

Ballyfermot / Chapelizod Community Policing Forum

25th January, 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.

Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre

Alan Sherry, Dublin City Council,
Inspector Paul Mayock – Ballyfermot Garda Station
Superintendent Keith Halley

Meeting chaired by Councillor Vincent Jackson

Discussion

Councillor Jackson opened the meeting and thanked everybody for coming along this evening. Apologies from The Lord Mayor Daithí De Róiste

Councillor Jackson introduced Superintendent Keith Halley, Inspector Paul Mayock and Alan Sherry. He said that there would be no presentation this evening and welcomed Superintendent Halley as the new Superintendent for Ballyfermot & Clondalkin District.

Superintendent Halley said that he was looking forward to working with Inspector Mayock and the good team and would encourage open dialogue and engagement. He is also looking forward to working with the Local Community Safety Forum

Alan Sherry gave the following update:

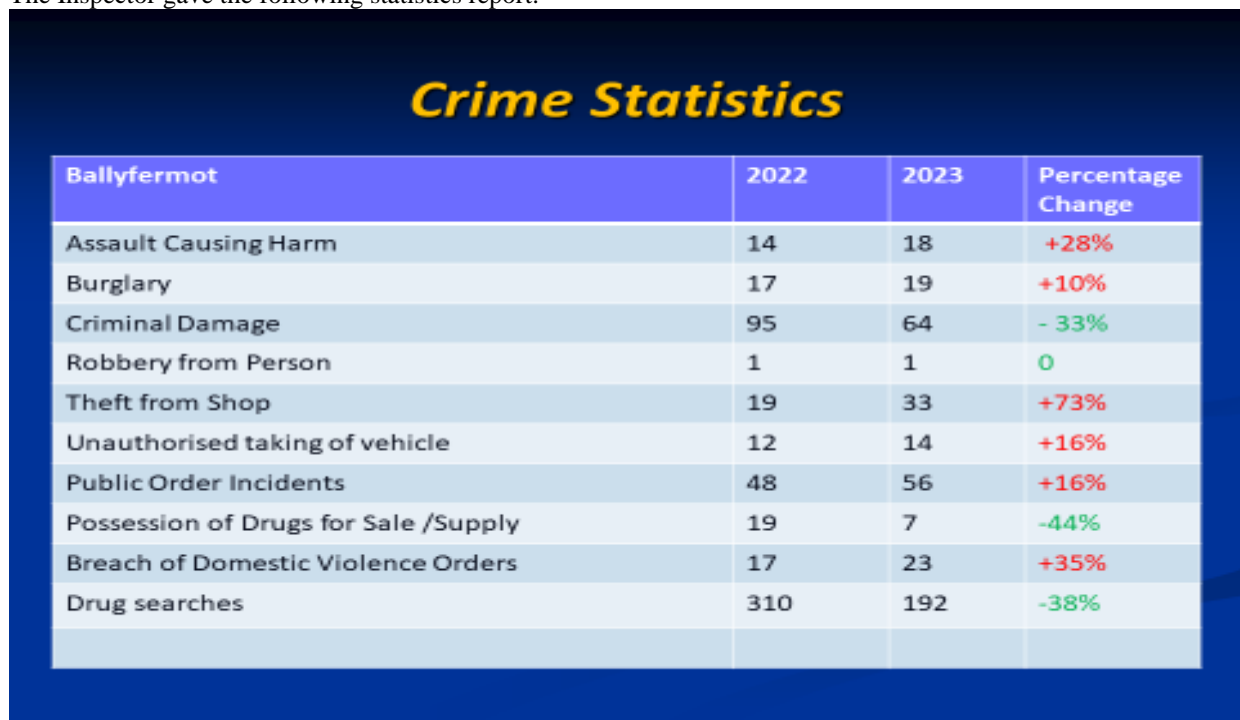
- Dublin City Council are very pleased with Halloween Season. There was very positive feedback and a big thank you to the Community Development Team and the Gardaí for organising the 8 events that were well attended and they went off without trouble. We had a very successful Bonfire Material collection and really appreciated the community reporting locations. Thanks to the Gardaí for their support. The fireworks display in Cherry Orchard was a huge success and a great initiative and was attended by 4,000 people, credit due to Dave O'Donovan.
- Christmas Lighting Ceremonies took place around the area and as usual a very positive feedback from this as well.
- Spring Events planned for the older people in the area and we look forward the Cherry Orchard Festival and the Summer Festivals.

