

**DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009**  
**at 4.00 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall**

**Attendance: Committee Members**

Councillor Gerry Breen (Chairperson)	
Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice Chair)	Lord Mayor, Councillor Emer Costello
Councillor Mannix Flynn	Councillor Eric Byrne
Councillor Eoghan Murphy	Councillor Edie Wynne
Councillor John Redmond	Councillor Michael Conaghan
Deputy Cyprian Brady	Deputy Catherine Byrne
Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh	Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan
Deputy Tommy Broughan	
Mr. Philip Maguire, Asst. City Manager	
Asst. Commissioner Michael Feehan	
Mr. Ciaran McNamara, Asst. City Manager	Ciaran Dunne, Executive Manager, Housing Dept.

Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department (Minutes)

**Non-members:** Councillor Marie Metcalfe

**1. Introduction of newly Elected Chairperson**

At meeting held immediately prior to Dublin City Joint Policing Committee meeting Cllr. Gerry Breen, proposed by Cllr. Larry O'Toole and seconded by Councillor Edie Wynne, was elected as Chairperson.

Cllr. Larry O'Toole, proposed by Cllr. Michael Conaghan and seconded by Cllr. John Redmond, was elected Vice Chairperson.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were agreed.

Minutes agreed.

The Committee extended their thanks and appreciation to Councillor Michael Conaghan for chairing the Committee for the last 3 years. In addition the incoming Chairperson, Cllr. Gerry Breen, was formally welcomed.

Following the April meeting a number of case studies on antisocial behaviour had been prepared on the victims of such behaviour; this was carried out through the Area Committee and Joint Policing Subcommittees. Philip forwarded this to the President of the District Court who in turn circulated it to each of the District Court Judges. They declined, however, to meet a delegation from the J.P.C.

**3. Matters Arising. Item referred from minutes of Meeting of Dublin City Joint Policing Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009:** "Councillor Mary Freehill asked the Manager to look into the possibility of making it illegal for persons under a certain age to purchase spray paint"

Philip contacted the Departments of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government. A response from the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform was circulated to Members. The Minister currently has no proposals to introduce and age limit for the purchase of spray paint.

#### **4. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner (Michael Feehan)**

Copy attached – **Appendix A.**

Presentation noted.

Committee extended their thanks and appreciation to Asst. Commissioner Feehan's Predecessor, Al McHugh, for his invaluable contribution to the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee since its establishment in 2006.

The Committee congratulated Asst. Commissioner Feehan on his appointment and welcomed him to the Committee.

- Operation Freeflow up and running since 29<sup>th</sup> November. Gardaí will be deployed on Luas and Dublin Buses at nighttime as part of this
- Roma Intimidatory Begging (**Item 11 on agenda**): Powers of Gardaí are very limited in this regard following on from the recent High Court ruling. However Section 247 of the Children Act 2001 allows a member of An Garda Síochána to arrest any person for allowing a child to be on any street or public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms or inducing the giving of alms.

Councillors paid tribute to the Gardaí, Officials and Communities for their work during Halloween and the recent Finglas Festival.

Councillors are anxious to keep The Boardwalk on the agenda. It should be a place that is attractive to tourists, not somewhere people feel under threat. It is believed that prescription drugs are being sold here.

Reports of intimidation of families in certain areas, money being demanded by drugs gangs at doors and families having to borrow to meet these demands or risk repercussions. Committee want the Criminal Assets Bureau (C.A.B.) to investigate the people in the middle in addition to the gang leaders.

#### **Actions**

In response to Committee's request that a leaflet be circulated to all DCC tenants in relation to measures they can take to increase security in their homes (following a spate of recent break-ins / robberies and reports of gangs posing as Officials from DCC's Waterworks Division), the Housing Department gave a commitment to issue a leaflet next time it is sending correspondence to tenants. Ciaran McNamara to liaise with Asst. Commissioner Feehan prior to circulating, who will advise on content.

Copy of Garda Report is to be circulated to Members in advance of meetings going forward.

Head Shops, Boardwalk and the issue of Gold for Cash Advertisements are to be issued on agenda for next meeting.

Head Shop Report requested for next meeting. Seminar on this being hosted early in New Year and Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan to forward details to Philip.

"Items for future meetings" to be included as agenda item for all meetings going forward.

