

Report on Meeting of the South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee – held on Friday 11th April, 2008 at 3.00 p.m. in Council Chamber, Tallaght.

Attendance: Committee Members

Cllr. R. Dowds	Cllr. Jim Daly
Cllr. Therese Ridge	Cllr. Maria Corr
Cllr. G. O'Connell	Cllr Cathal King
Cllr. K. Warren	Cllr. Shane O'Connor
Cllr. J. Lahart	Cllr. E. Walsh
C. O'Connor T.D.	Cllr. C. Keane
J. Tuffy TD	P. Rabbitte T.D.
J. Horan (County Manager)	Chief Superintendent J. Manley
F. Nevin (S.D.C.C.)	Chief Superintendent J. Twomey
J. Lawlor (Comm. Forum)	Cllr. Joe Neville
Michelle Keairns (Comm. Platform)	Cllr. Mick Murphy
Tom Aspil (Community Forum)	

Also Present:

Pat Smith, Billy Coman, John Quinlivan, Elaine Leech, Anne Byrne, Superintendent E. Dolan. Superintendent P. Clavin, Superintendent Quirke

Apologies:

Cllr. T. McDermott
 Mayor Billy Gogarty

1. Meeting Report of the 1st February 2008 and Matters Arising

Chairperson, **Cllr. Robert Dowds** and the members present adopted the report of the meeting of 1st February 2008. **Cllr. Dowds** welcomed Michelle Keairns and Tom Aspil who are the new Community representatives on the Committee.

2. Report of Sub-Committee on Drug and Alcohol Related Issues

Cllr. Eamon Walsh, thanked the members of the Sub-Committee and staff for their work to date. The submission to the Advisory Group on the Sale of Alcohol Bill has been recently acknowledged by the Department of Justice. The submission and reports of the last two meetings of the Sub-Committee are available on CMAS.

A meeting has been arranged between the Sub-Committee and representatives of Brent County Council for the 28th April 2008. Brent County Council is twinned with South Dublin County Council and they have a very progressive approach to the provision of addiction services/treatment in their area.

It was felt by some members of the JPC that the membership of the Sub-Committee should be revised to include representatives from the Local Drugs Task Forces and a Garda representative. In response Chief **Superintendent John Twomey** nominated Garda Peter Duff to the Sub-Committee. **B. Coman** informed the JPC members that the Sub-Committee was established not to replace the work of the Drugs Task Force but rather to complement/support their work. In this regard Clondalkin Drugs Task Force will be invited to give a Presentation to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee will liaise with the local Drugs Task forces regarding this matter.

3. Garda Reports



Report from Chief Superintendent John Twomey DMR West:

Tackling Violent Crime in the Clondalkin Area

In measuring the incidence of what is described as 'Violent Crime', I will make reference to those Headline Offences which offer physical or mental injury to the person.

Commentary on Crime Categories

A significant proportion of gun related crime is linked to either ongoing feuds or power struggles within organized criminal groups.

Bearing in mind the strong relationship between organized criminal groups and serious crime, there has been a marked increase in successful drug seizures with over 278 searches carried out this year, an increase of 15% on last year, and over €9.6m in illegal drugs seized to date.

Likewise, Serious Investigations required complex and involved investigations and can take months to conclude. Therefore, I expect the Detection Rate will improve going forward.

The following is a summary of Headline Crime to date in 2008:

	<i>Comm.</i>	<i>No. Chg.</i>	<i>% Chg.</i>	<i>Detec.</i>
Theft from MPV	42	-4	-9%	12%
Theft from Person	6	0	0	17%
Robbery of Establishment	8	+2	+33%	25%
Aggravated Burglary	0	-1	-100%	0%
Discharge of Firearm	6	+4	+200%	33%

The following Operations targeting Organised Crime are ongoing in the Clondalkin area of South Dublin:

- Operation Anvil** - National Initiative targeting Organised Crime.
- Operation Schilling** - Targets Drug related crime.

