

**Report on Meeting of the South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee – held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 at 3.00 p.m. in Council Chamber, Tallaght.**

**Attendance: Committee Members**

Cllr. R. Dowds (Chair)	P. Rabbitte T.D.
Cllr. Joe Neville	Cllr. Maria Corr
Cllr. G. O' Connell	Cllr Cathal King
Chief Superintendent J. Twomey	Cllr. Shane O'Connor
Chief Superintendent J. Manley	Cllr. E. Walsh
C. O'Connor T.D.	Cllr. C. Keane
J. Tuffy TD	
J. Horan (County Manager)	
F. Nevin (S.D.C.C.)	
J. Lawlor (Comm. Forum)	
Michelle Keairns (Comm. Platform)	

**Also Present:**

Pat Smith, Billy Coman, Elaine Leech, Anne Byrne, Inspector P.Edgeworth.  
Superintendent P. Clavin, Superintendent J. Quirke

**1. Meeting Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and Matters Arising**

Chairperson, **Cllr. Robert Dowds** and the members present adopted the report of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008. **Cllr. Robert Dowds** then opened the meeting by congratulating the Gardai on their recent drug seizures in the County.

Arising from an item that was discussed at the April JPC Meeting, **Cllr Robert Dowds**, requested that the JPC Secretariat investigate the possibility of a visit of a small delegation from South Dublin County to Sweden as it is the view of a number of experts that Sweden is developing best practice in the area of tackling the drugs issue and drug addiction services. The delegation should include a Local Representative, Community Representative and a member of An Garda Siochana

**J. Lawlor** updated the Committee about the recent Conference on Community Policing which was held in Monaghan in May 2008, this conference was attended by both representatives from the Joint Policing Committees in Southern Ireland and their counterparts in Northern Ireland.

## **2. Security Issues on the Luas**

Following on from a request made by the JPC members at the April Meeting, the JPC Executive wrote to the Luas Operators extending an invitation for a representative to address the JPC. Present at the meeting was **Mr. Dan Quill**, from Veolia Transport, who have responsibility for the operation of the Red and Green Luas Lines. Mr. Quill outlined to the members of the JPC, what security measures are currently being taken by the operators to ensure the safety of passengers on the Red Luas Line

A question and answer session followed

## **3. Garda Reports**



### **Report from Chief Superintendent John Twomey DMR West:**

#### **Garda Síochána Act 2005 – Joint Policing Guidelines 17.6**

##### Commentary

There is a significant increase in the number of Searches being carried under the Misuse of Drugs Act +110%.

There is a significant increase in the number of Seizures of illegal drugs up 26%.

Criminal Damage incidents are up by 25%.

Arrests for Public Order Incidents are up by 24%

38 Adult and 68 Juvenile ASBO notices have been issued.

Arrests for Drivers under the Influence have increased by 17%.

In total 2541 Prisoners have been processed in the station in the area.

The main partnerships in Clondalkin/Ballyfermot/Rathcoole/Lucan/Ronanstown Sub Districts supporting Garda initiatives:

- Clondalkin Drugs Task Force
- Business Watch Scheme ( 1) in Clondalkin Village
- Garda Clinics (1), takes place in the Council Offices in Clondalkin village.
- 3 Business watch Schemes in Rathcoole, (City West, Saggart and Newcastle-Lyons)
- Hospital Watch in Peamont Hospital
- RAPID promoting social inclusion in disadvantaged areas.
- North Clondalkin Community Forum. Meeting held fortnightly to discuss local problems
- SDCC. Anti social units. Deals with individual and general anti social problems in North Clondalkin.
- Local Drugs Task Force
- Business Watch Scheme ( 2) – Ballyfermot.
- Garda Clinics ( 1 ), takes place in the Orchard Centre
- Garda Clinic takes place on a weekly basis at Neilstown Shops.
- Hospital Watch Scheme in Cherry Orchard Hospital

Number of Members on Community Policing Units in the area is as follows -

Station	Sgts	Gardai
Clondalkin	1	10
Ballyfermot	1	10
Rathcoole	-	2
Lucan	1	7
Ronanstown	1	9

The Units in Clondalkin, Ballyfermot, Lucan and Ronanstown all have pedal cycles that are in regular use.

