

Public forum Meeting Corduff Tuesday 13th July 2010

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Present: Chairperson Philip Keegan

Facilitator Philip Jennings

Gardaí: Inspector John Kelly

Garda Niall Phelan,

Garda Sinéad Ní Mhuirheartaigh

Fingal County Council:

Gene Griffin, Housing Dept.

Ruairi O'Dulaing. Parks Dept

Tommie McManus, Transportation Dept

Corduff Community Rep: Alan Byrne

In Attendance: Cllr Kieran Dennison,

Cllr Dave McGuinness

Cllr Pat Nulty

Minute taker: Garda Sinéad Ní Mhuirheartaigh

APOLOGIES: Breffni O'Rourke, Chair Safer Blanchardstown

1.0 Introduction:

Philip Keegan gave a brief overview of the meetings to date and of the issues raised at the last meeting held in Corduff (November 2009) which included:

- Garda Response times

- Increase in Burglaries

- Drug dealing in Sheephill

- Vacant Houses in Sheephill

- Drinking Corduff Laneway

- Lack of engagement with Resident Associations

Chair asked Council and Gardaí to address progress on these issues in their report. Chair handed meeting over to Philip Jennings.

Philip explained the rules of the meeting and stressed the importance that no names are given publicly. People are encouraged to voice their concerns and issues during the meeting but to speak privately to Fingal County Council and the Gardaí after the meeting if they have any confidential information they wish to pass on.

2.0 Garda Report

2.1 Inspector Kelly introduced himself and new Community Gardaí Sinéad &

Niall who have recently been assigned to the Corduff area.

2.2 Crime statistics for the Corduff area from 1/1/10 to 31/6/10 were gone through as follows.

2.3 There have been 14 burglaries in this period, according to statistics this type of

crime has decreased by 15% and is relatively low compared to the wider Blanchardstown area.

2.4 There was one case of aggravated burglary where the culprit entered a home

by force and caused distress to occupants. With the cooperation of the Community the culprit was apprehended shortly after the incident.

Inspector

Kelly commended the residents involved in assisting the Gardaí on that night.

2.5 There have been a number of Public Order incidents along with persons

Arrested for Drug possession and sale and supply of same in the Corduff area

during this period. These persons are currently being dealt with through the

Courts.

2.6 The amount of persons, vehicles and premises searched under the relevant

legislation has increased since the beginning of the year by Gardaí in the Corduff area in general.

2.7 Anti-social behaviour in the laneway behind the shops is ongoing and a cause

of concern for residents living in the vicinity and people passing down the

lane Gardaí are working with Fingal County Council and other partners to

address this ongoing issue.

2.8 The e-mail address for community Gardaí is **Blanchardstowncommunity@garda.ie** if residents wish to contact Gardaí or provide information through the email they are welcome to do so.

3.0 Feedback from residents to Garda report

3.1 Residents welcomed Garda Report

4.0 Issues for Gardaí

4.1 Can or do the Gardaí monitor the **CCTV** around the lane in Corduff

4.2 The issue of the length of time it takes the Gardaí to **Respond** to calls to the station was raised and residents stated that sometimes Gardaí fail to respond at all.

4.3 Residents wished to know if there is a **Garda clinic** in the area and if so where

is it held and at what time.

4.4 Residents stated that there are identifiable areas or “**hot spots**” of anti-social

behaviour in the area that have been well reported in the past and wished to

know is there nothing that can be done about this?

4.5 What Can the Gardaí do about the amount of **young people**

drinking in the Area?

4.6 It was reported that a gang of children were getting into the **Sports Centre** at night when it is locked up as it is easy to climb under the gates. Residents concerned for safety of children and wish for this to be monitored and the possibility of further securing gates surrounding the Centre to deter this to be investigated.

5.0 Garda Response:

5.1 Talks are underway to link the **CCTV** monitoring feed into Blanchardstown Garda Station. This should improve detections and prevent further public order issues arising in the vicinity

5.2 New procedures are in place to improve Garda **Response** times. All calls are prioritised in terms of the most serious incident, Gardaí are often directed to deal with the more pressing matter first. Often an unmarked car deals with incidents and residents do not realise this. Measures are in place to improve this further.

5.3 The **Garda clinic** is held in the Corduff Sports Centre, Corduff every Tuesday evening 7pm-8pm. Gardaí are looking to see if they can improve this service to the community. For instance, if there is a demand for persons needing passports signed this may be dealt with at the clinic. It was suggested that the Garda Clinic could be advertised in the Insight Magazine that is delivered across homes in RAPID areas of Blanchardstown. Gardaí will look into this with distributors of the magazine.

5.4 Often these “hot spot” problems are dealt with by Gardaí in a particular area and the problem then moves to a different area. Information from the community is always welcomed in reporting anti-social behaviour in the area.

5.5 Fingal on the spot fines has been issued by Community Gardaí since the beginning of July 2009. Other youths involved in this behaviour under the age of 18 have been dealt with by way of JLO.