Inspector Mayock gave the following update:

No Right hand turn at Lidl – Working with the Roads Traffic Unit – tickets issued and possibly updated signage required.

Kennelsfort Road – The Traffic Unit have issued a number of tickets – will look into the number of tickets issued.

The Inspector gave the following statistics report:



| Ballyfermot | 2022 | 2023 | Percentage Change |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|-------------------|
| Assault Causing Harm | 14 | 18 | +28% |
| Burglary | 17 | 19 | +10% |
| Criminal Damage | 95 | 64 | - 33% |
| Robbery from Person | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Theft from Shop | 19 | 33 | +73% |
| Unauthorised taking of vehicle | 12 | 14 | +16% |
| Public Order Incidents | 48 | 56 | +16% |
| Possession of Drugs for Sale /Supply | 19 | 7 | -44% |
| Breach of Domestic Violence Orders | 17 | 23 | +35% |
| Drug searches | 310 | 192 | -38% |

Councillor Jackson invited questions from the audience:

-A resident from Lower Ballyfermot raised concerns about damage caused in Markievicz Park by a moped. He also said that the Christmas Lights in the Area were great

-A resident from Claddagh Court raised the issue that residents from the complex using a walker cannot access the dip in the pavement as it is blocked by parked cars. She also said that the gates are blocked by parked cars and an ambulance had to wait 15 minutes for access. She said -that the ramps at the shops are also blocked.

-A resident from Cloverhill Road said that the Halloween events were great – people went from one event to the other. She also said that the Christmas lights in the area were brilliant. Also Welcome to the new Superintendent are we going to keep you or will it keep changing. Recruitment of Gardaí are we going to get more in Ballyfermot we need high visibility in our area.

-Councillor Nicoullaud said there is a positive initiative in Cherry Orchard opposite St. Ultan's School. A Community Kitchen providing local jobs, construction & staff. Alan please support this, people are hungry in the area.

-Councillor Doolan thanked the Gardaí for their response to an incident in Convent Lawns, great help and guidance and we were listened to. Welcome to the Superintendent. Dublin City Council / Gardaí / Community / Residents working together at Halloween it is no longer a community being destroyed, need to work on budgets for next year.

-Shops at Tesco – serious anti-social behaviour needs to be addressed it needs to be a safe area to shop.

-A resident from Chapelizod said that the Gardaí / Dublin City Council do not have the community behind them more needs to be done. Councillors / Dublin City Council / Gardaí are doing their best with limited facilities. We are not aware of what the Gardaí have to face on a daily basis. Population have increased with all the new developments coming on stream but with no increase in personnel. No infrastructure in place to cater for this and local funds / facilities / supports are challenged. The situation is different now than it was in the 1980's

-Resident from Blackditch Road said the ramps on Claddagh Road are too high and are wrecking cars and there are also gouges out of them – upgrade required.

-A member of the disability group thanked Alan and Dave for their work. Claddagh Green ramps are still not accessible and makes it a no go area for wheel chair users. The Orchard Centre is great and keep up the good work all.

A public representative from Cherry Orchard says that the yellow lines at Claddagh Green Shops are being ignored. Dublin City Council need to provide a car park. The Centra Manager is also in favour of a Car Park for customer parking.

--Alan Sherry said:

- We are trying to strike a balance by making parks more accessible but keeping them safe – the Gardaí have good operations in place.
- The roundabout is to be removed as part of the Bus Connects plans and to have a junction there.
- Claddagh Green – well aware of access issues – the plaza is not favourable for parking – we should be encouraging people to walk or cycle.
- Aware of the Cherry Orchard Social Enterprise initiative
- Dublin City Council ran a very successful General Operative job campaign or employment in the area
- LDA/Cherry Orchard Point – a meeting was held about this and there was a huge attendance. As it is an LDA project the information is on An Bord Pleanála and LDA Websites
- Will look at the updating of the ramps in the area

Inspector Mayock went through the Stats again and said that the Gardaí continue to engage with the groups in the area i.e. CODY and ABLE etc. Cherry Orchard has quietened down quite a bit recently. The Open Day in the Garda Station was a great day and very well attended.

Shops at Tesco Ballyfermot Road – the Gardaí are integrating into the community to try and resolve the issue there – knowledge is key and the Gardaí on the bikes will feature more

-A resident from Kennelsfort Road said that the residents are putting up with HGV's on this road for 30 years. Nothing has been done and no improvement. Can we have a monthly report on tickets or fines issued to HGV drivers included in the stats.

