



PUBLIC MEETING
SOUTH WEST INNER CITY
COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

St Catherines, Thomas Street

14/3/24

Chair: Evan Moore

Present: Frank Murphy (DCC), Insp Aine McCarville, Insp Ian Lambe.

In Attendance: Cllr Maire Devine, Cllr Darragh Moriarty.

Apologies: Linda fanning (DCC), Superintendent Butler.

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. 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?

- Good Community Spirit/Good neighbours. Community Watts App groups
- Services such as Addiction, Youth, Community.
- Collaborative work between AGS and Youth Workers and also with DCC.
- Community Gardaí Martha has engaged very well with the community.
- Gardaí response time from Kevin Street station.
- Gardaí football night leagues.
- Merchants Quay Outreach work.
- Upkeep of the area, Local Art projects
- Local Parks maintained such as Bridgefoot St and Oscar Square, Linear Park.
- Francis Street Regeneration.
- Community participation from residents.
- Public service workers.
- Heritage and the history of the area. - Footfall has increased in the area -tourism.
- Meath Street Market has a good vibe.
- Outside seating cafes.
- Less sessions/parties in NCAD

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

- Ongoing and Open drug dealing, crack cocaine is very prevalent. Drug paraphilia is a common sight everywhere in the area.
- Increase in ASB, Violence, vandalism, burglaries car break-ins.
- Gangs of young males being aggressive and intimidating.
- Property being damaged. Businesses inundated with ASB and horrible behaviours.
- Residents feeling unsafe in the community.
- Merchants Quay injecting centre is drawing drug users into the area which brings more issues.
- Poor street lighting, Rainsford St, outside Taylors Hall, James St, Basin Street.
- Traffic management, scooters bikes and cars speeding. Traffic turning left at Hanbury Lane. Illegal parking in flat complexes. School crossing signal-Meath Street.
- ASB in laneways such as Swan Alley and off other laneways off Thomas St and Meath Street.
- Not enough Gardaí visibility/numbers on the street.
- Constant turnover of Gardaí, familiarity with community Gardaí is needed.
- Slow Gardaí response time depending on the call.
- Displacement of drug dealing moves the problem to another area.
- Lack of community premises eg Donore Avenue community centre is still lying idle after fire 3 years ago.
- Not enough community space for local groups to run programmes.
- Lack of funding
- Illegal dumping and littering, no litter wardens, Lack of public bins.
- Lack of green spaces.
- Lack of sports facilities.
- Local Playgrounds need upgrading and maintenance.
- Local pocket pitches need upgrading.
- Dog fouling.
- Horse fouling.
- One way system in Marrowbone Lane, appearance is ugly bollards signs etc.
- Waste site at Margaret Kennedy Road
- Local Airbnb's need proper legislation.
- Not enough Mental health supports

Gardaí Response

- Funding has been allocated for overtime High Vis beats which will concentrated on problematic areas, to address problems, disrupt ASB and engage with residents. Gardai numbers in the district will be enhanced .Its positive measure having 2 Gardaí inspectors for the area.
- Agree the importance of residents being familiar and knowing their Community Gardaí, unfortunately turn over can happen for various reasons.
- Calls from the public to 999 are handled by a new system, where by the call dispatcher allocates the resources by priority.
- Community Policing are fully behind the need for more green spaces for the Liberties.
- AGS have carried out 2 days of action in local areas joint operations with the Animal welfare unit in local parks and areas to raise awareness on dog control, with a plan to revisit the same areas again in 3 months.
- AGS are liaising with DCC re issues in Swan Alley.
- Operations have been carried out on Horse Carriage owners –cautions were issued, there is plan for quarterly operations.
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DCC Response

- DCC work very closely with AGS on trying to address ASB issues in the area.
- DC are aware of the issues in Swan Alley, property owners need to come together to work on a proposal to get the lane blocked. Meetings are being organised between DCC AGS and residents.
- Advice to residents to report issues with street lighting on Citizen Hubs, need list of streets to pass on to lighting section.
- A survey was done to redevelop the damaged Donore Ave Community Centre. Councillors have requested a site visit which is to happen next week .The hope is for it to be opened by 2025.

Other comments/questions

Q What is the Gardaí strategy and response to displacement of criminal activity/Drug dealing?

A Gardaí are aware the problem gets shifted and the knock on affect it can have, they are constantly trying to fire fighter and do the best with the budget they have The Policing plan is flexible and the strategizing is done at a higher level , regional units are looking at the D8 area .

Q What will be done regarding a wider representation from DCC to include Public domain, Parks waste management, someone in a senior decision making role?

A The Chair will bring this request to DCC management.

Q Can there be a paper copy of contact details for each DCC department / rep that residents can contact re a specific issue or topic?

A The Forum will address this with DCC.

Comments re lighting in the area, with a group of 6 young women from the area between the ages of 14-18 in SWIC clubhouse, below are the places they said needed more lighting, as they do not feel safe when it is dark;

- Rainsford Street - one side is lit well, the old lamps are not sufficient on the other side, young people leave SWIC late in the evening and they can feel unsafe.
- Oliver Bond Street Hill- Not enough lighting, young people don't like walking down this way due to the lighting.
- Hanbury Lane- Not enough lighting, young people don't feel safe walking this way in the evenings.
- Crane Street- Not enough lighting, the old lamps are not enough, young people don't walk this way due to lighting

Closing remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and encouraged people to leave email addresses so an invite can be issued for the next meeting mid-June. The minutes of the meeting have been recorded and will be circulated to attendees.

The Chair will

- Work on getting answers to some of the issues raised and give feedback at the next meeting.
- Speak with the DCC Area manager on the need for other representatives from different DCC sections or someone in a senior decision making role to be in attendance.
- Gather a list of Community Gardaí for each area to distribute to residents.