangs on Kylemore areas Anti-Social Behaviour | Continue to report all sightings of gang behaviour. Increase in Patrols in area |
| Kylemore Park – Anti-Social Behaviour | Youths hanging around – parents need to be responsible for their children; AGS are co-ordinating with DCC in relation an interagency group regarding this matter. DCC to address |
| Shops in Ballyfermot – Youths hanging around and causing antisocial behaviour | Gardaí monitoring area on camera and patrols paying passing attention Parents asked to be responsible for their children Mountain Bike Gardaí will be patrolling the area within coming days |

| | |
|--|---|
| Le Fanu Park – Anti social behaviour in park and people drinking | AGS area currently working with the Restorative Practice Group in relation to this issue. Mountain Bike Gardaí will be patrolling the area within coming days. |
| Kennelsfort Road – Breach of 7.5 Ton limit | AGS are continuing with checkpoints and patrols in this area. Positive feedback from most residents Note: There are exceptions where person in large commercial vehicles MAY use this roadway |

Inspector Ronan Barry

“Be proud of your area and be an active part of your community”

“Don’t expect others to always report something”

Take action and always Report:

Suspicious Activity;

Drug Dealing;

People you know to be taking risks in motor vehicles;

People who are actively involved in anti-social behaviour;

People you know to be driving while disqualified/without insurance etc.

To speak to the Gardaí in complete confidence ring the Garda Confidential Telephone Number 1800666111.

Although it will assist the Gardaí if you provide as much information as possible, you do not have to give your name if you ring to report an incident.

Emergency Services Memorial (Tribute Garden)

On Saturday 28th September 2019 – from 11am to 2pm, AGS are delighted to be invited to take part in the Emergency Services Memorial in the Tribute Garden, to be held at the Dublin City Council Offices, Ballyfermot Road.

Garda Siochána Dublin – now on Social Media

Information on Social Media activity shown

Suicide Awareness

There is always someone to talk to!!

AGS are here to help, listen or just to talk to.

All lives matter

Tomorrow IS another day – It’s OK to not be OK

Issues for Dublin City Council arising from Meeting of the 25th April 2019
Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Policing Forum

Claddagh Court

The Area Traffic Engineer visited the site at Claddagh Green and made a number of recommendations. Preventative measures will be carried out at the entrance to the carpark to stop vehicles parking on the footpath blocking visibility for the residents as they exit the complex.

A yellow box has been installed at the vehicular entrance and the existing double yellow lines will be renewed and staggered parking introduced outside the complex. This will also have the effect of slowing down traffic at this location.

In addition a bicycle rack will be installed outside the complex which will prevent illegal parking on the footpath and improve visibility for vehicles exiting.

Annamore Court

As reported at the last meeting a full wrap around pedestrian crossing will be installed at the junction of Chapelizod Hill Road/ Kylemore Road/ Le Fanu Road. Works on this will proceed this Autumn.

The placement of two planters on the footpath outside the complex has prevented illegal parking at the entrance making it safer for residents to exit, while also providing a colourful floral display at this location.

30Km/h Speed Limit

The City Council has progressively introduced a 30km/h speed limit to many areas of the city. The new speed limit bye-laws undergoing public consultation shortly will include Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard. The 30km/h speed limit will be implemented in three phases. These areas are part of phase 3 which will be completed by June 2020.

Parking on the footpath at the Gala

The issue of cars illegally parking on the path at the Homesavers Store at the old Gala site is being addressed by the Traffic Department and measures to prevent illegal parking are being taken.

De LaSalle Site

The developers of the site have taken ownership and hoarding has recently been erected. They have not yet finalised their proposals for the site and will meet with the community when in a position to do so and any concerns residents may have can be raised at this forum.

The study to demonstrate how the impact of the increase of units and the subsequent increase in population will effect existing services such as schools, creches, transport etc. is now underway.

Cornamona Court Site

The contractors, Cunningham Contracts Group, commenced the development of Cornamona site on 24th June. The hours of work are Monday-Friday 8.00 am to 6.00 pm and Saturday 8.00 am – 2.00 pm. The contractors will endeavour to ensure that any disruption caused by the construction will be kept to a minimum. The Area Office will engage with them and the residents to address any issues that may arise.

