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Garda thanks for Fortlawn residents

Gardaí in Blanchardstown have spoken out in praise of the local community in Fortlawn for their assistance in the investigation of the vicious murder

last year of Mark Smyth in his taxi watched by his partner and their two year old child.

As a result of the evidence given at the trial by

local Fortlawn residents who witnessed the murder, Carlos Byrne and his girlfriend Lindsey Fahy from Linnetfield Square in Clonee were charged by gardaí. Byrne received a life sentence and Fahy a seven year sentence with the last three years suspended.

According to Detective sergeant Michael Kennedy, "from the very word go we got assistance from local people who had witnessed the murder and who presented themselves to Blanchardstown garda station."

Door to door enquiries by the local community gardaí got statements from more residents, including a number of young people.

"Local people identified Lindsey Fahy [a former resident of Fortlawn] and it was through her that we tracked down Carlos Byrne," said Det. Sgt. Kennedy. "The community was so shocked - It was a very vicious attack.

The victim received over 70 cuts to his body including 43 stab wounds over a 100 metre area before he finally fell down. The whole community came out and supported the gardaí in this investigation," he said.

Up to 24 witnesses gave evidence in court including three 15 year olds who gave evidence via a video link.

One teenage girl who gave evidence of witnessing the murder said Mr. Smyth was begging for help and was backing away from the man, who continued to stab him until he fell to the ground some distance from the car. She also said Fahy stamped on Mr. Smyth as he lay on the ground. The two culprits fled the scene and were arrested two days later at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santry.

Local gardaí who were called to the scene were shocked by the ferocity and viciousness of the attack. "It

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Kyle Stolk from Hollystown who won four gold medals at the recent Leinster championships in the National Aquatic Centre (See story on page 20)

Dave McCann

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