



Public meeting

Canal Area Community Safety Forum

St Andrews Community Centre

7/11/22

Chair: Justin O Brien

Attendance: Linda Fanning (DCC), Laura Kenny (DCC), Superintendent Gary McPolin., Inspector Carolyn Cullen, Sgt Pat Culhane.

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 who is the Building Community Resilience Coordinator gave a brief 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?

- Anti-social has improved in the area lately.
- Good neighbours
- Community supports from community organisations.
- Permit parking for residents works well.
- Halloween events were very successful in the D8 area.
- Good Gardaí presence over the Halloween period.
- Compliments were given to Community Gardaí on their presence and relationships with the community.
- Outreach services from organisations is happening.
- Solas (Rua Project) are working with young people in the D8 and D12 area who are involved in offending behaviour.

What are the issues in your area re Community Safety?

- Electric scooter on footpaths. No enforcement on helmets.
- Antisocial on Luas.
- Gangs congregating at Fatima Luas stop is intimidating.
- Hard to engage young people in the area.
- Cars turning right at Rialto Bridge is problematic.
- Damage to Residents property.
- Poor visibility of Gardaí
- Slow response time from Gardaí
- Uneven footpaths are dangerous.
- Increase of people parking in the area.
- Removal of cars to the pound without any notification.
- A Recent assault of a woman on the canal has gone unreported due to the huge fear and intimidation in the community.
- Poor attendance at Public meeting could be due to fear and Intimidation.
- Dog Fouling

Suggested Solutions

- More Gardaí visibility on the streets. There was mention of Community Guard Vincent who has since retired and how he was always visible and accessible in the community.
- Manned dedicated line to community Gardaí.
- Increase outreach from youth and Drug services.
- Public need to report more to Gardaí - ring 999
- Can DCC allocations do better background checks.

Responses from Gardaí and DCC

Gardaí

- Gardaí are disappointed to hear that there is a fear of reporting due to intimidation in the community. Reporting can be done anonymously in a safe and confidential way.
- There will be new legislation re electric scooters etc.
- Crime prevention officer services are available to the community.
- Operations are ongoing on the Luas in conjunction with other Garda districts.
- Collaborative work is done with DCC
- Gardaí are involved in Education programmes in local schools.
- Gardaí hold a Clinic in Merchants Quay.
- Recruitment is an issue but new members for Community Policing before Christmas.

DCC

- DCC work closely with Gardaí in relation to incidents in their complexes. Gardaí have access to cameras installed in DCC premises.
- Residents can report confidentially to DCC.
- DCC do background checks on all potential tenants.
- Upcoming meeting for proposed cycleway from Suir Road to Thomas Street on the 21st November in St Andrews

Next meeting TBC