Co-Operative Housing Ireland

The Contractors have now completed their works on site and families have moved into most of the remaining 36 houses. The other houses will be let very shortly. There are some defects still outstanding and these will be addressed over the coming weeks.

Elmdale

The first phase of this development has now been let with new residents taking occupation over the last few weeks. It is hoped that the units will continue to be let on a phased basis until all 72 units are occupied. Support will be given around all aspects of moving home and an open evening will be arranged as soon as the new families have settled in their new homes.

Cherry Orchard/Park West Local Area Plan

A Draft Local Area Plan has been prepared for Cherry Orchard/Park West and interested parties have been invited to make submissions or observations during the public consultation stage which started on 11th June and ended this week. A number of information sessions were also held locally.

All submissions and observations received within the above time limit will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the Local Area Plan.

Ongoing meetings are being held with Horse Power to discuss their possible location within the Local Area Plan.

Lynch's Lane

CCTV has been installed on the lane to monitor illegal dumping and offenders will be prosecuted.

Le Fanu Park

Skate Park

The installation of the proposed skate park for Le Fanu Road commenced on site on 1st July 2019. The expected completion date is December 2019 but there may be a requirement to continue landscaping and planting in the Spring 2020 as its weather dependent. C & A Build & Civil are the contractors with specialist skate park installers, Freestyle, completing the build. An ongoing consultation process will take place with the residents as the development progresses.

There have been serious threats to the contract workers and a security guard was assaulted on Saturday 6th July by a gang of up to 15 young men. There was a second incident on Thursday 11th July where the site perimeter was damaged. The Gardaí are investigating these matters. DCC is liaising with the contractor and the Gardaí to ensure that this important amenity for the youth of Ballyfermot and a wider area is able to progress without threat of violence to people who are employed on the site.

Football teams that use the facilities of the dressing rooms are responsible for locking up and cleaning of them. A contractor was engaged by the Ballyfermot Area office for a once off deep clean of the toilet facilities, and this work has been completed.

The park itself is cleaned from 7.45 am to 10.00 am each morning by Parks staff.

The section of the fence missing at the depot in the park has been replaced.

Kylemore Park

It is intended to hold an on-site meeting with residents immediately adjacent to Kylemore Park to discuss incidences of anti-social behaviour in the Park and how these can be addressed. Staff from Parks, Ballyfermot Area office and An Gardaí will be in attendance.

Seizure of Horses

One horse has been seized in the last 3 months in the Cherry Orchard/Park West area. If you are concerned in relation to the wellbeing of a horse or wish to report a stray horse please contact the Horse Control Unit, at 222 3141 or Ballyfermot Area Office at 222 4660.

Bus Connects Community Forum

A Community Forum has been established by the NTA for each of the proposed bus corridors. The aim is to create two way communication with local communities allowing information and feedback to be relayed clearly, quickly and accurately.

Membership of each forum will comprise of a single representative from resident and community associations, disability and special interest groups and business organisations on the corridors, along with local public representatives. As places are limited, only one representative per group can be accepted.

You must be registered in order to attend a community forum meeting and you can do so by e-mailing cbc@busconnects.ie.

These forums will not commence until the Autumn as they are currently going through all the submissions made during the public consultation.

Interagency Group

DCC are working closely with the Gardai to establish an interagency group to look at co-ordinating the youth services in the area to address incidences of anti-social behaviour involving young people. This would involve looking at timetables, who provides after hours services and when, and can young people be referred to the services. We will also be working with schools in the area with the intention of making people aware of services that are available.

Suicide Awareness Day

On behalf of DCC, I want to express my deepest sympathy to those effected and those who have lost loved ones to suicide in the area. Dublin City Council will wholeheartedly support any initiatives put forward that addresses the needs of the community at this difficult time. Contact has been initiated with the organisers of the public meeting held on 11th July in Ballyfermot and a special event to bring the community together will be supported by Ballyfermot Area office. This event will be held on 8th September.

