



Public meeting
Canal Area Community Safety
Forum
Inchicore College
27/4/23

Attendance: Sgt Pat Culhane, Garda Mark Duffy, Linda Fanning (DCC) , Veronica Hand (DCC) Cllr Daithí Doolan.

Apologies: Justin O Brien (Chair), Superintendent Gary McPolin , Inspector Carolyn Cullen TD Aengus ó Snodaigh, Cllr Vincent Jackson ,Cllr Máire Devine.

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 in the area ?

- Less car fires. Reduction of ASB.
- Integration of children and families from new communities into the area.
- Supports to the community from organisations such as Family Resource Centre , Core Youth Project and Solas.
- Mens and Women’s Groups ,St Patricks Athletic Football club,
- Community Events and festivals , Richmond Barracks, Graveyard tours, Library Adv Group .Inchicore Playground, Ring Street Club.
- Community WhatsApp groups that shares events/news and alerts members of incidents etc.
- Environmental /Clean up groups. Apple trees planted.
- Community Spirit. Second and third generation of families living in the area. Neighbours looking out for each other.
- Ramps that have slowed speeding.
- Increase visibility of Gardaí in the area.
- Diversity of shops in the area .
- Luas is a great amenity for the community

What are the issues /challenges affecting Community Safety in your area?

- Gangs loitering in Grattan crescent Park drinking in the evening time, evidence of drug activity in the park, gate left unlocked at night.
- Intimidation by young people towards residents using the allotments, in particular verbal abuse and sexual comments made to female allotment users. Locks on allotment gate constantly being damaged and broken.
- Residents are fearful on the Canal due to constant ASB and Drug dealing. Poor Lighting along the canal makes it no go area in evening time. This has been brought up at previous meetings and not addressed to date.
- Intimidation at Goldenbridge Luas stop.
- Feeling that gangs of youths have control of the area. People feel powerless.
- Youths on scooters racing up and down roads and canal.
- Groups of young people gathering at BERA hall
- Wheelie bins set alight.
- Lack of Garda patrols on the streets.
- Poor response time by Gardaí to calls, leads to lack of confidence in the service- residents stop calling and reporting.
- Illegal car parking on footpath's and roads, causes difficulties for wheelchair users, mothers with prams ,older people.
- Gang of young people causing issues are not from the area coming over the bridge at Goldenbridge.
- Drug dealing and intimidation toward residents in Tyrone Place. Residents are sick with worry and want to move out.
- Lack of spaces for young people to go apart from sports and youth clubs etc.

Suggested Solutions

- Increase of Garda presence/visibility on the streets and along the canal. More foot and bike patrols. Improved relationships with Gardaí and young people.
- Remove Gangs of Young people from Tyrone Place ,in particular those who do not live in the area.
- Extra funding for community projects. More diverse groups.
- Grattan Park Gate to be locked at night-time. DCC to address issues at allotments.
- Inclusive community events on the canal. Improve lighting along the canal. Training for youth in the area to become kayak instructors-community ownership.
- Community activities to reclaim the Canal
- Residents to set up more WhatsApp groups to share information.
- More ramps to combat speeding. Legislation re scooters/scramblers.
- Increase Funding for youth organisations for outreach team who can work on the canal with young people, for graffiti programme in youth projects..
- Upgrade for Inchicore Playground.
- Education/Employment programmes.

DCC Response

- Allotments are managed by the area office and Linda will pass on complaints to the relevant people in Parks department to follow up on issues raised .
- Lighting on Canal –DCC will do a walk about with members of Public domain to have a look at exactly where lighting needs to be replaced/installed.
- In relation to youths their hands are tied if they are out of area. If they are frequenting or visiting a DCC property, then DCC can address it with the tenant.
- The issue of parking on footpaths will be passed on to DCC parking enforcement.
- Funding for projects can be applied under The Community Safety Innovation Fund, money seized from proceeds of crime to be used to support investment in communities.
<https://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/CSI-Fund-2022>
- DCC and Waterways Ireland are investing in an initiative to increase positive community activities along the canal such as kayaking, canoe, paddle boards.
- DCC are aware of issues in Tyrone Place and are working closely with AGS. They are also hoping to identify a unit in the complex to run a DCC info clinic from.
- There is a plan around the old library DCC ,Linda will get more information and pass it on.
- DCC will follow up on the issue of overgrown trees on Connolly Avenue and along the Canal.

Gardaí Response

- Sgt Culhane was not aware of the level of ASB happening in Grattan Park allotments, he will bring back this info to his team and increase park patrols. They will also work with DCC to have the allotments secured.
- Scooters on the canal is concerning. AGS policy is not to chase. This needs to be tackled by a Multiagency educational approach with young people and families.
- Patrols on the canal will be increased although extra patrols are always on overtime. Members are being trained on bikes which will give a better ability to police.
- Intermittent patrols on the Red Luas line.
- Members in the Community Policing Unit are low, extra resources are promised. If the team had more members, they could have more engagement with young people, in schools and projects etc.
- If a report is made through 999 it automatically creates a report on the pulse system.
- AGS works collaboratively with Anna Liffey assertive Outreach programme.
- Plans to work Joint policing plans in with community policing units based from Sundrive area in the summer months.
- AGS are working collaboratively with DCC to address Tyrone Place.
- Numbers have been increased in the Community Response team and the Drugs Unit.
- The current numbers on the Community Policing Unit at Kilmainham is 6 full time members, 2 members that work-share, 1 member on administrative duties. The team are doing their best to deliver a service to their best ability on low numbers.

Email contacts

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