



## Inside this issue:

<b>Chairperson's comments</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Background to JPC's</b>	
<b>NCA sub-committee</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Local Policing Fora</b>	
<b>Summary historical highlights</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Questions and answers</b>	<b>4 and 5</b>
<b>Notices</b>	<b>6 and 7</b>

### Chairperson's comments

Both as Lord Mayor of Dublin, and Chairperson of the North Central Area Joint Policing Sub Committee, I am delighted to write a few words for this first edition bulletin of the North Central Area Joint Policing – Sub Committee.

Its purpose is to inform and advise the community on the work of this relatively recent new development in partnership between Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána. Along with the community, the Council and Gardaí are working closely for improvement in safety and crime prevention in Dubliners.

The bulletin concerns the local authority wards of Artane/Whitehall, Donaghmede, and Clontarf which have a total population in excess of 130,000. So the role of the local City Councillors, Garda, and City Council departments are vital in delivering security and a supportive physical environment.

I believe that this bulletin is easy to read and accessible. It is only available on the web, contains useful information on the activities, advice, and contacts. I especially welcome feedback and comments.

*Gerry Breen, Lord Mayor of Dublin*

### Background to Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) and the role of the JPCs

The current Chair of the Sub-Committee is the Lord Mayor of Dublin Gerry Breen and the Vice Chair is Councillor Larry O'Toole.

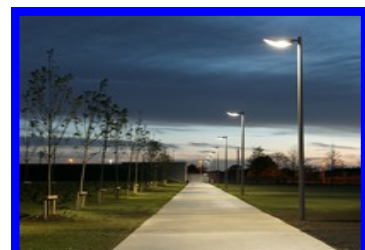
Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) were established in 2006, on a pilot basis, in a number of Local Authorities including Dublin City Council. Since the pilot scheme has been completed, all Local Authorities have set up Joint Policing Committees in their administrative areas. The purpose of these committees is to provide a forum where a local authority and the senior Garda officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area.

Through the work of the JPC committee members have the opportunity to contribute to the improved policing, in its broadest sense, of the area to the benefit of its residents by carrying out their duties and performing their functions.

### Dublin City Council JPC and 5 Area Sub-Committees

Dublin City Council, at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006, established a Joint Policing Committee for Dublin City on a pilot basis and also at this meeting approved the setting up of sub-committees of the JPC, corresponding to the five operational areas of the City Council i.e. Central, North Central, North West, South Central and South East Areas.

#### Fr. Collins Park





### North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-Committee

The first official meeting of the North Central Area Joint Policing Sub Committee was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007, with meetings taking place on a quarterly basis since then. The venue is Northside Civic Centre, Bunratty Road, Coolock, Dublin, 17.



The membership of the North Central Area (NCA) Joint Policing Sub Committee consists of officials from Dublin City Council, Garda Officers, local Councillors and TDs for the area and community/voluntary sector representatives.

A typical agenda for the meeting includes:

- Reports from the Gardaí on various aspects of policing such as :
  - local policing plans/community policing,
  - litter issues,
  - underage drinking,
  - anti-social behaviour
  - traffic matters

Updates from the Safer Clongriffin, Safer Darndale, Donaghmede and Safer Edenmore local policing fora



### Local Policing Fora

JPCs can also agree the establishment local policing fora in their area. In general these fora are tailored to address particular issues faced by their area and meetings would be more informal than meetings of the JPC.

Three local policing fora have been established in the North Central Area as follows:–



- Safer Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview
- Safer Belmayne/Clongriffin
- Safer Edenmore
- Safer Donaghmede



These fora have been effective in dealing with many local issues to resolution stage. Membership of these forums, which averages at approx. 20 members, is made up of officials from Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána, local public representatives, local residents, local business representatives and other local stakeholders e.g. HSE, Dublin North East Drugs Task Force, Community development programmes and Rapid.



## Volume I, Issue I



### Summary Historical Highlights

The North Central Area Joint Police sub committee continues to be a valuable communication process providing opportunities for planning, reviewing and consultation about relevant matters affecting the policing of the area.