Issues Raised:

- A public representative commented on the issue of suicide stating that we could all do more. Young men being affected. Good to hear the Mental Health Group are meeting. So much more to help needed. It affects all. Thanks to the Gardaí for the presentation, sorry to hear 3 Gardaí injured, they take their life in their hands. How can public representatives help in relation to increasing the Garda numbers. Can we have more Gardaí from the pool or is it required externally? Bail Laws need to be more strict and the Laws reviewed. Need to take Garda objections/observation more seriously on bail conditions. Why is burglary/theft figures up in the area?
- A resident from Lower Ballyfermot said that there is problem for Old Age Pensioners collecting their pensions in the Post Offices, they are being followed and mugged on the way home. Carer's / Family members need to ensure that they are not collecting large sums of money without being accompanied. Have we lost a Garda car and van from the area? The Dumping has stopped in Lynch's Lane due to the CCTV. Ballyfermot receives very negative press especially when threats are made to the workers. More positive press is needed for the good things that happen in the area. On behalf of the Management Committee we would like to thank the Superintendent and wish him well in his retirement. He is leaving us on a positive note.
- A Councillor from the Palmerstown area thanked the Gardaí for their work at the St. Pats Family Fun Day. Very important for the children to see the Gardaí in this role. A number of incidents have been listed by the Superintendent not aware of some and aware of others, maybe they were not reported. How can the two Garda Stations communicate more efficiently. Neighbourhood Watch in Ronanstown does not know what is happening on the Ballyfermot side. There have been 2 muggings in Aldi car park – the same group – just grab and go. More visible patrols are required. If the Superintendent has no say on staffing levels whom do we contact? We need to keep people safe. Glad to see Gardaí are now on Facebook – another way to communicate and we welcome that conversation.
- A resident from the Carna Ward area said that 5 Gardaí is not enough. Why are Parents not being held responsible for the children. There should be a law to make this happen. Who do we get in touch with to complain about the loss of Gardaí. Incidents at the Church/Shops and the Lawns.
- A resident from Chapelizod thanked the Gardaí for their assistance with the Chapelizod Festival, The road had to be closed and everything went well; Thanks to Brendan always appreciated his input and the robust discussion that took place; There are too many poles in Chapelizod on Martins Row – installed to put signage up. The pavement cannot be used and they need to be removed.
- A resident from Palmerstown said that he echoes the request for more Gardaí we need strong engagement in the future. Social Media / Mental Health talks it is great to see. Kennelsfort Road, can a breakdown be given on the stops / numbers and date of breaches of the weight limit.

- A Councillor from the Palmerstown area expressed thanks to the Superintendent he was great influence and we need more like him; He also said that he endorsed what his colleagues have said previously. There was a truck stopped on Kenneslfort Road. Restrictions should be made smaller. Why are artics allowed on this stretch of road; Turret Road – damage to trees / grass margin more information required on this; dumping in the laneways is a problem – it is a pity South Dublin County Council cannot be at these meetings. CCTV needs to be extended to the laneways.
- Resident from Rossmore Road said that a cyclist was speeding on the pavement at the GALA. Also cars dumping on Drumfinn Park – Laneway at rear of shops/buildings being used for dumping. CCTV at Garda Station should be able to see this.
- A Resident from Cloverhill said that she was shocked to hear that there is only 5 Gardaí – as there are 100 new homes being built we need more Gardaí, more schools and more shops, there is only one in Cherry Orchard. Thanks to the people in the Parks Department for the wild garden in Markievicz Park it brings colour into our lives. Also the flower boxes on the main road are helping people who only see darkness. Volunteers are out everywhere – elderly people out cleaning in Clondalkin. More people need to volunteer they are missed when they stop.
- A resident from Claddagh Court asked who cleans the Plaza – when you approach the bin men they say it is not their area of responsibility. There was a box of empty bottles at the Centra, left there 3 days. Nobody wants his or her children coming across this.
- A resident from Blackditch Road wished the Superintendent well on his retirement. There is no use in the Inspector saying he will be in Clondalkin we need him in Ballyfermot. There are many public reps on committees in the area and they know what is happening. The community have had enough. Credit to Youth Services this Summer they have been out in force. Also there will be a Tribute Garden unveiled in September – a memorial to commemorate living and deceased service men.
- A resident from Cherry Orchard – he said he is a project leader in the area and wished to express his thanks to Dublin City Council and the Gardaí for their support/background work at the various events. He said that there is anti-social behaviour around the ‘Lair’ at Kylemore Park. The Youth Services have come together and have extended their services to 3 nights a week and extended the out of hours service. It is having an impact and the groups have moved along. Credit again to Dublin City Council.
- A local resident from the Kylemore area asked how to start a neighbourhood watch group.
- A resident said that a cashless card system should be introduced to prevent OAP muggings. Also pointed out how great the Youth Services are and it was great for their daughter. She said that she is aware that we are fighting a losing battle.
- It was also raised about Community Policing could be carried out by Volunteers dressed as Police – possible Reserve Gardaí.