In terms of Public Order, a total of 421 incidents were recorded in 2008 to date. This represents an increase of 22% in comparison with the same period in 2007 in which 344 incidents were recorded. It should be noted however that of these incidents the detection is comparable and currently stands at 92%.

The statistics in terms of stations are as follows:

PUBLIC ORDER INCIDENTS

	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>% Difference</i>
Clondalkin	101: 95	84 : 81	+20%
Ballyfermot	172 :164	141 : 139	+22%
Rathcoole	11 : 11	17 : 16	-35%
Lucan	64 : 47	42 : 40	+50%
Ronanstown	74 : 70	60 : 56	+23%
Total	421 : 387	344 : 332	+ 22%

In addition, the following Public Order specific Operations are in place in the Clondalkin area:

- Operation Encounter* - *Targets Public Order Hotspots.*
- Operation Safe Passage*- *Tackling Bus related crime.*
- Operation Greencastle* - *Public Order initiative in Clondalkin.*

Report from Chief Superintendent John Manley, DMR South Division

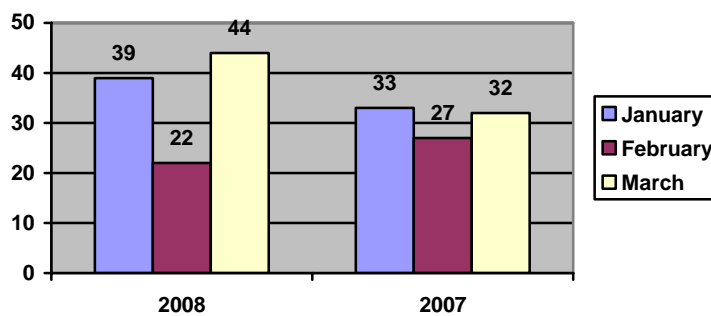
Public Order:

Public Order offences include drunkenness offences, trespassing offences, affray and public order offences.

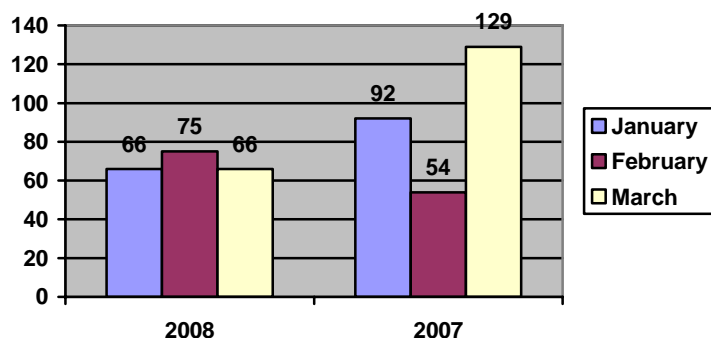
I outline hereunder an outline of public order offences dealt with by Gardai in stations in the DMR South Division during the first 3 months of 2008.

In most of these cases Gardai effected an arrest of one or more persons.