The following is a list of presentations made to sub-committee members during 2009/2010:

Topics	Presented By
Bonfires at Halloween	Dermot Johnson, Public Domain Officer, NCA
City Wide Community Safety Strategy	Jim Kelly, Assistant Area Manager
Dial to Stop Drug Dealing Campaign	Louise Nolan, Dublin North East Drugs Task Force
Divisional and District Policing Plan 2009	Chief Superintendent Gerry Phillips
Estate management issues related to public	John Egan, Area Housing Manager Aidan Fitzsimons, Area Housing Manager
Friends of the Park initiatives	Jim Kelly, Assistant Area Manager Elaine Mulvenny, Assistant Area Manager Eoin Ward, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent
National Drugs Strategy	Tom O'Brien, Dublin North East Drugs Task
North Central Probation Services	Judith Leech, Dublin North Central Probation
Parking Wardens – report on their role	Garda Siochana
Reports from the Safer Darndale, Safer Clongriffin and Edenmore Safer Fora	Jim Kelly, Assistant Area Manager Elaine Mulvenny, Assistant Area Manager
Waste Management Enforcement	John Bruckshaw, Dublin City Council - Waste Management Division
Sphere 17, Darndale	Mick Ferron, Sphere 17
Mediation Northside	Valerie Gaughran, Co-ordinator, Mediation
Crime Prevention	Sgt. Peter Smith, Crime Prevention Officer,
Community Restorative Justice	Judith Leech, Probation Services

Other items discussed at sub-committee meetings included the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy (Housing Miscellaneous Provision Bill 2008), Report on the Review of Gambling, Plan of work for the NCA sub-committee for 2009/2010, the White Paper on Crime and head shops.

Recurring agenda items were issues relating to the control, regulation and sale of alcohol in pubs/off licences and issues relating to court objections to renewal of licences or late night extension licences due to public disorder or nuisance associated with premises (pubs and off-licences).



The four local policing forums established by the JPC submit a written report to every second meeting of the quarterly Joint Policing Sub-Committee. A number of local issues have been dealt with satisfactorily through the local policing forums e.g.

- Litter & graffiti are actively monitored and removed by the Public Domain Crew
- Better linkages between local service providers/forum members in each area
- Closer linkages with Gardaí on local issues
- Installation of pedestrian/traffic lights & other traffic matters addressed
- Local drainage issues resolved
- Local achievements highlighted & acknowledged
- Anti-litter initiatives/campaigns with local schools
- Bollards Darndale Village
- Post Box, Clongriffin



#### **4. Questions and Answers**

##### **What is a Joint Policing Committee (JPC)?**

The Garda Siochana Act 2005 provided for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees (JPCs), on a pilot basis, in a number of Local Authorities including Dublin City Council. Since the pilot scheme has been completed, all Local Authorities have set up Joint Policing Committees in their administrative areas.

The purpose of JPCs is to provide a forum where a local authority and the senior Garda officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area.

##### **How many committees operate in Dublin City Councils administrative area?**

A JPC was established in Dublin City Council's administrative area in 2006. Five Sub-Committees were also established to correspond to the five operational areas of the City Council i.e. Central, North Central, North West, South Central and South East Areas.

##### **When was North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-Committee established?**

The first official meeting of the North Central Area Joint Policing Sub Committee was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

##### **Who are the members of the North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-Committee?**

- Dublin City Council officials
- Senior members of An Garda Siochana
- Elected councillors - North Central Area
- Elected members of Oireachtas na hEireann (TDs and Senators)
- Community representatives

##### **How often does the North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-Committee meet?**

Meetings take place on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October. The venue for the meetings is Northside Civic Centre, Bunratty Road, Coolock, Dublin, 17.

##### **What are the functions of JPCs?**

**Functions include:**

- As a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on policing and crime issues within Local Authority administrative areas
- Review levels and patterns of crime and related underlying factors
- Establish and co-ordinate Local Policing For a
- Meet a minimum of twice yearly-

### **What topics are discussed at the North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-Committee?**

The North Central Area JPC is committed to improving public safety, preventing crime and identifying crime patterns and contributory factors to crime and anti-social behaviour throughout our area. A typical agenda for the meeting includes the following:- local policing plans, community policing, litter issues, underage drinking, anti-social behaviour, traffic matters and updates from the three pilot local policing forums

Neither joint policing committees nor any of its subcommittees may consider matters relating to a specific criminal investigation or prosecution or matters relating to the security of the State.

### **What are local policing fora?**

Local policing fora are established by the JPC. Four pilot local policing forums have been established as follows:-

- Safer Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview
- Safer Belmayne/Clongriffin
- Safer Edenmore
- Safer Donaghmede

Membership of these forums include Dublin City Council officials, An Garda Siochana, local elected public representatives and members of the public. These meetings are more informal and address particular issues faced by the areas in which they operate.

### **Who can attend meetings of a JPC?**

Meeting of the JPC are attended by Dublin City Council officials, Senior members of An Garda Siochana, elected councillors - North Central Area, elected members of Oireachtas na hEireann (TDs and Senators).

