



## **Canal Area Community Safety Forum Public meeting Inchicore College of Further Education 7pm 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Present-** Sergeant Pat Culhane (Kilmainham), Inspector Ian Lambe (Kilmainham), Superintendent Dave Butler (Kevin St), Linda Fanning (DCC), Frank Murphy (DCC), Pat Smith (DCC), Melanie Lambert (DCC).

**Chair-** Manus Bree

**Facilitator** -Ali Warner

**Elected Reps-** Daithí Doolan, Darragh Moriarty, Ammar Ali, Ray Cunningham, Aengus Ó Snodaigh.

**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?**

- Strong, engaged community
- Community WhatsApp groups.
- Reporting to Garda.
- Response from gardaí is good.
- St. Michael's estate community watch.
- Richmond Barracks.
- FRC.
- Inchicore College classes.
- Beara Hall.
- Settled community integrating well with new communities.
- Georgian Community.
- Inchicore was rated the top 25 areas to live by 'Time Out' magazine.
- Growing young community.
- Good Garda presence in St Michaels estate.
- Senior citizens centre opening in Richmond.
- Halloween/Christmas events ran by DCC and projects.
- Environmental group- picking litter along the canal.
- Inchicore for All.
- Circle Housing.
- Youth services doing great work, Core, Foróige, Solas.

### **What's challenging in your area?**

- Constant car/house break ins, tyres being slashed, keying cars, checking car doors, stealing motorbikes/scooters around Bulfin and Connolly Gardens.
- Slow Garda response when ringing 999 to some incidents.
- No/poor feedback and follow ups from gardai when reporting incidents.
- Intimidation.
- Lack of visible policing /Need more visible Gardaí on the streets.
- Fear around protests.
- Poor lighting along Canal, and the Luas.
- Joyriding /dangerous driving along Canal with electric bikes and scooters.
- Do residents ring 999 or the station?
- Open drug dealing at canal, bus/Luas stop, footbridge, Bulfin, St Michael's estate, Emmet Crescent and Greenfield site.
- Illegal dumping.
- Grooming of young children to drugs trade.

- Along the canal is very overgrown and neglected. The Drimnagh side has no lighting very dangerous.
- No consequences for antisocial/criminal behaviour.
- Aggressive begging
- On the run up to elections, or when there's a St. Pats football match on, there are plenty of Gardaí and area feels safe.
- Loss of bus routes.
- No community Gardaí.
- In October things were really bad, a school had to close. This has a knock-on effect on recruiting and retaining staff in services in the area due to fear.
- The Gardaí have no power with under 16.
- Can Ring doorbell footage be shared in Residents WhatsApp groups.

Manus Bree explains that the Community Safety Forum committee meet on a monthly basis and the issues raised tonight are regular items that are brought to the table and discussed. But these public meetings are important so residents are given the voice to meet members of AGS and DCC and address issues from their communities, speak to them confidentially, and hear updates of what work is being done within their community.

### **AGS Feedback**

- There are going to be 2 new community Gardaí for the area, new Gardaí working in Drug Related Intimidation.
- AGS working with the Drugs Task Force along the Dry Canal.
- Increased patrols around Christmas.
- Increased patrols around schools.
- AGS have met with the crime prevention officer, DCC and Waterways Ireland around safety along the Canal.
- AGS increasing foot patrols.
- Operation Thor is in place (this a winter initiative designed to prevent potential burglars from exploiting the reduced hours of daylight).
- Operation Twin tracks- days of action ongoing -AGS working with Irish Rail/ Luas (working on detecting and preventing antisocial behaviour).
- AGS 999 call system has been centralised it's not based in stations anymore, as this is a new system there have been a few issues with it that AGS are looking into improving.
- With intercepting and chasing any vehicle, there is a hazard involved for all.
- There have been people arrested for aggressive begging.
- There are issues around drug dealing and displacement.

- Regarding Ring doorbell footage, wouldn't advise to share it due to data protection and your own personal safety.
- If a young person under sixteen has come to the attention of the Gardaí, they're referred to a JLO, trying not to criminalise young people.
- People need to report all break ins so AGS can look at patterns.

### **DCC Feedback**

- Updates on issues around canal DCC working with Waterways Ireland to cut back the foliage where stuff was been hidden.
- A light survey has been completed around that area, but there might be regrowth on trees now, DCC will revisit the area to follow up.
- Regarding lighting on the Drimnagh side, this is not their area but will pass back this information to the relevant office, Ray Cunningham will also bring this matter back.
- Litter Wardens have been around Emmett Crescent.
- There are new infrared cameras around Vincent St Emmett Crescent and Vincent St. Emmet Lodge.

### **Open Floor**

- There are issues in Bulfin from 2:00 to 5:00 AM every night, if Gardaí say they need resources what does this mean, and when will that happen?

AGS- Patrols will start tonight around that area.