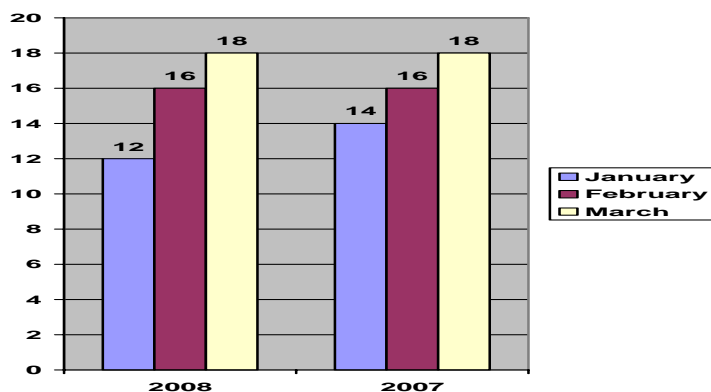
Rathfarnham Garda Station



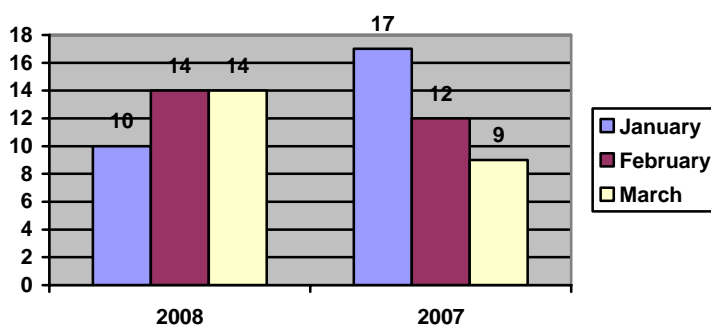
Tallaght Garda Station



Crumlin Garda Station



Terenure Garda Station



Security and Crime on Public Transport Services

Cllr. Corr, Cllr Murphy, Cllr. Lahart and Deputy O' Connor contributed to a discussion on the good work of the Tallaght Community Bus Forum and crime/security issues on the LUAS. It was agreed by the members of the JPC, that the Executive write to the LUAS Operators expressing the Committee's concerns and extend an invitation to a representative to address the Committee on the initiatives Veolia Transport are undertaking to ensure the safety and security of passengers travelling on the Red Luas Line.

4. County Manager's Report- Graffiti

The problem of graffiti pollution in South Dublin County has placed a considerable demand on the Council's cleansing resources in recent years. A sum in the region of €300,000 is expended annually in the removal of graffiti alone.

The Council put in place a new arrangement this year where the existing 29 Cleansing Staff were expanded to a crew of 41 and the 5 person graffiti crew

is now also joining this group. This will enable faster and more focused responses in areas of the county.

In responding to the demands for the eradication of graffiti, the Council provides the following services;

- Since May 2006 a graffiti removal crew has been employed on a pilot basis. This crew has to date carried out much useful work around the County and are constantly dealing with a lengthy list of areas requiring attention. Treated areas are often covered in graffiti several times over. Priority is given where possible to offensive and personal type graffiti and also personal graffiti relating to members of the Gardai.
- A Specialist Contractor is engaged to carry out graffiti removal on difficult areas such as motorway bridges, monuments, difficult surfaces etc.
- The Council's Litter Warden provides assistance to residents associations to undertake local cleaning/painting over graffiti. Paint is supplied free of charge to residents associations whose members are prepared to paint over graffiti at appropriate locations.
- The Litter Warden will also enforce the Litter Pollution Act 1997 where it is possible to identify offenders. However there is a difficulty in this regard as most of the offences are committed at night.
- The Council also liaises with the Gardai as necessary and the Gardai have had success in identifying offenders in some areas. Offenders are usually dealt with under the Garda Juvenile Liaison Scheme.
- The Council's Estate Management Team work with residents on the removal of graffiti within their estates.

The removal of graffiti from private property is a matter for the owners of such property. The Council's Litter Warden regularly visits property owners and advises them of their responsibilities in this regard. The Council also liaises with other public bodies requesting that they remove graffiti from their properties.

The following are the numbers of areas which have been treated by the graffiti crew since May 2006. In many cases the treated areas include substantial distances of coverage.

Council Area Committee

Terenure Rathfarnham	108
Tallaght	77
Lucan Clondalkin	120
<u>Total</u>	<u>305</u>

Additional Measures

Through its **Environmental Awareness Programme** the Council actively encourages schools to participate in the Green Schools Programme which is co-ordinated by An Taisce. As part of this promotion the Litter Warden visits schools in the County to inform students of the negative impact of litter and graffiti on their local community.

The **Beautiful South Competition** is an annual event organised by the Council where emphasis is placed in the judging criteria, on the absence of litter and graffiti in local areas. Prizes are awarded to the best kept areas.

Each year the Council encourages the public to engage in **ECO Week** which promotes general environmental awareness. Demonstrations and promotions are held at a number of locations throughout the County.

