

Senator **MARIE SHERLOCK**

Fighting for a fairer Dublin



Update on community safety in the Stoneybatter area

July 2024

A chara,

I want to thank all those who **attended our meeting on July 1st between Stoneybatter residents and local community Gardaí**. This meeting took place in the Aughrim Street Scout Hall and was in response to **concerns among members of the local community about crime and anti-social behaviour** in our area.

It was great to have over so many in attendance and I am very grateful to the Community Gardaí for attending and for responding to the very real concerns articulated at the meeting.

On foot of the meeting, a letter addressed to Superintendent Jonathan O'Brien in the Bridewell Garda Station was circulated to those in attendance and those who would have liked to attend. I'm glad to say we had 60 signatures of residents and public representatives in the area to that letter.

A number of **key concerns** were set out in the letter:

- Intimidation and anti-social behaviour;
- Concerns about illegal activities in certain hotspots;
- Drugs dealing;
- Dangerous driving and the use of scrambler bikes;
- Lack of responsiveness from Gardaí to calls.

While we heard several harrowing stories from local residents, it was agreed by all in attendance that this is an opportunity to act to **make our communities safer for all who live, work in and visit Stoneybatter and Smithfield**. We have wonderful work being done in the area with the Stoneybatter Festival, the Stoneybatter Pride of Place and Smithfield Pride of Place and there are so many other examples of our community working well together.

We need a community policing plan for our area, with greater Garda resources and a greater responsiveness and consideration to the needs of our community.

I met with Superintendent O'Brien and Inspector Hunt this week to give them the letter and to discuss the issues raised. The Bridewell is getting six new Gardaí in July and I believe there is a real eagerness from Garda leadership there to work with local residents to ensure Stoneybatter feels safer and is safer for all residents. For those with ongoing concerns, Inspector Hunt has asked that people email NC.Bridewell.CE@garda.ie or I can pass on his direct email. For all reporting of crime, please dial 999.

It was agreed at the July 1st meeting with residents that a **follow-up community meeting should be held in September**, including the local community, Gardaí and a greater number of local organisations including Dublin City Council, the HSE and community and voluntary organisations. Inspector Hunt has committed to attending and when a date for this meeting in September has been set, I will share the information with local residents.

If there are any issues which I can be of help with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Marie

Labour