The Superintendent responded:

- In 2009/2010 a decision was made by Government to do a clean out at Superintendent/Inspector/Sergeant grades – As a result a lot of the time the Sergeant Grades were left running the show. There was also an embargo on recruitment and staff leaving due to natural wastage. Yesterday sanction has been given to reinstate the force to 2010 levels.
- In all honesty the Superintendent said that he had been told he would get the Gardaí that were promised. They are trying to rebuild the unit. The new Superintendent will have a plan. It is a massively young organisation at the moment and the Sergeants are just not there for the supervision required while the new recruits are being trained. The Community Gardaí are sourced from within the force generally Gardaí with experience.
- Stringent Bail Laws – the Gardaí can only enforce the laws. The Judiciary are independent and the Gardaí can only enforce the Laws of the land.
- Burglaries – especially during Winter months are high – will continue to bring the figures down.
- Muggings – Old Age Pensioners are particularly vulnerable. They do not want a card they want their cash in their pocket. Will try and get the local units to concentrate more on the Post Offices.
- Three new patrol cars were received last month in the district. Clondalkin also got extra – the existing fleet is old and tends not to last.
- Palmerstown Division in Garda Districts – there is an invisible line in the road. Lucan Garda Station agreed to take on the operation of the breach of the 7 tonne limit. There is no conflict between the areas – maybe need to be more open at each others meetings.
- The Superintendent said that he enjoyed the robust exchange with the residents of Chapelizod.
- It has been a pleasure to come to meetings, frank exchange of views we may not always have agreed but it was enjoyable.
- Mental Health – we need to talk to each other – help is there if needed
- The issue raised by the resident from Palmerstown will be dealt with by Inspector Barry
- 89 JLO referrals – some maybe the same person
- Local activities – think they do help but could not say definitely – but they must have an impact

- The Superintendent said that he is 40 years in the Gardaí and he enjoyed it with good days and sad days. It is a good career. He said he was stationed in this area in the 1980's = there was a task force in the area - back in the area in 2012. This is a great area, great people, a lot of people work in the background. Thanks for the good wishes.
- The post of Superintendent should not be vacant for too long.

Kay Noonan Cork responded:

- Good Luck to the Superintendent. Hopefully the vacancy is filled quickly
- Pass on condolences to Sister Liz on the loss of her father
- Signage Poles in Chapelizod – will try to get Traffic Department to reduce number of poles – they were installed to try and reduce speed in Chapelizod
- Cleaning rota for the Plaza in Claddagh Green will be examined
- Drumfinn Park – please report to the area office when dumping occurs.
- Extended hours of Youth Services in the area – need to pull all Youth Services together to know where people can go and we need better communication between all the services.
- A meeting will be held with residents around Kylemore Park
- Mental Health – A Liaison Support Officer in Pieta House has been appointed

Kay Noonan Cork thanked everybody for their input and for coming along this evening and brought the meeting to a close.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 24th October, 2019 @ 7.30pm- Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre.