Following the Presentation by **John Quinlivan, Senior Executive Officer, Environmental Services** the following points were raised by the Committee regarding the issue of Graffiti throughout the County:

- Removal of Graffiti on property owned by Utility Companies and M50 (NRA)
- Priority should be given to the removal of Graffiti which relates to members of the Gardai or named individuals on private/public property.
- Impact of Graffiti on the Communities in South Dublin County
- Awareness Campaigns in Schools around the effects of Graffiti and how the significant sums of money currently being spent on Graffiti removal could be used for more positive projects
- Multi-agency – ‘Pro- active’ approach required to tackle the problem in the County
- The Community Graffiti Reduction Programme- Pobal

John Quinlivan informed the Committee that the Council’s Draft Litter Management Plan will be presented to the Environment SPC at the May meeting and it is hoped to go to the full Council in June for adoption. The Plan contains objectives that address the identification and targeting Litter Black Spots (including Graffiti) in the County. The Plan also details an objective to prepare programmes targeting particular types of Litter including graffiti. An Inter- Agency approach will be adopted to solving the problem of Graffiti involving members of the Gardai, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Groups etc.

5. Business Submitted

Cllr John Lahart

Question

What catering facilities exist in our Garda stations particularly over night catering facilities? Are these considered adequate?

Answer:

In the **DMR South Division** each Garda station is furnished with suitable facilities for catering, comprising of kitchen and seating areas suitably equipped. These are adequate. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**
In the **DMR West Division** each station is equipped with cooking facilities which members may use at their discretion. There is also an adjoining dining and recreation area. These facilities are adequate – **Chief Superintendent John Twomey**

Question:

What types of ongoing in-service training is undertaken by Gardai and in what areas?

Answer

Gardai receive at least two days in Service training under a Continuous Professional Development Programme annually. The key functions of Continuous Professional Development are to provide operational Gardai with the legislation and Garda Policy.

Training is delivered in a classroom environment led by an instructor. The trainers rely on a lecture approach through PowerPoint and DVD presentations supplemented by class handouts. Discussion groups and practicals are also utilised.

A Core training programme is developed annually at the Garda College. Gardai also receive refresher training in Firearms, Public Order and baton training on an ongoing basis. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

Question:

Do Gardai have to undergo ongoing in service fitness and health training?

Answer:

Student Gardai in training at the Garda College undergo weekly fitness training. They also undergo self defence training and training in the use of ASP baton and the use of handcuffs.

When student Gardai are initially allocated to stations they have to conduct a Sports Project in which they organise a specific event which will benefit the community in some way. In the DMR south Garda Division our students have established a tradition of completing a segment of the Wicklow Way walk and raise funds for local charities and hospitals. (The sum of 8 – 10,000 euros is raised each year.)

Once Gardai graduate and are allocated to full time stations they undergo periodic training in the ASP baton. Gardai involved in Public Order duties undergo ongoing training which includes a fitness module. - **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

Question:

What is the average lifespan of a Garda Patrol car and Motorcycle, and what is the average mileage accumulated on Garda vehicles?

Answer:

Garda patrol cars and motorcycles are generally on issue to the DMR South Division for two to five years depending on the unit to which they are attached to, level of use and general condition. Generally patrol cars are replaced when they reach 100,000 miles. Motorcycles are generally replaced around 40 – 50,000 miles. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

Question

Speeding Fines:

How much revenue has been generated from speeding fines nationally and if possible, to state how much revenue has been generated in the DMR for the periods 2006 and 2007 and where this revenue is channelled?

Answer:

Response from the Finance Directorate.

Please note the information available to the Finance Directorate is limited to the reports compiled by the Directorate as part of its monitoring programme to ensure that An Post operates the FCPS contract in accordance with the agreed contractual and pricing arrangements.

The Finance Directorate receives information with regard to the FCPS receipts on a national basis only and as such it is not possible to provide details of the amount of FCPS revenue generated in the Dublin Metropolitan Region

Year	Net Amount Received
2006	€13,942,309
2007	€21,867,291
Total	€35,809,600

The figures for the "Net Amount Received" above includes adjustments for bank charges, An Post charges, commissions etc. for the period January 2006 – December 2008 in respect of FCPS. The net amount received in respect of FCPS fines are paid directly to the Exchequer Central Fund.

