



Public meeting
Canal Area Community Safety
Forum
Our Lady of the Wayside school
Bluebell
2nd May 2023

Chair: Justin O'Brien

Attendance: Inspector Carolyn Cullen, Sgt Pat Culhane, Pat Smith (DCC), Cllr Daithí 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.

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

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

- Environmental Group /Clean ups
- Community Centre and activities.
- Groups such as CDP, Youth Project, Football clubs.
- Small neighbourhood, community spirit.
- Luas and bus route.
- Local Playground
- Canal
- Local shops and school.

What are the issues in your area re Community Safety?

- Illegal Parking on footpaths and across entrances to residents. properties.
- Parking at community centre in particular when matches /training are on .
- Poor lighting on roads especially coming from the luas, outside the shops and La Touché Drive.
- Ongoing Drug Dealing -young people being groomed into this lifestyle.
- Poor Gardaí visibility.
- Scooters/Scramblers on the roads and Canal pathway. Canal is a no-go area.
- DCC trying to change green space beside playground to a football pitch, this is causing friction in the community. Will mean there is no greenspace for free play.
- No public bins.
- Gangs hanging around.
- Allocations of DCC units to those not from the area.
- Lack of CCTV

Suggested Solutions

- Voice of residents need to be heard by DCC in relation to the dangerous parking situation. Suggestion of no parking signs to be erected or signs/permits for residents.
- More Gardai presence in the area on match days and training evenings.
- Lighting in the playground.
- Improve lighting in the whole area
- Gates at entrance on to canal on pathway from community centre.
- Free Parking in school or church grounds for clubs.

Response DCC

- DCC will follow upon the issue of poor lighting and can carry out a survey in the area to see where the worse spots are.
- Lighting and CCTV on the Canal is Waterways Ireland responsibility .Dcc was agreed to set up meeting with Waterways Ireland to discuss the issues.
- DCC are reluctant to installing lights in the playground as it can encourage groups to hang around and lead to ASB.
- DCC are engaging with a contractor at best way to address entrance on to canal from the pathway in front of Community Centre.
- Units are allocated under the Choice Based Letting Scheme (vacancies are advertised and people can register their interest in them. If a number of applicants express an interest in a property, the final offer will be made to the applicant with the highest list position for that particular type of property .All offers of accommodation will be subject to the usual estate management checks.)
- DCC will look at installing a bin at community centre.
- DCC will speak with centre manager about sending text/email to clubs re parking the situation.

Response Gardaí

- Gardaí will take a soft approach first to try tackle the parking situation, have a presence on match and training evenings and chat with motorist.
- AGS and DCC will meet together with Community Centre to discuss best ways tackle the parking issue, suggestion to invite school and church reps also .
- Gardaí policy is not to chase scramblers/scooters, it needs a multiagency approach to an educational piece with schools and families. Gates od some sort will alleviate access of these vehicles on to the Canal Pathway.
- Are aware of the drug activity in the area and it is being addressed by other specialist units.
- Sgt Culhane will contact Crime prevention office to do a walkabout and make recommendations regarding lighting in the area.
- Community policing numbers are low and are hoping they will have new members by July.
- 999 is **not** just for emergency calls. It will generate o the pulse system and will be addressed.
- Garda Confidential line **1800-666111** .Kilmainham Station **01 666 9700**

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

DCC pat.smith@dublincity.ie Gardaí DMRSouthCentral.Community@garda.ie