Members to be contacted prior to meetings for any items they would like included on the agenda.

#### **5. Manager's Report**

This was circulated to all Committee Members.

An Annual Report summarising the activities of both the Dublin City and the 5 Joint Policing Subcommittees for all of 2009 will be presented to the City Council in the first quarter of 2010.

## **6. Chairman's business**

Noted.

### ***Actions***

- Email addresses and contact numbers for all members to be circulated to each Committee Members in the coming week.
- All members to be invited to submit agenda items in advance of meeting.
- "Items for future meetings" to be listed as Agenda item for each meeting going forward.
- 3 dates were provisionally scheduled by the Chairperson for 2010 meetings (**see item 15 below**)

## **7. Local Policing Fora & Guidelines**

Noted.

These guidelines came into effect on 14<sup>th</sup> August, following which Philip wrote to each Area Manager, enclosing a copy and requesting them to make contact with any existing fora with a view to setting up a formal liaison between the City J.P.C. and the fora.

Such fora are anxious to engage with the Superintendent and be formally recognised. Similarly, if and when new guidelines are established, it is important to give due regard to the good work done up to now e.g. Crumlin, S.A.F.E.R. Ballymun. Manager indicated that he had highlighted to the Area Managers the importance of using the structures that are already in place.

## **8. Department of Justice White Paper on Crime**

Workshop is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 p.m. in the Wood Quay Venue. All Councillors, Area Managers, T.D.s, Senators, Community Representatives and relevant officials invited to attend.

Manager to make formal submission to the Minister following the workshop.

## **9. Item referred from Transportation & Traffic Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009: Antisocial behaviour at taxi ranks in Dublin City.**

Manager wrote to Taxi Regulator last year requesting that wardens / marshals be placed at City Centre taxi ranks to deal with jostling in queues. He also wrote to Gardaí suggesting that some of the CCTV cameras in the city centre could be focused on the ranks. Assistant Commissioner Feehan confirmed that this is being done.

Committee would like to see a reduction in the use of the term "Antisocial" behaviour and instead focus on promoting "Positive Social Behaviour" as they feel "Antisocial" implies a criminal offence which is not necessarily the case. In this instance perhaps signs could be erected to the effect that "...You will not be allowed enter a taxi if you are drunk and disorderly...".

Asst. Commissioner Feehan confirmed that there is no legal definition of the word "Antisocial"; it is all encompassing therefore, in the Annual Crime Report published by the C.S.O. statistics some figures appear (as they are classed as criminal offences) and others do not.

**10. Report referred from the North Central Joint Policing Subcommittee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009:** “Clarify if the North Central Joint Policing Subcommittee can make policy and strategic recommendations to various bodies following consultation with the Corporate Joint Policing Committee”.

City Joint Policing Committee decided that such issues should first be brought to the Dublin City JPC and this was agreed by the Committee. This is to be brought to the attention of the Joint Policing Subcommittees..

**11. Correspondence referred from Lord Mayor’s Office on behalf of a Dublin resident:** “Roma Intimidatory Begging in Dublin City Centre”

Noted under Item 4 above.

**12. Item referred from North West Area – Breviate of Joint Policing Subcommittee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009:** “The Committee expressed concern regarding items that appeared on “You Tube” and “Bebo” Websites in recent times urging inappropriate action by individuals. The Area Manager has written to Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources seeking appropriate actions to deal with this type of behaviour. It was agreed that the issue would be raised at the North West Area Committee meeting”

***Subsequently Michael O’Neill, Area Manager, requested that this be referred to Citywide Joint Policing Committee for discussion.***

Cyber Bullying is posing a major problem. Agreed to include as agenda item for future meeting.

Issue to be raised at community level (libraries, sports facilities, schools etc.) in an effort to put in place measures in relation to the usage of such sites in order to safeguard the health and safety of children.

Committee should look at making themselves more accessible to the young people in society via Facebook, You Tube, Bebo etc.

**13. Motion from Cllr. Michael Conaghan referred from Special Meeting of City Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009:** “That this Council agrees, as a stated objective in the new Development Plan, the creation of a Community Warden Service as an integral part of our Joint Policing responsibilities, the objectives of which will include -

- \* the monitoring, supervision and enforcement of the Council’s own bye-laws.
- \*liaising with the Gardaí on Parks and the general public demesne sphere so as to contribute effectively to minimising antisocial behaviour and low-level crime at community level”

Noted.

