



PUBLIC MEETING
SOUTH WEST INNER CITY
COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

- **St. Catherine's Church, Thomas Street** -
Tuesday 4 October 2022 (19:00-21:00)

Chair: Michael King

Attendance: Chief Supt. Anthony O'Donnell, Insp. Carolyn Cullen (Garda, Kevin Street), Ms Veronica Hand, Ms Linda Fanning (Dublin City Council), Ms Bronadh O'Brien (BCR Project).

Meeting Facilitator: Ali Warner **Minutes:** Bronadh O'Brien

Attendance: Total attendance - 45

Minutes: Minutes of the 26 May 2022 meeting had been circulated and were taken as read (see <https://dscforums.ie/meeting-minutes>).

Welcome: Ali Warner opened the meeting and **explained how the meeting would run and the ground rules that would apply.**

The proposed format was:

- Opening remarks;
- Small group discussion – What is working well? What is not working?
- Feedback from groups – overview and 3 priorities;
- Response from key representatives;
- Questions and Answers

Opening remarks: Michael King welcomed all. A special welcome was extended to Chief Superintendent Anthony O'Donnell to the South West Inner City, this being the first visit of a Chief Superintendent to the Forum. This was the first meeting of the Forum as a Community Safety Forum. The change reflects new thinking that places Gardaí, City Council and the community on a more equal footing.

Discussion Groups: Seven discussion groups were formed. Following discussion each group gave an overview of what had been discussed and highlighted key issues.

WHAT'S NOT WORKING? – main concerns:

- **OPEN DRUG DEALING** – identified by all 7 working groups
- **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – identified by 6 working groups
- **NEED FOR MORE VISIBLE COMMUNITY POLICING** – identified by 5 working groups
- **LACK OF COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES, INCLUDING SPACE FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION** - identified by 5 working groups.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL? - highlights:

- **COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND EVENTS**
- **URBAN GREENING AND PARKS; POCKET FOREST**
- **YOUTH CLUBS AND TAG**

Responses / Open Forum:

Supt. O'Donnell: The Community Policing, Crime Task Force and Drugs Units in Kevin Street would be strengthened in the next few weeks. Trust between Garda and community is vital. Gardaí will work with the community, but partnership is essential and An Garda Síochána wishes to build on that. Drug dealing can be reduced but won't be eliminated. AGS will put resources in and 'we will work with you'. Good communication can lead to a constructive approach.

DCC provided a written UPDATE on actions taken since May 2022 and made available contact email addresses and an enquiry form. All further enquiries would be responded to.

Among the issues addressed in open forum were:

- Broader DCC representation at the Forum;
- Can confidential calls to DCC and AGS be accessed through Freedom of Information? (NO, they cannot - they are legally protected from public scrutiny);
- The need to bring together groups of residents to build a more inclusive community; (funding to support community activities is available from DCC)
- DCC responses to ant-social behaviour in it's estates – cooperation with AGS, DCC policy measures, forming residents' groups in more estates.

Bronadh O'Brien, Co-ordinator of the *Building Community Resilience* Project spoke about the role of BCR, its support for CSFs and the links between CSFs and the Joint Policing Committee. BCR had helped CSFs in Dublin South Central to put together an information booklet on CSFs, copies of which were made available.

The meeting Facilitator thanked participants. A minute and report of the meeting would be circulated. The meeting closed at 21:00 hrs.

A more detailed REPORT of the meeting is available - email D8Forum@gmail.com to ask for the October Report. The Report will also be available on the CSF Network website <https://dscforums.ie/>

The information booklet on Community Safety Forums can be read online or downloaded at <https://dscforums.ie/>

Contact details for matters raised at this meeting:

<u>South West Inner City Local Policing Forum</u> e: D8Forum@gmail.com	<u>Community Policing – Kevin Street</u> Tel: 01 666 9400 / in an emergency always phone 999 e: DMRSouthCentral.Community@garda.ie	<u>Dublin City Council</u> e: southcentral@dublincity.ie
--	---	---