-A staff member from the Spar on Ballyfermot Road said that staff/customers are suffering anti-social behaviour by the groups hanging around outside. Incidents in November/December and no Gardaí came. A Local Councillor met with the principle of the school and referred them to the Gardaí and a meeting was set up with the Gardaí. While staff are entering or leaving the shop morning/evening they are being threatened that they will wait outside on them.

-A resident from Lower Ballyfermot said they called 999 to report an incident and 1 ½ hours later the Gardaí arrived. Phoned the Station to speak to Community Gardaí and was asked why I phoned the Station. But when you get through to Jim and his team they are very good.

-A resident from Chapelizod said that Superintendent Tony Twomey said that there was not enough Gardaí and do not have enough resources this message needs to feed up to the Four Fora and to the JPC. He would like to see the Superintendent at every meeting. Jim/Sarah/Kevin in Community Policing are brilliant. Community Gardaí should be in the area for 5 years to get to know the community.

The Station is the public interface and is very important and is not only to receive criminals. The bushes should be removed and the light needs to be fixed and the a sign installed to identify the Garda Station.

-Patrick Dempsey – Foroige team – we work with a lot of young people and do outreach work with the youth to get them involved with local Gardaí

-A resident of Claddagh Court said that there is 1 disability spot at the shops and cars park there with no disability

stickers on them – tickets need to be issued. The residents do not want parking on the Plaza it is the location for the Club and is beside the Old Folks Complex

-A student living locally and working in the Spar Shop said that he feels insecure working in the shop and loads of kids around a racist. Other people are very friendly and welcoming. He had a glass bottle thrown at him and reported it the Gardaí – they appear after the incident. We need a presence at the shops.

-A resident of Chapelizod said that the Gardaí do not have the resources to do what we want them to do. We want them on the street and in the Station. They have court/holidays etc to contend with as well. The Gardaí need to be given all the resources they require to do the job.

-A resident from Blackditch Road welcomed the new Superintendent. The Garda Station needs an upgrade it does not give anybody encouragement to come in. When will the Gardaí receive the Tasers. Community Gardaí are doing their best. She phoned the Garda Station to speak to somebody and the person on the phone was unpleasant – will not ring again.

-A Resident from Palmerstown asked for them not to forget that Ballyfermot Station is over Palmerstown as well and there is anti-social behaviour in Oak Court outside the school. A Garda chat would help. The Community Gardaí are good to us. Please don't forget about Palmerstown.

-A resident from Landen Road said that there is a gang hanging around the County Bar on Decies Road – very intimidating

The Inspector responded:

All Garda are utilised including plain clothes and Community Policing. Anti-Social Behaviour in Ballyfermot / Chapelizod / Palmerstown / Rathcoole / Clondalkin is being addressed. Extra is being used to the level of incidents.

Issue at Spar on Decies Road – will talk to the person after the meeting

Issue at Spark on Ballyfermot Road – Crime Prevention Officer has been out to visit the shop and private security was suggested

999 calls are transferred – ensured you give your name, address, phone number in case they need to get back to you

Get in touch before meeting if there is an issue don't wait for the quarterly meetings

Issues with the appearance of the Station – The OPW own the Station and they have been requested to upgrade – it is out to tender

Mural for local children to get involved in – will be looked into

Racist incidents to student living and working in the area – please give dates of incidents and they will be looked into

Scramblers / anti-social behaviour on Ballyfermot Road and other locations – this is being addressed

The Superintendent said that trust is so important and is in favour of open discussion, he will be serving the people of Ballyfermot, Chapelizod and Palmerstown. Superintendent Stephen Mullen sends his apologies for not being here but was very complimentary of this Community Safety Forum.

999 system has been upgraded please give it time and continue to phone when you need to report incidents/issues.

Disappointed about the response received at the station Inspector Mayock will not hesitate to identify the Garda on duty.

There is a great connection with Dublin City Council, Councillors and Community. Resources, Recruitment, Youth Forums, more people into Garda Siochana are very important and also support of the Community. We all want to make this community better and safe place. I fully support Inspector Mayock and the plans that are in place.

Thank you for your time.

Councillor Jackson thanked everybody for their active participation. He is the Chairperson of the local school and will speak to the principal. The problems at Claddagh Green are ongoing and he will raise it wherever he can. The Bank on Ballyfermot Road hire private Gardens for staff to park in – problem is people parking all day at the shops and no room for brief stay – Introduce Pay and Display

Councillor Jackson brought the meeting to a close and thanked everybody for coming along

NEXT MEETING 25th April, 2024 @ 7.30 p.m.