5.6 Action: Philip to contact sport’s Centre in relation to securing gates. Inspector Kelly invited any persons at the meeting who wish to speak

with Gardaí after the meeting confidentially or otherwise are welcome to do so.

6.0 Fingal County Council Report:

6.1 Gene Griffin provided the following report and up date from last meeting

6.2 Reports regarding the grease coming from vents behind Chinese Takeaway needs to be dealt with by HSE or Dept of environment. This is not an issue for Fingal County Council.

6.3 Any reports of criminal behaviour in Council Houses that come to the attention of Fingal County Council are reported immediately to Gardaí.

6.4 Anti-social behaviour taking place in Corduff lane was examined with a view to closing the lane to prevent such behaviour. However strong representations were made against closing the laneway and for reasons of access the laneway will remain as is.

6.5 CCTV monitoring for the laneway is to be reviewed.

6.6 Proposals for closure of the steps area where people congregate will need further consultation. The removal of overgrown shrubs in the area at the top of the lane is also under consideration.

6.7 Litter pick is done by Fingal Co. Co. every 7 days in Corduff. Due to budget restraints this may reduce, this area gets more litter picks than other areas.

6.8 The Council would encourage the community to assist in keeping their own areas tidy.

6.9 Some programme of works projects were affected by cutbacks. However housing maintenance funding was not cut back and projects continue as planned.

There are 5 dwellings vacant in Corduff at the moment, none are vacant in Sheephill.

7.0 Feedback from Fingal County Council report

7.1 Residents welcomed Fingal County Council report

8.0 Issues for Fingal County Council:

8.1 The issue of horses in the area was raised by young people in the audience who were concerned about the manner in which horses were being

impounded
and the cost of having them returned.

8.2 A request was made by adults in the audience for facilities for children in the area to keep horses for example a Pony Club to be established in the area in which to learn about animal welfare and to keep horses.

8.3 Some residents were concerned about the safety issues around horses being tethered on public open space.

8.4 Residents of Corduff Park were particularly irate and annoyed at having been made to wait for approximately 10 years for the Council to honour an agreement they claim was made when their houses were being turned around in Corduff Park.

8.5 Residents maintain they were promised that their initial front door would be replaced by a proper back door as the final part of the turnaround process.

8.6 Residents were particularly incensed by this issue as they maintain that many promises made in this regard have been broken.

8.7 Residents stated that reports made through their residents association of the doors at present being in a poor state of repair and a security hazard have been completely ignored.

8.8 Residents believe that present budgetary conditions should not account for lack of progress on this issue as they were informed in the beginning that the money to complete the turnaround was earmarked or ring-fenced.

9.0 Fingal County Council response:

9.1 In the past 4 to 5 weeks Fingal County Council has been receiving complaints relating to horses being tied up on public open space from residents in the area.

The public are asking the Council to take action on this matter. The Control of Horses legislation is to be utilised and there is an onus on the Council to act on complaints received.

9.2 Residents are worried about the safety of their children and the damage to the green spaces done by horses.

9.3 Horses will only be returned upon the payment of the appropriate fine along

with proof of facilities to look after the animal's welfare properly.
Elected

Local and Community representatives are willing to work with the young people

concerned and adult volunteers within the community to investigate the possibility of developing properly run and supervised facilities for horses.

9.4 Gene stated that he was unaware of any agreement having been made and said that he would check this out and get back to residents.

9.5 Gene explained about current financial position within Fingal County Council and the many calls on this limited budget not just from Blanchardstown but from across the county. He is not sure if money has been put aside for the replacement of front doors to back doors in Corduff Park

9.6 Gene said he is not aware of any promises been made or broken and he assured Residents that Fingal County Council is not in the business of breaking promises made.

9.7 Gene again assured residents that their concerns were not being ignored and that he will check with Council rep on Residents Association and reply to residents through their residents associations.

9.8 Gene said that he would check and see if any ring fencing or earmarking of

funds has been arranged and will inform residents of the current position

through their residents association

9.9 Cllr Patrick Nulty stated that although he understood residents anxiety it is local

County Councillors, not council staff, who are responsible for the setting of budgets within the Council. Council staff agree to work after hours, with no overtime payment, to come to public meetings. It is unfair for them to have to try to answer questions of this nature which relate to substantive budget allocations.

9.10 Gene welcomed representations on Corduff Lane directly or via Councillors.

10.0 Close

10.1 Philip thanked the Scouts for the use of the hall for this evening's meeting and again reminded residents that the Gardaí and Fingal County Council will make themselves available if residents wish to speak to them confidentially. The audience were also reminded of the Dial to Stop Drug Dealing confidential number and encouraged to use the number to report suspicious activity.

10.2 Philip passed meeting back to chair.

10.3 Chair thanked Residents, Community reps, Garda and Council partners for participation and support. Chair assured audience that

issues would be followed up by relevant agencies and feedback would be provided locally on progress.

End