No additional services will be created in 2010 owing to current budgetary constraints. This will be review when the situation improves.

#### **14. A.O.B.**

(i)

##### **Item referred from North Central Area – Breviate of Joint Policing Subcommittee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009:**

The joint Policing Subcommittee agreed the following:

**“7. Estate Management issues related to public order, nuisance and antisocial behaviour.**

Order: Noted. J.E. presented his report. A discussion took place which included remarks on the complexity of the matter and the possible requirement of legislation. Report to be referred to the Corporate Joint Policing Committee. Committee commended the Area Housing Managers on their work in the North Central Area.”

***Action: Copy of report to be circulated to all Committee Members***

(ii)

##### **Item referred from North West Area – Breviate of Joint Policing Subcommittee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009 (Item 5):**

“Following a discussion on safety matters relating to Halloween, it was suggested that the Citywide Joint Policing Committee write to the Department of Education requesting that the practice of mid terms break taking place in the run up to Halloween be re-examined. This matter to be listed on the Breviate for City Council and referred to the City Wide Joint Policing Committee.”

Item noted. No follow-up action to be taken at this time.

The following items were also circulated to the Committee for information purposes:

- The Lord Mayor’s Commission on Crime and Policing
- Correspondence from Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform “Major Review of Gambling”  
Committee commented on the increase in number of online sites and betting shops in recent years  
Action: Matter will be reviewed and item placed on agenda of next meeting for discussion.

#### **15. Next Meeting**

The Chairperson indicated that he would be fixing dates as soon as possible for meetings to the end of June 2010.

**Joint Policing Committee**  
**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner Michael Feehan**

This is my first opportunity as the new Assistant Commissioner for Dublin to address you. I would like to acknowledge the work and the support given to the senior Garda Officers within Dublin by my predecessor Al McHugh ‘ who was a strong advocate of the concept of JPC’s and Community Policing Fora. As some of you may know I served for four years as the Chief Superintendent in the Dublin North Central Division which covers Store Street, Fitzgibbon Street, Mountjoy. In that job I became acutely aware of the value of structures such as the Joint Policing Committees and the Community Policing Fora. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work done by the Community Policing Fora in the North Inner City, which in my view is one of the most effective initiatives in the country, designed to foster positive relationships between the local community and both Dublin City Council and an Garda Siochana.

The learning which has come from the Community Policing Forum in the North Inner City has served to inform Garda policy nationally.

On the policy front, I would like to inform you that An Garda Siochana has just published its new Corporate Strategy entitled ‘Working with our Communities’ which sets out our priorities for the period 2010 to 2012. That strategy document has a central focus of effective engagement with communities and sets out the mission and core values of An Garda Siochana. The mission is **Working with Communities to Protect and Serve**.

The core values are:

- **Honesty** – Being honest and ethical and adhering to the principles of fairness and justice
- **Accountability** – Accepting individual responsibility and ensuring public accountability
- **Respect** – Having respect for people, their Human Rights and their needs
- **Professionalism** – Providing a professional policing service to all communities

The strategic goals as set out in the Corporate Plan are

- Ensuring our Nation’s Security
- Confronting Crime
- Effective Roads Policing
- Ensuring a Peaceful Community
- Working with Communities

The Strategy document also makes a commitment to ‘Engage directly with, listen to and respond to the concerns of local communities and other key stakeholders through effective dialogue, collaboration and accountability’. It also states that ‘we will deliver a service that recognises the diverse needs and priorities of all the people and communities in Ireland’.

But this begs the question as to how we will deliver on the commitments in our strategy documents. An Garda Síochána has traditionally prided itself on the ethos set out by the first Commissioner that ‘we will succeed not by strength of arms or numbers, but on our moral authority as servants of the people. It is vital, if we are to succeed that we continue to work and build partnerships with other agencies and the community. This is not something new for An Garda Síochána, as we have worked closely with communities over many years all over the country.