CCTV cameras are currently being installed in 14 locations in the Clondalkin area, and will be in operation in the next month. These cameras will be monitored at Clondalkin station. The locations include Clondalkin Village, Bawnogue, Monastery Road, Ninth Lock Road, Woodford Shops, St Cuthbert's and Greenpark and at the junction before Newlands Cross.

There are CCTV cameras at 18 locations in the Ballyfermot, Palmerstown and Cherry Orchard areas being monitored at Ballyfermot Garda Station.

Inspector Frank Dunleavy is appointed as Ethnic Liaison Officer for the L and Inspector Pat O Sullivan in the Q District. Regular meetings take place with the various representatives of the Ethnic groups in the area.

*It should be noted that in any reference to statistics, those statistics are provisional, operational, liable to change and some possibly re-classified with the introduction of Central Statistics Office reports.*

**Report noted and the following items were raised:**

- A request for a report indicating the allocation of newly recruited Gardai to those areas with the highest crime levels in the County
- Council and Gardai to produce reports on initiatives currently being undertaken in the Deansrath Area, Clondalkin.
- The use of quad bikes /scramblers in public parks throughout the County
- A progress report on the impact of Gardai CCTV schemes in Clondalkin Area
- Alcohol Consumption/ Anti- social behaviour in Public Parks
- Possibility of applications for alcohol licences to be displayed on a website for members of the public to access, at present these notices are displayed in newspapers
- Number and distribution of Community Gardai in the Clondalkin and Tallaght Areas

**Report from Chief Superintendent John Manley, DMR South Division**

Report noted and discussed 'In Committee'

**4. County Manager's Report-**

Report noted and discussed 'In Committee'

**5. Correspondence Submitted**

**1. Rapid AIT (Appendix 1)**

**P. Smith** -The Guidelines issued by the DJELR on the composition of the JPC Committee are specific; however the Department of Justice is planning to review the Guidelines in the near future.

As part of the review process, **Cllr. Marie Corr** recommended that South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee write to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding Appendix 1.

## **2. Community Platform- Local Policing Fora ( Appendix 2)**

**B. Coman** -The JPC secretariat are currently awaiting guidelines from the DJELR regarding the establishment of Local Policing Fora. At this stage it would be premature to form a JPC sub- committee to look at the establishment of Local Policing Fora in South Dublin County until the guidelines are issued

## **6. Business Submitted**

### **Pat Rabbitte TD**

#### **Question:**

To ask the Superintendent to report on the position relating to accommodation for Gardai at Tallaght and, in particular, if he will give an update on the position concerning the construction of a new headquarters at Tallaght in view of the Ministerial replies to my parliamentary questions of April 24th 2008.

#### **Reply:**

The Superintendent in Tallaght is awaiting sketch scheme from the OPW for a new Garda Station at Tallaght and related Court buildings.

#### **Question:**

To ask the Superintendent for his assessment of the extent of alcohol abuse in the Tallaght area especially amongst young people; if he will report on the number of off-licences entitled to sell alcohol in the area and if he will give his assessment of the contribution of abuse of alcohol to public disorder and/or anti-social behaviour.

#### **Reply:**

There are 136 premises licensed for the sale of alcohol in the M District (Tallaght and Rathfarnham). This includes Hotels, Night-Clubs, Theatres, Pubs, Golf/GAA/Soccer Clubs, Restaurants, Shops and Off-Licences. There are 4 night-Clubs currently operating in the M District. There are 37 premises licensed for off-sales in the M District. The population of the M District is approximately 150,000.

