



PUBLIC MEETING
SOUTH WEST INNER CITY
COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

- St. Catherine's Church, Thomas Street -
Tuesday 28th February 2023

Chair: Michael King

Present: Insp. Carolyn Cullen, Sgt. Pat Culhane, Veronica Hand (DCC), Linda Fanning (DCC).

In Attendance Aengus O Snodaigh T.D., Cllr. Vincent Jackson.

Meeting Facilitator: Ali Warner **Minutes:** Valerie Scott

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

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

What is working well in terms of community safety in the area for you right now?

- Security Person working in the local parks.
- Good Garda presence on Margaret Kennedy Road/Oliver Bond/Basin Street
- A focused police plan.
- Vibrant re-emergence of cafes, coffee shops pubs etc post Covid.
- Good relationships and support with neighbours in the community.
- Garda engagement with young people.
- Youth organisations in the area are a huge positive.
- Increase of Gardaí in the Community Policing units.
- Opening of Weaver and Bridgefoot St Parks.
- Community Planting programme
- Announcement of the Regeneration plan for Basin Street.
- Collaboration between community organisations.
- Young people engaging with services and being involved positively in the area.
- Community Events.

What is challenging or not working well in terms of community safety for you?

- Ongoing drug dealing, drug activity.
- Displacement of drug dealers - it seems an unwinnable war.
- Nitrous oxide abuse by young people.
- Grooming of young people into criminality.

- Joyriding and stolen cars/damage to cars.
- Racial abuse
- Fires and vandalism.
- Begging and intimidation.

- Lack of Community spaces - indoor and outdoor.
- No access to basketball in St. Catherine's sports complex.
- Lack of funding for organisations.
- Community Centre in Donore Avenue still closed.
- Lack of wraparound services for immigrants.
- Lack of mental health supports
- Addicts victimised for social media purposes.
- An Ask for more play equipment for Weaver Park and
- A major upgrade needed for Vicar Street Playground.

- Poor lighting in New Market Street, St James Walk.
- Footpaths /roads need upgrading.
- Litter and sewerage around the Coombe area.
- Dog Fouling.

- CSF Meeting not widely advertised.

CSF Response:

Michael King (Chair CSF Management Committee) thanked everyone contributing to the meeting. **Community Safety** included the large and the small things that help people feel secure in their neighbourhood. Partnership is the key to meeting these community safety needs. More and more, agencies and communities are working together to address problems. By engaging with the Forum participants support community organisations, An Garda Síochána, DCC and many others in this work. All the issues reported in feedback would be recorded, addressed and reported on.

Garda Update/Response

- There has been an increase from 4 to 12 members in the Drugs Units and from 5 to 12 members in the Task Force Unit. There is also a full complement in Community Policing and Community Response Team.
- Happy to hear the positive feedback from Oliver Bond and Margaret Kennedy Road; this is a reflection of the increase in number on the new units.
- Community Policing will continue to work and build relationships with young people and the local community organisations.
- Displacement of drug dealing is noticeable and gives some relief to residents in areas from which dealers have been displaced.

DCC Update/Response

- DCC is working collaboratively with Garda re the ASB in Basin Street and have re-established a Residents' Committee in Basin Street. The Garda Crime prevention office will have a walk about with DCC and suggest improvements in relation to lighting, cameras etc.
- Residents in Oliver Bond have had some respite due to the work of Gardaí moving on dealers, but other areas then suffer.
- Issues still happening in the apartment block of Margaret Kennedy Road; locks and CCTV have been replaced.
- Security presence in St Catherine's Park has had a positive impact; there will be a change in opening hours due to the brighter evenings.
- Extra lighting and CCTV is being looked at on Bridgefoot Street.
- Easter event is being planned for Bridgefoot Street Park; gives the community ownership.
- Weaver Park has CCTV system, the hope is for more CCTV when the new apartments are built.
- Money has been allocated for improvement works ie planting etc in the Coombe area.
- The hope is for Donore Community Centre to be open in 2024. F2 and Basin St school have offered spaces for groups to use.
- DCC can make a financial contribution to Community summer activities.
- DCC will liaise with cleaning department in relation to issues in Brabazon Street.
- Wrap around services are available to vulnerable DCC tenants; under GDPR laws DCC cannot disclose confidential information to other tenants.
- NCAD owns the vacant space beside the Clock pub, they have plans to develop the site and will not be moving out of the area.
- New legislation is being presented to the Dáil that will address licensing of horse carriages for hire and the issues related to that; DCC will feed back to the CSF.