



**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**SOUTH WEST INNER CITY**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

**St. James's Primary School, Basin Lane**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Chair:** Michael King

**Present:** Insp. Carolyn Cullen, Veronica Hand (DCC), Linda Fanning (DCC).

**In Attendance:** Aengus Ó Snodaigh T.D.

**Apologies :** Patrick Costello T.D.

**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 right now?**

- Community Projects such as Solas, Fountain and the Haven are doing great work in the area.
- New Linear Park along Luas line.
- Health hub with James's Hospital, Coombe Maternity Hospital and the National Children's Hospital.
- Regeneration in the area; upgrades to the area by DCC is welcomed
- Sports teams
- Community events and Multicultural events
- Diversity and integration
- New premises for the Solas project
- New social housing in Bonham Street
- New businesses opening up.
- DCC choice based lettings system
- Local schools
- Cycle lanes/Pedestrianisation/Open spaces.
- Community Spirit

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

- Ongoing Open drug dealing; most of those involved are not from the area
- Drug debt intimidation
- ASB/Criminality
- Fires
- Relentless damage to private and public property
- Lack of Community Gardaí on the streets/Community Garda not known
- Illegal dumping
- Illegal Parking
- Begging
- Lack of sporting facilities
- Lack of sports officers in DCC
- Lack of facilities for Young people.
- Donore Avenue Community Centre closed the past 2 years.
- Iveagh Market Buildings closed
- Scramblers
- Pitch in Basin Lane not maintained
- Children from as young as 12 involved in ASB both male and female
- Residents feel abandoned and forgotten, scared and trapped in their homes.
- Residents are fearful and have been threatened.
- Gates at Mary Aikenhead complex are broken. Residents that have lived most of their lives there are being harassed /terrorised in their homes.
- No thought given regarding allocations of units in Mary Aikenhead and Basin Street.
- Racial attacks - physical and verbal. Students from Griffith College and Digital hub have been racially abused. International students are afraid for their physical safety which will have an impact on colleges.
- ASB is happening both day and at night in the area. Children have to be escorted up the lane after school by staff because of the level of ASB and Drug dealing. Residents won't attend public meetings for fear of reprisals.

## Garda Response

- Recent placements to Community Policing brings the unit to its full capacity.
- Members of the unit have been recently assaulted.
- Displacement of drug dealing happens when Gardaí concentrate heavily on one particular area and the dealers move to a new area.
- There have been large drug seizures in the last 3 months.
- ASBOs cannot be issued to over 18s. The 12/16 year olds can be referred to JLO.
- Gardaí work closely with DCC re community safety issues.
- Scramblers are on the increase; the policy is not to chase but Gardaí can seize the vehicle if the person is apprehended.
- Urge residents to ring 999 and report crime.
- There have been 3 reports of racist attacks in the past 3 months, the reports spoke about tonight are very concerning and will be taken very seriously. The Inspector will follow up on the reports after the meeting to look at how this can be addressed and to assure the safety of students.
- There is a Community Garda assigned to each area, Garda Paul Redican is the Community Garda for Basin Lane. Gardaí will look at a leaflet to be circulated with contact details for Community Policing Unit.

## DCC Response

- DCC will look at getting Basin Lane pitch cleaned up, it will be rezoned in the regeneration process.
- Work is to begin at end of June to refurbish pitch at Marrowbone Lane
- DCC have 1 sports development office for the area
- DCC are aware that there is ASB in Basin Street and are working towards addressing this, which can be difficult as some young people are not living in the area
- The CCIA process looks at hotspot in the area with a view to working collaboratively with a problem solving group to try tackle the issues.
- Contactors are due to start work on Donore Community Centre next week, DCC are hopeful the centre will be back in service for 2024.
- Housing officers don't have a say on ordinary allocations, which are done centrally in Head office. Choice based lettings can give people an option to apply for a unit in an area of choice, but position on the housing list will dictate the offer. There are new units coming on stream under CBL in Cork Street and Bonham Street.
- Works on the Linear Park will be completed this week and ongoing meeting with parks, public domain, St. James's Hospital and Transdev continue. DCC will give commitment to follow up on any complaints reports made re the park.
- DCC will speak with residents in Mary Aikenhead about forming a residents' committee.
- DCC Housing cameras can only cover the complexes; Cameras have to comply to GDPR.

#### Other comments/questions

- Solas project would like DCC to have a consultation with the young people regarding the Regeneration process. Solas to email suggested dates to DCC.
- 5 different Multicultural events have taken place in the area over the past 3 months. These events are very welcome and work towards building a more inclusive community.
- There is a huge gap and lack of sporting facilities in the Dublin 8 area, this is due to a lack of investment by DCC. The positive impact sport has on a young person's life is massive. DCC will meet with their sports office to assess what is being done .
- Parking along Basin Lane has become very dangerous for residents and children going and returning from school. Builders are parking in the flat complexes also. Double yellow lines/no parking needs to be introduced before an accident happens.

**Michael King the SWIC Community Safety Forum Chair is retiring from the position at the end of this month. He was thanked for all his hard work and dedication to the Forum.**

#### **The Chair's closing remarks.**

Michael King thanked everyone who had helped to organise or had taken part in the Forum. People had spoken frankly and respectfully about difficult issues to representatives of An Garda Síochána, the City Council and others. This is one of the principal goals of a Community Safety Forum.

The next Public Meeting of the Forum will be in October, back again in the same venue. The Chair appealed to everyone in the hall to return in October, with a copy of the issues raised at the June meeting (which would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and circulated). As well as the opportunity to raise issues publicly and have them recorded, a big advantage to the community of participating in the Safety Forum is that people can raise an issue at one meeting and return 4 months later to update the record and hear about progress and find out more about what is planned.

The October CSF meeting would be chaired by Evan Moore of SWICN, the new Chairperson of the Community Safety Forum. Michael King spoke of the special contribution of John Gallagher and Jack Roche, two former chairs to the development of the Safety Forum since 20, and also to the long service on the Forum committee of Tony O'Rourke, who had died very recently. The work of the three was marked by a round of applause.