The concentration of licensed premises in and around Tallaght town centre as well as the presence of three night-clubs in close proximity, results in a large number of people, (who are intoxicated to varying extents) emerging onto the town centre streets between 1am and 2.30am on weekend mornings in particular. Public Order issues invariably arise including; assaults, Breaches of the Peace, Thefts, Sexual Assaults, and breaches of the Drink Driving Legislation.

There have been in the region of 5 prosecutions of licences holders in the M district regarding the sale of Alcohol to persons under 18 years. Several temporary closure orders have been issued by the Courts. Compliance with the terms of these orders has been established by inspection of the premises concerned on the days in question.

**Charlie O'Connor T.D.**

**Question:**

To ask for an update on plans for the provision of CCTV throughout the Tallaght area.

**Reply:**

Following the successful CCTV Planning Consultation period for all 35 cameras throughout Tallaght, SKS Communications Ltd in conjunction with the OPW is now proceeding to install this system.

13 of the 35 camera poles are now in place and the monitor wall in the CCTV Room in Tallaght is installed. The completion date is likely to be late August 2008.

**J. Manley Chief Superintendent**

The Joint Policing Committee was set up for South Dublin County following selection and approval by the Department of Justice and within the national guidelines as set by the Department. The Committee held its inaugural meeting in October 2007 and the Community C.C.T.V. Projects for North Clondalkin, Jobstown, Killinarden and Brookfield/Fettercairn areas were unanimously approved by the Committee.

It was not possible to proceed with the Community CCTV schemes until a Joint Policing Committee for South Dublin County was established and formally approved the Community CCTV schemes. In the meantime every effort was made to progress all the projects both in Tallaght and Clondalkin through the tender stage and ready for installation once the formal approval was sought of the Joint Policing Committee and the Garda Commissioner.

The Council will commit to funding of any deficits arising on the operational costs to the Groups in respect of year 1 in the first instance and note that the operational costings for year 2 to year 5 are less certain as our efforts are continuing to establish as discussed with the promoters, a Central Monitoring Centre for the CCTV schemes. The establishment of a Central Monitoring Centre for the Schemes should have a significant bearing on future operational costs of all schemes. The Council has expressed its ongoing commitment and support to the schemes and will continue to work with the project promoters towards the development of effective and professional Community CCTV Schemes.

Installation of the Killinarden and Brookfield/Fettercairn CCTV is being undertaken by TEC Security at present. Contracts for the Clondalkin and Jobstown Schemes have not yet been signed, however, it is anticipated that these schemes will also move to contract and installation stage shortly.

**Question:**

To ask for a report on action being taken by the Gardai in respect of many reported incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in the Tallaght West area.

**Reply:**

- The Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994 is being enforced as appropriate.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Warnings are being issued as appropriate.
- Community Gardai are meeting with resident committees from estates throughout west Tallaght. Joint initiatives have been put into place in respect of Brookfield and Mac Uilliam estates. At an inter-agency meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June it was reported by residents that the quality of life for residents had vastly improved.
- The Tallaght Community Dublin Bus Forum led by Tallaght Gardaí meets on a monthly basis and is attended by Dublin Bus management, Dublin Bus unions, South Dublin County Council representatives, elected representatives, and community representatives. The forum works towards and is successful in ensuring safe public transport in the Tallaght area with emphasis on west Tallaght.
- Joint Garda/South Dublin County Council clinics are held in four west Tallaght areas on a weekly basis.
- Four Garda Youth Diversion Projects are up and running in the west Tallaght area alone.
- Community Gardaí provide mountain bike and public order van patrols as well as regular patrolling in west Tallaght.
- Tallaght Community Gardaí support a wide section of youth initiatives across west Tallaght including the provision of transport by two Garda driven Garda buses.

**Question:**

To ask for an updated report on efforts being made to combat the drugs problem in the Tallaght Region.

**Reply:**

Please see figures below relating to the value and amount of drugs seized in the Tallaght Region to date, and the comparison with the same period last year.

