



D12 Public Safety Forum Meeting, 23rd October, Moeran Hall Walkinstown

Present- Alan Sherry (DCC), Chris Butler (DCC) Pamela Kearns (Chair) Superintendent Paul Maher, Inspector Rob Smithers and Sergeant Ciaran Wynne, Crumlin Garda Station

Facilitator -Ali Warner

Elected reps- Cllr Daithí Doolan, Cllr Pat Dunne, Cllr Ray Cunningham, Senator Catherine Ardagh.

Minutes - Deirdre Smyth, DSC Community Safety Forum Coordinator

Ali opens the meeting by welcoming everyone and explains the format, which is held in World Café Style. Ali explains that these safety forum meetings are to gather key safety issues that are presenting itself in the community at the moment.

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 on

What is working well in terms of community safety in the area for you right now?

What is challenging or not working well in terms of community safety in your area for you.

Table discussion -What's working well?

- Halloween festival and community events supported by DCC and AGS, building positive engagement.
- Youth Services doing good work.
- Good collaboration with the Gardaí, Community Gardaí, Gardaí on bikes.
- Volunteers.
- The DSCP providing links and supports.
- DCC public domain, sweeping the streets, maintaining greens etc .
- Bottle bank taken away from the library.
- Good that security are coming on to buses.
- Residents WhatsApp groups.

- Private cameras.
- Use of Bunting Pk by GAA.
- New football team playing from Brickfield Pk.
- New playground being installed in Errigal field.
- Community clean up days.
- The activity rental box in the park.
- Patrolling and speedy response from the Gardaí

What is challenging, or not working in your area at the moment?

- Fireworks scaring animals and being used recklessly.
- Community and football clubs have been moved.
- Bonfires.
- Open drug dealing and drug taking.
- In Walkinstown, parking on paths has got worse.
- No playground in Bunting Park.
- Grooming of young people.
- Poor lighting in parks.
- Lack of visibility of the Gardaí.
- No public cameras.
- Overgrown shrubbery effecting lighting on roads and paths.
- Increase level of attempted and successful break-ins (Cherryfield).
- Roads been blocked when matches being played, affects access for emergency services
- Fly tipping.
- Alcohol being consumed in public in Crumlin village, parks and GAA grounds.
- Drug treatment centre has been taken out of the area.
- Laneways are not safe, need cameras and extra lighting in them.
- Pedestrian crossing at Halfway House very short time to cross.
- Illegal car use in bus lanes (Crumlin Rd).
- Parents accountability.
- Residents not reporting issues.
- Good work that has been done in the past in Benmadigan, is becoming undone.
- Parking on paths on Balfe Rd.
- Need for recreational areas in Bunting pk.
- Need for more educational pieces to be done with young people/families about the cause and effect of anti-social behaviour.
- Action needs to come from these public meetings.
- Electoral area divisions.
- Need a men's shed in Crumlin Village.

DCC responses

- With bonfires and bonfire material, DCC public domain are on overtime ,200 premises were visited (125 of these where commercial units), and DCC have followed up on all premises.
- Additional resources are being put into waste management on the run up to Halloween to stop bonfires.
- Streetscapes -street cleaning going to go more cyclical bases, will look at more targeted approach, issues need to be reported to council.
- Clubs and organisations can come to DCC about space and DCC will work with groups on finding premises, but with housing crisis it is hard at the moment
- The traffic enforcement teams have been out and they have given fines, alot of these were residents, so may need to look at permit parking.
- Will bring concerns around Bunting Pk back to the Parks section. Parks do not like to add lights, as lighting can affect biodiversity.
- If parks are gated, DCC don't want people in them at night.
- Trees are going to be pruned on the cyclical basis, if there are particular areas you want the council to look at, give address at end of meeting.
- Issues with laneways, if you have any specific laneways that are affected, come up and let us know after this meeting.
- DCC are always available to support residents with cleanups, we will offer them gloves, pickers, bags, etc.
- Bonfires have decreased over the last few years; this is with the collaboration of different agencies.
- There are leaflets on tables to encourage people not to leave items out and there is information about recycling, DCC offer bulky waste disposal for €40 euro.
- CCTV in the Benbulbin area is being looked at, but is a long process.
- If there are people involved in anti-social behaviour in the area and living in DCC properties they are breaching their tenancy rights so this can be followed up on, it needs to be reported.

AGS Responses

- Having an active community helps everyone.

- Future Policing in Ireland report is a collaborative approach around the drugs issue Department of Health need to lobby around this.
- There are education pieces around drugs and drug use that youth projects are engaged in.
- Visibility- recruitment in AGS is picking up.
- Need people to share concerns, report, and give evidence on things that they see happening, and people need to come to us and tell us how we could do better.
- AGS will look at Cherryfield and put in extra resources down there.
- Operation hybrid is in place (this was established as a result of an escalation in firearms incidents between organised crime gangs).
- Operation Irene is carried out in parks and open spaces (targeted multi-agency operation to combat underage alcohol consumption and consumption of alcohol in public places).
- Operation Thor is in place (is designed to tackle the anticipated increase in the number of burglaries and associated criminal activity that usually occur in winter months by undertaking targeted enforcement and preventative activity).
- Community Gardaí essential points of contact if there is anything happening in your area.
- AGS looking at a WhatsApp groups to support neighborhood watch schemes as misinformation can be given out on these WhatsApp groups, lead to more fear. If Gardaí involved in these, we can call on resources in a strategic manner, CRT units can saturate the area quickly
- People need to report issues and follow up on them, there is often poor take up on forensic examinations after an incident
- Operation Trombola (a nationwide policing plan focused on the prevention and detection of the sale of fireworks and associated public order and anti-social behaviour issues during the Halloween period has dedicated patrols and strategically place Gardaí).
- There is a test purchasing operation on at the moment, by AGS, where they're testing premises to see if they're selling to underage youths, if premises are seen to be selling to underage youths, they will be prosecuted.
- Collaborating with DCC on waste and enforcement patrols.
- AGS improving and monitoring having gardaí on streets, working with youth workers working around not criminalising young people's behaviour it's about supporting them.

Open Floor

- There were bonfires lit over 5 nights on Benmadigan Green, this isn't acceptable.

Residents need to report fires.

- There's great work by Gardaí and youth workers, the gateway to drug addiction is trauma we need more Youth Services family supports and outreach to encourage pro social behaviour.
- Someone stated that they were charged different amounts on different days for bringing bulky waste to the recycling centre.

This needs to be brought back to the recycling centre by that person.

- What are the rules with private property to collect bonfire material?

DDC is limited in terms of what action it can take against private property owners storing waste on their premises.

- Feel that Benbulbin isn't being focused on at the moment

Gardaí will increase patrols up there again.

- Ask if skips will be made available to the community on the run up to Halloween?

Skips used to be provided by DCC around Halloween time, this not the case now, as it was a major health and safety issue, and it was being abused by some people.

- Stanway Park very unsafe, there are no gates on it so it's not closed at night time?

DCC say that they're reluctant to put lights and parks due to biodiversity

- R. Smithers states that it's so important for wraparound services for juveniles, as there are huge issues around mental health. He is involved in coordinating a

Community of Practice piece where mental health and substance use experts will provide training for all youth workers, JLO's etc.