Members of the public and representatives of the media are entitled to be present at a meeting of a JPC.

### **Who can I contact if I wish to have an issue raised at the North Central Area JPC or the local community forums?**

If you have any issues relating to crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour (which do not relate to a specific criminal investigation as outlined above) you may contact your local public representatives, the Gardaí or the North Central Area Office (T. 816 6711 or email. [northcentral@dublincity.ie](mailto:northcentral@dublincity.ie)) and they can be discussed at the appropriate committee.

## **7. Notice board**

### **Bogus Traders/Callers**

Many people routinely employ door-to-door traders and repair people/contractors. However, some of these people are not genuine contractors and carry out very little work for exorbitant amounts of money. An Garda Siochana has produced a crime prevention information leaflet on bogus traders/callers which gives very useful information on the most frequent ways that this form of crime can be committed, namely:-



- Poor Work/Excessive Charges – or indeed no work performed at all

- Bogus V.A.T. Charges
- Deposit Scams
- Opportunity Thefts
- Masquerading as utility workers e.g. from Bord Gais, ESB, Dublin City Council

The leaflet also outlines what people can do to prevent being a victim of this type of criminal behaviour. One of the best pieces of advice is that you should never employ trades people “cold calling” to your door offering services. If you need any work carried out in your house you should contact at least two established reputable companies for an estimate and look for references from persons where they have previously worked. Alternatively, ask friends or relatives for the names of contractors that they have successfully used in the past. Never allow utility workers to enter your home unless they can provide proper identification i.e. a company ID card. If you are still unsure that the worker is bona fide, close the door and phone his company to verify that they are working in the area and that access to your property is required.

### **An Garda Siochana Older People Strategy**

The Older People Strategy was recently launched on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010 by An Garda Commissioner, Fachtna Murphy. This strategy has been developed to ensure that the policing needs of older people in Ireland are met to the highest standard possible.

For more information on the Older People Strategy or on crime prevention please contact your local Garda Crime Prevention Officer or visit the Garda website at [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

### **Halloween**

The lighting of bonfires and the use of fireworks occurs not just on Halloween Night itself but in many areas this practice commences weeks before and continues after Halloween.

Hundreds of minor burns to have been reported following



young children and teenagers require treatment each year for injuries ranging from serious injury. In previous years public property, football pitches and open spaces injured or severely scarred. It is very costly for the City Council to re-instate open bonfires and is a burden on already stretched resources.

The lighting of unofficial bonfires on public open spaces is **strictly forbidden**. The City Council does not have the resources to react everywhere at the same time and is therefore appealing to householders, residents associations, groups with influence in the community and businesses to contribute as best they can to the reduction of the bonfire menace this Halloween. It is an offence under the Litter Act to leave material out in a public area for use in a bonfire and the Litter Warden in such an event will issue fines.

Residents are encouraged to actively show their opposition to the lighting of bonfires in their communities this year and that they discourage young children from attending such bonfires.

**To report any dumping of bonfire materials in your area please contact the North Central Area Office at 8166710.**

### **8. Links**



[www.dublincity.ie/YourCouncil/JointPolicingCommittees/Pages/JointPolicingCommittees.aspx](http://www.dublincity.ie/YourCouncil/JointPolicingCommittees/Pages/JointPolicingCommittees.aspx)

[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

## The Citywide City Neighbourhoods Competition 2010

The Citywide City Neighbourhoods Competition 2010 was held in Croke Park on 30th September. Congratulations to all our winners and participants from the North Central area who did the area proud once again this year. Hearty congratulations also to the residents' of the Woodlawn Estate, who not only won in their own category but also won the overall competition. They truly are a wonderful example of what can be achieved when communities pull together for the good of their area. Keep up the great work! Sincere thanks to Lord Mayor of Dublin Gerry Breen for presenting the awards and to our many councillors and public reps for their attendance and support.



### Local Drug Task Forces establish-

In 1997, responding to the devastating impact created, the government established

in the areas experiencing the worst levels of opiate misuse. The Task Force was charged with aiding the development of community based initiatives and to link in with and add value to the programmes and services already being delivered or planned by statutory agencies.