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Cannabis Herb	€8,094	€258,243
Cannabis Resin	€15,364	€15,466
Heroin	€5,122,430	€2,232,680
Cocaine	€71,120	€298,956
'E'	€1,210	€1,420
Controlled Tabs	€3,760	€6,582
Crack Cocaine	nil	€5,866

Seizures for possession of a controlled drug	201	369
Seizures for possession for sale or supply	44	48

Searches under warrant to date 295

The Drug Unit are actively involved in a number of Covert and Overt Operations in the Tallaght Area at present.

Operation "Subway" targets our buses and the Luas, detecting drug offences on our transport system.

Operation "Menace" currently targets local street dealers in West Tallaght.

Last year "Operation Fossil" yielded 46 separate Section 15 charges (sale/supply) and we are currently in the process of setting up a similar operation targeting local drug dealers.

"Operation Nightcap" is also in the pipeline and this will target our local Public Houses and Night Clubs.

The District Drug Unit has also been involved in Operations with the Garda National Drug Unit which has led to very successful seizures, which included 2 controlled deliveries of herb and cocaine, involving Customs.

**Question:**

To ask for a report on actions being taken by local Garda management to observe the Department of Justice, though the Commissioners Office is aware of the need for the urgent area of the Tallaght Garda Station site.

**Reply:**

The Chief Administrative Officer, Mr John Leamy, has visited Tallaght Garda Station and has observed first hand the present conditions and is aware of the requirements to upgrade to full Divisional Status.

**Cllr. Robert Dowds:**

**Question:**

To ask the Gardaí to consider re-introducing the Public Order Van in South Dublin when required

**Reply:**

The public order van continues to operate within the Clondalkin area and has not been withdrawn in the Clondalkin area. It has operated over the past bank holiday weekend on special public order patrols to combat anti-social behaviour. On regular weekends the patrol van is manned by the regular units.

**Question:**

That the Gardaí present a report on Garda two-way scanners and confidentiality (there are fears that peoples details can be obtained by criminals using 2 way scanners themselves)



**Reply:**

Members are careful not to disclose confidential information over the radio network. Such information is communicated by mobile phone directly to the members concerned. Normal radio traffic occurs through the command and control system which directs units to incidents. The problem scanning Garda radios should be alleviated with the introduction of the new Tetra System which is to be introduced in the coming months and is a secure radio network.

**Question:**

A report on Garda numbers in Clondalkin (Clondalkin & Ronanstown) and how those numbers could be increased.

**Reply:**

The current strength of Clondalkin and Ronanstown Garda Stations is at present 1 Superintendent, 4 Inspectors, 22 Sergeants and 157 Gardaí. Of this total 81 are specially employed in DDU, Drugs, Community Policing, Warrants, Prisoner Escort Unit and Divisional Crime Task Force. Resources allocated to Garda Stations are constantly reviewed.

**Question:**

A request for CCTV for the area between Monastery Gate Estate and the M50.

**Reply:**

This matter can be reviewed in line with Garda priorities.

**Question:**

That the Gardaí and the Parks Department produce a report on how to best stop the use of motorbikes in St. Cuthbert's Park.

**Reply:**

The illegal use of quads and motorbikes is a problem throughout the parks in South Dublin. The optimum control method is supervision and control by the local staff who have responsibility for the individual parks such as St. Cuthbert's Park. However, it is not possible to have staff allocated on a full time basis to these parks and periodic inspections and control takes place through the Supervisor and Park Ranger system. There is also close contact with the local Gardaí. Recently, a CCTV system was installed in the area that is monitored by the local Gardaí, areas where access could be gained to the park have been restricted and there has been a noticeable decrease in the reports of this type of activity. Nevertheless, the local Parks and Landscape Services staff will continue to monitor and enforce the Bye-laws in association with the Gardaí.