In an effort to renew, reinvigorate and re-structure the way in which we engage with communities, the Garda Síochána National Model of Community Policing was launched in January, 2009 by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Commissioner. This initiative is designed to ensure a co-ordinated and effective policing service in all parts

of the country. The community policing model is founded on ten key pillars

- **Empowerment** – it is essential that ownership, participation and shared-responsibility exists at every level and that members of An Garda Síochána interact with the public, through Community Policing.
- **Garda / Community Partnerships** – recognising that challenges faced by An Garda Síochána cannot be solved without the assistance of the community.
- **Enforcement** – members of Community Policing Units will be actively involved in the prevention of crime, the reduction of fear of crime and ensuring a better quality of community-life for everybody.
- **Problem-solving** – every member of An Garda Síochána has a role in supporting and implementing problem-solving initiatives.
- **Crime Prevention and Reduction** – Recognition of the fact that prevention and detection of crime includes the fear of crime, necessitating a crime prevention and reduction strategy in each community.
- **Accountability** – it is crucial that we consistently measure what we have achieved against our objectives.

- **Visibility** – members of Community Policing Units will be responsible for developing and delivering ‘High-Visibility’ strategies within their areas of patrol.
- **Accessibility** – local communities need to be able to identify with the member of the local Community Policing Unit allocated specifically to their locality and know that they can make contact with that Garda.
- **Collaborative Engagement** – members of An Garda Siochana and the community working together to improve the quality of life of people, reflecting their needs and priorities.
- **Improved Response** – the visibility, accessibility and collaborative engagement practices of members of Community Policing Units within the Community Policing Model will ultimately improve the response capabilities of An Garda Siochana to stakeholders.

This model of Community Policing is central to the efforts of An Garda Siochana in building partnerships with communities and other agencies, in an effort to deliver a policing service which reflects the needs and priorities of all the communities which we serve.

## **CRIME**

The overall level of crime incidents in the Dublin Region is down this year. However, to compare August, September and October 2009 with the same period 2008, shows a 12% increase in Property Crime. For example:-

- Burglaries are up significantly across the Region and are a cause for concern. A number of specific operations have been put in place to counter this trend.
- Damage to property increased by just under 9%. Some of this figure relates to the Halloween period, where wheelie bins were stolen from outside houses and burned in bonfires.
- Theft of pedal cycles has also increased substantially. Again, An Garda Siochana has put a number of initiatives in place to address this problem.

However, on the positive side:-

- Theft from Shops decreased by 3%. Year on year the North Inner City has seen the greatest decrease, with levels down by 27%.
- Crimes against the person decreased by nearly 6%
- Public Order offences decreased by over 14%
- Controlled drug offences have decreased by over 9%

From January 2009 to date there have been 27 murders compared with 21 for the same period last year. Thankfully there have been no murders for the Month of November this year. A number of the murders this year have been related to criminal gangs which operate across the city. Significant work is being done in the investigation of the criminal activities of these gangs with a view to utilising the provisions of the recently enacted legislation relating to directing or participating in a criminal gang.

## **TRAFFIC**

The number of people killed on the roads of the Capital is down from 26 to 24 a reduction of 2 on the same period last year.

For the same period Serious Road Traffic Collisions have decreased by 34% and the incidents of drink driving have decreased by 22%.

Operation Freeflow commenced yesterday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November and will continue until the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2009. A total of sixty five probationer Gardai are being dedicated to this operation on a full time basis. In addition, forty eight motor cyclists will be deployed on a daily basis to the operation, as will the Garda Air Support Unit. It should be noted that Operation Freeflow is operated as a partnership between a

number of agencies including Dublin City Council and Dublin Bus, to name but two. The operation will also see Gardai being deployed on both Luas and Dublin Bus vehicles at night, to ensure the safety of passengers.

I have recently allocated an additional two Sergeants and twenty eight Gardai to Roads Policing duties in the Dublin Region on a full time basis.

### **POLICING HALLOWEEN**

A successful operation was put in place to prevent any large scale outbreak of disorder. . Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009 was much quieter from a Policing perspective than in previous years. Some factors were at play here, one being that the schools were on their mid term break for the week leading up to the 31 October so the Halloween period was extended and incidents were spread out over a week. In addition the Community in Ballymun organised a Halloween Festival which channelled young people's energies into the festival atmosphere. Indeed, I would like to take this opportunity to commend all those involved in the Ballymun initiative, which certainly could be put up as a model of good practice for all communities in dealing with Halloween, which can present difficulties for communities right across the City.

