



Public meeting

Canal Area Community Safety Forum

Our Lady of the Wayside school
Bluebell

15/11/22

Chair: Justin O Brien

Attendance: Superintendent Gary McPolin, Inspector Carolyn Cullen, Sgt Pat Culhane, Garda Sean Gallagher, Pat Smith (DCC), Cllr Daithi Doolan.

Facilitated by Ali Warner

Minutes: Valerie Scott

Ali opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explained the format of the meeting which is held in Café Style. Each representative at the top table introduced themselves and gave a brief outline of their role and connection to the forum.

Bronadh O Brien (Building Community Resilience Coordinator) gave an overview of the recently launched Local Community Safety Forum booklet.

Groups of residents worked together with table facilitators on the questions below

What is working well in terms of community safety at the moment?

- Sports Clubs and Youth Clubs.
- Summer Projects / Camps
- Community Centre and activities.
- Halloween was a great success.
- Neighbourhood Watch.
- Recent removal of graffiti by DCC in Bernard Curtis Court.
- Painting upgrade in Bernard Curtis House.
- Community Forum.
- Football pitch.
- Good Community Spirit.
- Antisocial incidents on Canal have lessened.
- Community Gardaí presence in the area and linking in with Organisations.

What are the issues in your area re Community Safety?

- Assault of a young person on way home from Football training.
- Bad Lighting in the area and on the canal.
- ASB on Canal.
- Ongoing Drug Dealing at shops and near the Community centre.
- Issues re Parking when football matches are on.
- Scramblers /e scooter's on footpaths and flying around the roads.
- Lack of Gardaí presence.
- Lack of funding for organisations.
- Gates left open at Bernard Curtis Court.
- Community Garden at Bernard Curtis Court needs maintaining.
- Lack of space for football clubs to train.
- Used Nitrous Oxide canisters are a common sight in parks etc.

Suggested Solutions

- Information on funding streams for groups/organisations.
- Increase collaborative work between community organisations and the community.
- Upgrade of Playground.
- Upgrade of La Touché Park so football teams have more space for training.
- Increase Garda presence

Responses from Gardaí and DCC

Gardaí

- Robust schools programmes are held throughout the year.
- Operations running with the Drugs Unit and Community Response Team.
- Reports of ASB/Drug dealing incidents need to be reported with specific details such as time and date so Gardaí can access CCTV.
- Operation Tombola (Halloween) was successful.
- ASB on the canal is a common thread from other areas and patrols are ongoing
- Upcoming legislation re scramblers /e scooters will help with policing the issue.
- Gardaí patrols along the canal and in the area has worked in reducing ASB.
- Crime prevention office is available to come out to the Community and groups.

DCC

- Maintenance work is planned for garden and outside area of Bernard Curtis Court.
- Lighting in the area can be looked at by DCC on a specific street.
- Halloween was a great success –mainly due to the Community and the local organisations for their involvement.
- DCC and Gardaí work closely to address ASB. CCTV is reviewed
- Gates in Bernard Curtis Court are left open for access for emergency services.
- Community section are in talks with Parks in relation to La Touché Park for other uses.
- Inclusion week was funded by DCC was very successful.

Email address for DCC and Gardaí were shared for anyone to who wishes to make a confidential report.

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Gardaí DMRSouthCentral.Community@garda.ie