- **Chief Superintendent John Manley**
- **Chief Superintendent John Twomey**

Question:

To ask the Garda Team concerning graffiti:

How many arrests have been made in the Terenure-Rathfarnham area and in the wider county?

How many charges have been successfully prosecuted?

What, if any, special measures have been taken to combat graffiti?

Answer:

During 2006 and 2007 Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform carried out a pilot programme which funded anti-graffiti action in parts of Dublin City, bray and Galway city.

A designated Garda Inspector and liaison Gardai were appointed in each area.

A Graffiti hotline number was set up where Gardai reported pockets of high visibility Graffiti and elicit a quicker response. The project was later expanded to the entire catchment area of Dublin city Council. Gardai in all Council areas have been pro-active in identifying Graffiti hotspots and collecting the material therein.

Gardai also report incidents of Graffiti to South Dublin County Council environmental section who remove the Graffiti.

In the DMR South Division in 2007 a total of three (3) individuals have been prosecuted for incidents involving Graffiti, one of those individuals has been before the courts and is awaiting a probation report. The other two individuals have been summoned and court dates are awaited. A further sixteen (16) young persons have been identified and are being dealt with under the Juvenile Liaison Scheme. Two of the arrests were effected in the Terenure area. I do not have any figures for the Dublin area. Community Gardai in Tallaght have started an initiative where they are recording incidents of graffiti in an effort to identify perpetrators of same.

Along with this initiative, members are tailoring an anti-graffiti talk for local primary schools, which will entail a 'graffiti' arts competition, resulting in a number of winners. South Dublin County Council are sponsoring this arts programme. The winners will have their designs/tags printed on post card type papers, which will have the Garda and SDCC logos on them. It is hoped to extend this programme to secondary schools at a later date. It is anticipated that it will create an awareness of the offences being created through graffiti, hence reducing such incidents.

The Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform are now spearheading a programme under the aegis of POBAL www.pobal.ie to tackle the ongoing problem of Graffiti. This is a countrywide initiative with funding coming from -

1. The Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform
2. Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and
3. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

In total €4 million is being made available to clean up areas affected by graffiti. To this end local groups or consortia of groups are invited to apply for funding. This first phase of the funding will be confined to Rapid Areas only. The second phase will be rolled out in May 2008. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

Cllr. Robert Dowds

Question:

A report on the Tackling of Violent Crime in the Clondalkin Area and how progress can best be made.

Answer:

In terms of Public Order, a total of 421 incidents were recorded in 2008 to date. This represents an increase of 22% in comparison with the same period in 2007 in which 344 incidents were recorded. It should be noted however that of these incidents the detection is comparable and currently stands at 92%.

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- **Chief Superintendent John Twomey**

Question:

To ask the Garda authorities to re-design the public offices of Garda Stations to make them more welcoming to the public.

Answer:

Under the Garda Annual Policing Plan 2008, a number of Strategic Imperatives have been identified for further examination. The design of Public Offices has been identified as one area that requires detailed consideration throughout the country and is an area that requires particular attention.

In this regard, work has commenced on the re-design of Blanchardstown Garda Station and which will be considered by the National Committee in course. – **Chief Superintendent John Twomey**

Charlie O' Connor TD

Question

To ask for a statement by the Garda Superintendent at Tallaght on his views regarding the campaign for a second Garda Station in Tallaght

Answer:

The opening of a second Garda station in Tallaght would necessitate the employment of additional Garda personnel on indoor administration duties who may be more effectively employed on outdoor policing duties. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

Question

To ask for an updated report on the progress towards the provision of CCTV in Tallaght

Answer

The Garda Commissioner has forwarded a proposal to install 35 CCTV cameras in Tallaght Town Centre. South Dublin County Council fully supports the principles of the project. They have made a number of comments in relation to the proposals which are presently being considered by the Project Management Team. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

Charlie O' Connor requested a further update on CCTV schemes for the June Meeting

Question:

To ask for a report on initiatives taken by Tallaght Gardai in respect of the need to protect our Parks for the good of the community

Answer:

With reference to the above, please note the following initiatives are in place in the Tallaght District to tackle problems in the Green areas:

- Community Gardai are in possession of keys to all the big parks in Tallaght to allow ease of access 24/7;
- Problem areas are identified in green areas on a weekly basis and then blitzed with mountain bike and beat patrols;
- Public Order Vans are utilised on a nightly basis to combat Public Order in the green areas;
- School talks are given regarding anti social behaviour in the parks to Primary and Secondary Schools;
- Regular liaising with Estate Management, Neighbourhood Watch, Residents Associations and Community Groups in relation to local concerns and issues in the Green Areas;
- Off licences are visited and advised on a regular basis regarding the sale of alcohol to underage persons, or to others who in turn are supplying underage persons;
- Behavioural Warnings for anti-social behaviour are issued pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act 2006 when appropriate.
- A 'Community Safety Initiative' is currently being analysed in West Tallaght by 2 groups, namely the Community Development Initiative (CDI) and by RAPID. Gardai are actively involved in both these initiatives.
- There are 4 Community Based CCTV initiatives in West Tallaght – currently under development by RAPID and fully supported by An Garda Siochana in Tallaght.
- Plain clothes patrols are utilised to carry out surveillance in the parks – specific offences under the Public Order Act, the Intoxicating Liquor Acts, etc are targeted through such surveillance.
- Community Gardai will liaise with the Graffiti Unit in SDCC to initiate a joint operation to combat graffiti in Tallaght. Graffiti is a huge problem across the sub district with every park being affected.
- Community Gardai in Tallaght, the Divisional Traffic unit based in Terenure, and the Air Support Unit have liaised and arranged operations to target the use of mopeds, motor bikes, etc on the green areas in Tallaght. Previous operations have resulted in the seizure of a large number of bikes. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

Question

To ask for a report on co- operation between An Garda Siochana and the operators of the LUAS to protect the service from crime and vandalism

Answer

There is a LUAS Red Line Liaison Group in existence. This group meets formally on a bi-monthly basis. These meetings are minuted, actioned and are circulated to each Superintendent along the line. The group consists of Sgt Mark Redmond and Inspector Edgeworth and a Garda from each station along the line i.e. Clondalkin, Kilmainham, Sundrive Road, Kevin Street,

Bridewell and Store Street. The group also includes the Luas Head of Security Dan Quill and his Colleagues. – **Chief Superintendent John Manley**

There is ongoing liaison with LUAS Operators and pro-active and reactive patrolling is in place. Regular meetings are held with LUAS Operators and every effort is made to ensure the smooth operation of the Transport system.

Chief Superintendent John Twomey

Deputy Pat Rabbitte:

Question

To ask the Garda Superintendent to detail the community policing allocation for the Brookview area; the area and population covered by the Community Gardai concerned; and if he will say what steps he proposes to take to deal with the worsening anti-social behaviour and misuse of drugs in the area.

Answer

It was agreed by the members to place this item on the June Agenda for further discussion 'In Committee'. The Council/ Gardai are to produce a report on the operation of Local Clinics in the area.

6. Any other Business

LAMA Conference

Cllr Robert Dowds, informed the Committee about a Presentation at the LAMA conference on how Sweden is tackling its drugs problem. It was the view of the Senior Gardai and a spokesperson from the Aisling Centre that Sweden was particularly successful at tackling its drugs problem.

Cllr. Cait Keane informed the Committee about a Conference arranged by Kerry Life Education in partnership with the Southern Regional Task Force. The Conference is entitled "Addition Proofing our Communities" and is scheduled to take place in Killarney on the 2nd/3rd October 2008. The Conference will focus on substance and alcohol misuse.

It was agreed that these items be discussed in further detail by the Sub-Committee on Drug and Alcohol Related Issues Alcohol.

Next meeting set for:

Friday 20th June 2008 from 3.00 -5.00 p.m. in County Hall, Tallaght

Signed: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____