

Public meeting
Dublin 12 Community Safety Forum
Clogher Road Sports Centre, Crumlin
24/10/2023

Present: Pamela Kearns (Chair), Robert Smithers (AGS), Super Intd. Paul Meagher (AGS), Ciaran Wynne (AGS), Pat Smith (DCC), Jenny Flynn (covering for Chris Butler, DCC)

In Attendance: Sophie Nicollaud (Cllr.), Daithi Doolan (Cllr.), Pat Dunne (Cllr.), Evelyn Balfe (Residents), Trevor Clowry (Residents), Siobhan Burke (Residents)

Apologies: Adam Logan (Youth Services), Alan Sherry (DCC), Pat McEvilly (DCC), Louise Walsh (Residents)

Facilitator: Ali Warner

Minutes: Cillian O'Donoghue (covering for Valerie Scott, DSCP)

Ali opened the meeting and the different members of the committee introduced themselves to those in attendance. Ali then explained the process and format of the meeting, as well as the principles of the meeting. Tables were then instructed to begin discussing the two questions of:

- What is working well in terms of community safety in your area?
- What are the challenges relating to community safety in your area?

What is working well in terms of community safety in the area?

- Clogher Road and Rutland Grove areas have seen recent improvements.
- Local events in Dublin 12 positive.
- Youth services and Youth Forum having positive impacts, including outreach, communication and intervention.
- Late night football leagues working well.
- Good relationships and collaboration between AGS, DCC, DSCP and service referrals including youth and family support.
- Local community and voluntary groups are strong.
- School visits from AGS welcome and positive.
- Painted local utility boxes pleasant to see.
- AGS advice to local seniors welcomed.
- Cycle lanes in certain areas welcomed.
- Street lighting is good in certain areas.
- Increased visibility of AGS locally welcomed, as well as responsiveness to residents.
- Less fireworks in lead up to Halloween this year, good for older people.

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

- Lawlessness from young people is apparent in the area, including trespassing and damage in private residential buildings. General anti-social behaviour from young people causing problems, including harassment of local shop staff.
- Un-leashed dogs causing problems.
- Hedges overgrown along Bunting Road, attracting anti-social behaviour from young people, while other trees and hedgerows locally also overgrown.
- Disimprovements in Crumlin Village, mainly a lack of respect from young people and older people being intimidated.
- Local mental health services under resourced and waiting lists too long, for younger people and adults.
- DCC and SDCC run sports halls and spaces not available for groups that need them.
- Open 'Fast Gas' and cannabis use evident locally.
- Local events e.g. for Halloween, tend to all happen on the same day at the same time.
- Local families being affected by addiction.
- Cars and homes have been broken into.
- Issues in parks and open spaces, mainly e-scooters, e-bikes dogs and anti-social behaviour, example of Eamonn Ceannt Park was noted.
- Parked cars and trailers obstructing footpaths.
- Cashel Avenue area seeing problems, relating to lack of AGS visibility. Residents are very concerned.
- Drug-dealing is rampant locally, drunk people and people begging also a concern for residents, as well as littering, blocked drains, weeds and build-up of leaves.
- Lack of good lighting in certain areas.
- Cycle lanes in unsuitable areas causing access issues for vehicles.
- Planters have been vandalised.
- Lack of AGS resources noted as an issue.

Suggested Solutions and Questions

- Parents need to take greater responsibility and accountability for anti-social behaviour caused by young people.
- Dog owners need to be fined appropriately when dogs cause problems.
- AGS visibility should increase.
- Youth intervention vitally important, funding should be increased for youth diversion projects. Earlier intervention needed.
- Improved maintenance needed from DCC of public realm.
- Community CCTV cameras would be welcomed.
- AGS, DCC and youth services were complemented around Halloween work, and how much improvements have been seen in recent years.
- In terms of young people, it was noted that the vast majority do not cause problems, with a tiny percentage causing recurring issues that are serious in nature. This 1% need to be targeted appropriately and all key agencies need to be involved. Parenting supports are also important in this.

DCC Response

- Work and plans in place for Halloween, including removal of bonfire material like tyres locally, as well as stock piles of wood. People need to keep reporting these so they can be identified and removed. Advice for people to move their bins in from front gardens where possible.
- Housing based on choice-base letting model it was noted.
- DCC providing information to people on the responsibilities of dog owners. Although dog warden service currently noted as under-resourced, there are 10 new wardens due to begin in DCC in November coming.
- Specific parks issues can be noted and responded to individually, while reports can be made online, as well as for lighting and dog issues.
- In terms of the public domain, it was noted that there are different officers in charge if different areas now, and these staff can be contacted directly by the public.
- In regard to sports hall availability, it was noted that demand from different groups is extremely high in all areas, but DCC and SDCC are trying to facilitate as many different groups as possible. Some halls close earlier in the day.
- DCC doing good work around maintenance. Issues related to traffic system changes were acknowledged, and work with AGS is conducted to review these on an ongoing basis.

Gardaí Response

- AGS thanked local volunteers for their work, as well as local youth workers and residents groups.
- In regards to youth anti-social behaviour and issues in parks and open spaces, AGS are working with DCC on this issue continuously, especially in approaches to design for crime prevention and policing.
- In terms of Halloween and problems around Cashel Avenue, concerns were noted and actions will be implemented by local AGS to help address these issues.
- It was noted that there is continuing pressure and demand on AGS from different groups and in different areas.
- In terms of youth intervention, early intervention can be difficult with families it was noted. But collaborative work with youth services locally is helping in this regard. Examples of the process and how difficult and lengthy it can be were given, including referrals to and from other agencies.
- In terms of e-scooters, it was noted that there is a lack of sufficient legislation currently in place for AGS to effectively deal with these issues, but this is due to change in coming months.
- ASBO programme addresses begging issues locally rather than it being treated as a criminal offence.
- Successful local crime prevention programme examples were given:
 - Incorporating local feedback into policing plans.
 - Visiting local schools and delivering messages around responsibility.
 - FAI late night leagues (4 week pilot tournament).
 - Great work with youth services, pooling resources, planning and providing support.
 - Work in parks and open spaces, including crime prevention surveys targeting anti-social behaviour.
 - Comprehensive local policing plans, including increased visibility and constant engagement with local residents.
- Project team to begin application process for community CCTV is planned to be established shortly. CCTV will be for crime prevention and not mass surveillance. AGS support this, timeline yet to be fully established.
- AGS encouraging other agencies to engage in longer-term solutions for young people, there has been some positive on-street engagement recently in this area also. It would be welcome to have the voice of family support workers at committee meetings.

Pamela spoke at the end of the meeting, to acknowledge the committee's awareness of the issues being raised. Positive responses around current work being done were noted, especially in terms of AGS and Youth Service collaboration. It was noted that there can be difficulties in dealing with issues relating to younger people, but that the committee are committed to help address issues and is always willing to listen. A collaborative approach was noted as the best path forward between different services and groups.

Finally, it was noted that the structure and process of JPCs and Forums is due to change next year significantly, but the DCC South Central area is in a good place to prepare for this.

Ali also noted some positive responses on the night.

Email Contacts:

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