**7. Any other business**

**Next meeting set for:**

- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 from 3.00 -5.00 p.m. in County Hall, Tallaght**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT

## Appendix 1



# RAPID Programme WEST TALLAGHT



An Roinn Seibhisi Pobail  
Halla an Chontae, Tamhlacht,  
Baile Átha Cliath 24  
Telefon: 01-414 9270  
Fac : 01-414 9106

Community Services Department  
County Hall, Tallaght,  
Dublin 24.  
Telephone: 01-414 9270  
Fax: 01-414 9106  
Website: [www.southdublin.ie](http://www.southdublin.ie)  
Email: [alane@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:alane@sdublincoco.ie)  
SMS: cccounter - 086 173 1707

AL71129B.LTR

Pat Smith  
Chair of SIM/IMG  
Director of Community Services  
South Dublin County Council  
Tallaght Civic Offices  
Dublin 24

Dear Pat

**Re: RAPID representation on Joint Policing Committee**

At the West Tallaght RAPID AIT meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007, the Fitzpatrick Associates "Review of the Development of the RAPID Programme in South Dublin County" was considered. One of the recommendations of the Review was: *"That the Programme should continue to focus strongly on areas of crime and safety and anti-social behaviour, building on the good work to date, with anti-social behaviour initiatives."*

The AIT in discussing how best to progress this recommendation considered there to be a need for representation on the Joint Policing Committee, through the appointment of a RAPID Joint Policing Committee representative. This view was supported by the recognition that decisions on CCTV schemes in the RAPID areas would be made at the Joint Policing Committee. It was also felt important that RAPID areas had a voice at the Committee as the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour disproportionately affect areas like the RAPID areas of South Dublin County.

In your role as Chair of SIM/IMG the West Tallaght RAPID AIT would be grateful if you could consider this request at the next SIM/IMG meeting. If you have any queries, please contact me at [alane@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:alane@sdublincoco.ie) or on 01-414-9270

Yours sincerely

Andy Lane  
RAPID Co-ordinator on behalf of West Tallaght AIT

## Appendix 2

### **Submission from South Dublin Community Platform Rationale for setting up a sub-committee of the Joint Policing Committee to plan the establishment of local Policing Fora**

**The Joint Policing Committee guidelines state the following:**

#### **5. Functions**

5.1 The function of the committees is set out in section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states:

“The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area, and in particular to –

- (a) keep under review -
  - (i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and
  - (ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,
- (b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,
- (c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area,
- (d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and
- (e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora under paragraph (d) or otherwise.”

South Dublin Community Platform proposes the establishment of a subcommittee of the South Dublin Joint Policing Committee to Plan the Establishment and Development of local policing fora in the area of South County Dublin.

Rationale for the establishment of aforementioned committee:

Community Participation in the structures of the Joint Policing Committee is essential if the work of this committee is to be effective. In order to ensure this takes place ,we need to give adequate time to plan this function. This planning process is labour intensive and will be properly served by the establishment of a Sub-Committee.

We propose that the Sub-committee consider the following to be included in a terms of reference for their work:

- To ensure that the whole county is covered by local fora
- That local fora are set up in a way that encourages and ensures local participation and has measures in place to support participation from traditionally marginalised groups such as travellers, new communities, and residents of disadvantaged communities
- That resources are secured to support local policing fora
- That we plan mechanisms for ensuring that issues raised by each fora are fed into the main JPC

Already across the county there are both formal and informal structures operating in areas whereby the Gardai, South Dublin County Council and local communities work together on the issues of community safety and Policing.

When planning the role out of local fora we propose that we establish the extent of local fora currently operating and consolidate the good work taking place. We can then establish where there are gaps in areas that have no representation and focus resources to those communities.

Finally, there are models of good practice operating in the County, and in other areas that might inform the sub-committee during the planning phase. We propose that these models are researched to ensure that South Dublin JPC uses best practice in relation to the establishment of our local policing fora.