### ment:

impact the drug culture  
Local Drug Task Forces

### National strategy:

A National Drugs Strategy 2001 – 2008 & 2009 - 2013 was launched with the overall objective being, “To significantly reduce the harm caused to individuals and society by the misuse of drugs through a concerted focus on supply reduction, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and research”. Central to this approach has been the bringing together of key agencies, both statutory and community/voluntary. At present we have 25 members on our task force with representation from the Office of the Minister for Drugs, Garda Drugs Unit, Coolock Garda, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, HSE, FAS, VEC, Probation services, Northside Law Centre, Northside Partnership and other community & voluntary groups. Our attendance records are high.

### Objectives:

The key objectives of the Dublin North East Drugs Task Force are:

- To promote a greater awareness, understanding and clarity of the dangers of drug misuse in the area.
- To enable those with drug problems access to treatment and other supports that will allow the individual re-integrate into society.
- To reduce harm caused by drug misuse to individuals, families and communities.
- To strengthen existing partnerships in and with communities, and build new partnerships to tackle drug misuse.

Have available data to examine the extent of drug misuse in the Dublin North East area.

### **Area:**

Our geographical area has an estimated population of 115,000 based on 2006 Central Statistics, however the growth of the area is likely to increase dramatically with major new housing developments currently being developed. By 2011, the CSO population survey will have more accurate data. It includes Dublin postal districts 3, 5, 9, 13 and 17.

### **Goals:**

In order to achieve our goals, the Task Force relies on the work accomplished by agencies and community groups who give of their time and dedication to sitting on committees and sub groups, developing policies and giving valuable input into how resources are allocated. The Dublin North East Drugs Task Force has four sub groups at present assisting with the local implementation of the National Drugs Strategy.

### **Supply and Control:**

The aims of this group are to look at ways to reduce the volume of illicit drugs available in Ireland and to reduce access to all drugs. The group works with the Garda, County Council, project staff and community members to raise local concerns and highlight the needs of a particular neighbourhood.

### **Education Prevention:**

The Dublin North East Drugs Task Force funds the employment of an education team. The objectives of the education officer and education worker are to create greater awareness about the dangers and prevalence of drug misuse. Working with a highly motivated committee, the team work to equip young people and other vulnerable groups with skills and supports necessary to make informed choices about their health, personal lives and social development. The sub group is committed to assisting schools develop comprehensive substance misuse programmes in all schools and work to help highlight the 'Walk Tall' and 'On my Own Two Feet' programmes and assist in the delivery of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE).

### **Treatment and Rehabilitation:**

The Treatment and Rehabilitation Sub Group exists to encourage and enable those dependant on drugs to avail of treatment with the aim of reducing dependency and improving overall health and social well being, with the ultimate aim of leading a drug free lifestyle. The goals of the group are:

To provide information wishing to access services. This includes fund for those in financial access services.



Dublin North East Drugs Task Force

tion and support to those professional rehabilitation services making available a bursary financial difficulty wishing to

The group provides stabilised drug users with training and employment opportunities as part of the clients rehabilitation. Given the sensitive nature of rehabilitation, this group requires the necessary input of those experienced in the field. We depend on the commitment from HSE professionals, FAS, Northside Partnership and community representatives.

### Childcare Sub Group:

The Dublin North East Drugs Task Force was aware from an early period that young families are affected by drug misuse and that when a potential parent opts for treatment or support, sometimes childcare may be an issue. The Task Force funds a number of places under the Childcare Bureau. The sub group meets to discuss ways in which other supports can be implemented.

The Task Force provide a mechanism for the coordination of services in Dublin North East, while at the same time allowing local communities and voluntary organisations to participate in the planning, design and delivery of those services.

The types of projects receiving drug users and their families, involved in drugs or at risk. We support include local information and support centres for community drug teams, special projects aimed at children in- produce Drug awareness training programmes and rehabilitation initiatives that allow communities address the issue in partnership with state agencies. We are in the process of developing a Service Users Forum, Family Support, and programmes geared as addressing the emerging Cocaine problem.



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The role of the individual and the environment in which they find themselves are also key influences on drug use.

Poverty, peer pressure, bullying, sexual orientation and ethnic background have all been in some way linked to the continuing rise in drug use in Ireland. Statutory agencies, Voluntary groups and community groups all have a certain knowledge and expertise which is essential in the delivery of any drug programme. The success of this Task Force has been due to the commitment, energy and dedication of those groups whose desire it has been to influence change in the communities in which they work and live. There are many former drug users whose lives have been transformed thanks to the work of those in projects and rehabilitation centres. The continuing commitment from the government in relation to funding the community projects and Task Force initiatives is also to be applauded as it goes on to prove the need for all agencies and community groups to continue working together, because working together works!



REPORT STOCK PILING TO THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA OFFICE – TEL: 8166710