With Drug dealing- residents can keep an eye on patterns of behaviour, if there is anything they notice in the neighbourhood. People can contact AGS on the confidential line or contact Kilmainham/Kevin St. community Gardaí. Don't leave yourself exposed in doing this.

- The safety concerns of community members with scramblers and electric vehicles along the canal.

There are issues with scramblers and high-powered bikes on pedestrian walkways and the canal, Gardai are patrolling, identifying suspects and seizing bikes and scooters.

- Clarity on ringing 999 or do you contact station?

With the current system you can ring both numbers, but people should always ring 999 in an emergency, these calls would get priority and are logged in a central system.

- There were kissing gates at the Canal that were taken down, is there anything that can be done to reinstate them as a deterrent for irresponsible use of electric vehicles and scramblers.

The kissing gates were being used as entrapment and it enabled the criminal element.

- How many Garda cars/Gardaí are there in Kilmainham?

There are 2/5 cars ,2 Gardaí high visibility beats,2 cars following up with calls, a van and unmarked cars.

There are 4 units in the station 24/7 which equals 44 Gardaí, 1 sergeant, 11 Gardaí in the regular unit, 8 Compol Gardaí, plain clothes, divisional units, then those on overtime and public order units.

- There was a report made about an assault incident, Gardai that arrived said they were only there to take the report, even though the people who made the call knew who had done it, and where they were. CCTV was sent the next day and they heard nothing back from the Gardaí

This shouldn't have happened; Superintendent Dave Butler will speak to this person after the meeting.

- Fear in the community about right wing groups protesting against IPAS centre's.

There are issues around groups protesting against IPAS centres, the new centre is family orientated; Gardaí are monitoring areas, but if anyone hears any information about protests let the Gardaí know.

- One woman's home was burnt out and the Gardaí that called told her it was good that she could now move into an old people's home.

Insp Ian Lambe has already spoken to that person and DCC supported them move.

- What role does community policing play in the community?

It's about community integration building up strong relationships and trust with residents, businesses, schools, services in an area. Can assist residents in preventing crime by supporting initiatives like Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert. Collaboration with other agencies to curb crime and vandalism in the area.

Dave Butler will send the details of the Community Gardaí to Deirdre Smyth to send out with the minutes of this meeting.

# Kevin Street & Kilmainham Community Policing Members and their Area's

<b>Garda Stephanie Bible</b>	<i>BC 7.1, BC 7.2, BC 7.3, BC 8.4</i>	<i>Herberton, Rialto, Dolphin House</i>
<b>Garda Paul Redican</b>	<i>BC 8.2</i>	<i>Basin Street</i>
<b>Garda Sean Gallagher</b>	<i>BC 10.2, BC 10.3, BC 10.4, BC 9.3, BC 9.4</i>	<i>Bluebell, Bernard Curtis House</i>
<b>Garda Christine Kelly</b>	<i>BC 10.1</i>	<i>Inchicore</i>
<b>Garda Damien Mooney</b>	<i>BC 8.3</i>	<i>St. James's Hospital, Mountbrow</i>
<b>Garda Liam Booth</b>	<i>BC 8.1, BC 9.1</i>	<i>Royal Hospital Kilmmainham, Heuston Station, Parkgate St, Islandbridge</i>
<b>Garda Eoghan Lynch</b>	<i>BC 9.2, BC 9.5, BC 9.6, BC 10.1</i>	<i>St. Michael's Estate, Inchicore, Thornton Heights, Bulfin</i>
<b>Garda Brian McSharry</b>	<i>BC 7.1, BC 7.2</i>	<i>Herberton, Rialto</i>
<b>Garda Karl O'Reilly</b>	<i>BC 1.1</i>	<i>Bridgefoot St Park, Robert Emmet Close</i>
<b>Garda Shane Conlon</b>	<i>BC 2.1, BC 2.2, BC 2.3</i>	<i>St. Patrick's Park, Aungier St, Patrick's St</i>
<b>Garda Darren Fogarty</b>	<i>BC 3.3, BC 3.4</i>	<i>Meath Street, Francis St, Thomas St, The Coombe</i>
<b>Garda Colm McCarthy</b>	<i>BC 4.3, BC 4.4</i>	<i>Clanbrassil St, South Circular Road, Warrenmount</i>
<b>Garda David O'Hanlon</b>	<i>BC 1.2, BC 1.3</i>	<i>Merchants Quay, Oliver Bond, St. Audeon's Park, Cook St</i>

<b>Garda Gavin Keenan</b>	<i>BC 5.1, BC5.2, BC 6.1, BC 6.2</i>	<i>Cabbage Patch, Portobello, Camden St, Grantham St</i>
<b>Garda Colm Fagan</b>	<i>BC 3.1, BC 3.2</i>	<i>Marrowbone Lane, Guinness's, Maryland</i>
<b>Garda Anna Toland</b>	<i>BC 4.1, BC 4.2</i>	<i>The Tenters, Weaver Sq., St. Theresa's Gardens, Donore Avenue, Margaret Kennedy Rd</i>