## **POLICING SPECIAL EVENTS**

Since the last meeting I can tell you that An Garda Síochána have successfully policed special events in the Capital. All the matches and concerts in Croke Park including the GAA, Rugby and Soccer as well as U2 were successful events. All the open air concerts, festivals and the Dublin City Marathon were successfully policed without major incident. In addition the number of protests in the city centre and onto the Dail has increased this year which requires greater resources to Police.

## **BEGGING**

I am aware that my predecessor spoke to you before on this issue and I note that agenda item 11 of today's meeting highlights the issue of "Roma Intimidatory Begging in Dublin City Centre"

I can tell you that since the last meeting little has changed in this regard. As you know the High Court found that the relevant provisions of the Vagrancy Acts were unconstitutional and the consequence of this decision has resulted in increased begging by organised groups of people who make substantial earnings from begging, often using small children to gain sympathy or indeed to carry out begging on their behalf.

Section 247 of the Children Act 2001 allows a member of An Garda Síochána to arrest any person for allowing a child to be

on any street or public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms or inducing the giving of alms.

This provision is used in appropriate cases throughout the City. Gardai on duty in the city centre have utilised this power of arrest on at least nine (9) occasions in 2009 where Romanian Gypsies were found using children to beg on the street in the City centre, mainly on O'Connell Street and Abbey Street. . Reports were supplied to the HSE under the Children First Guidelines in respect of each occasion.

### **IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES**

For the year 2008 there were 161 reported incidents of explosive devices year there were 162 reported incidents of which over half were hoaxes. These incidents have been a source of angst for people in the communities involved, as in some cases the areas around the device must be evacuated for the safety of all concerned. These hoaxes place an enormous strain on Garda and Army resources in dealing with these devices as each incident is taken seriously. I have issued an instruction that all of these incidents must be full investigated with a view to bringing those responsible to justice.

### **DUBLIN REGIONAL POLICING PLAN 2010**

The Policing Plan 2010 for the Dublin Region is currently being drafted. If any of you wish to make a submission to this Plan or, indeed to any local Divisional or District Policing Plans, please free to write to me or to any of my Chief Superintendents or Superintendents.

In conclusion, I am delighted to be here and I look forward to working with you as representatives of the communities across the city. I am keenly aware of the need for An Garda Síochána to work closely with the City Council and I have already met with the City Manager to discuss ways in which we can build on the excellent co-operation which already exists. I am certainly open and willing to talk about any aspect of Policing in the Capital with each any every one of you. We are facing many challenges into the future not least economic challenges, where we have to meet increasing demands with fewer resources. I can assure you and the people of Dublin that An Garda Síochána will strive to overcome these challenges and that we will make every effort to make Dublin a safer place for people to live, work and socialise.

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## **Report to the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee on the performance of its functions**

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In 2006, Dublin City Council established a Joint Policing Committee and 5 Sub Committees corresponding to its 5 operational areas (Area Committees) in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law reform and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The Dublin City Joint Policing Committee held 2 meetings in 2008, on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> October and one meeting to date in 2009, on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The following is a synopsis of the achievements and issues looked at during this time:

### **Estate Management**

The following progress was made and the following actions agreed:

- Citywide Community Safety Strategy drawn up by Housing & Residential Services Department and due to be presented to Members at a forthcoming meeting.
- Following a request from Members for a protocol around evictions to be established, Housing & Residential Services Department to provide a report, which will explain the legislation and how it can be used for exclusion orders.
- All new tenants requested to attend tenant-training courses.
- The Programme “Dial to stop Drug Dealings” to be rolled out nationally. It includes Tallaght area, North East and some parts of the country. Members would like it to include the South West Inner City.  
Any member of the public who suspects that drug dealing is taking place in their locality can call a low cost confidential number, 1800 220 220, and report it to the Gardaí.

### **Report on Alcohol Control**

The Government Expert Group on Intoxicating Liquor reported, as did City Councils Alcohol Subgroup. The Government has followed up by enacting the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2008 which covers a lot of the recommendations of our subgroup; viz; New grounds (Section 7) for the Courts refusing to grant **new** off licences including unfitness or inconvenience of the premises and adequacy of the existing number of licenced premises of the same character in the neighbourhood, Gardaí & local residents may object to court on same grounds; Later general opening hours (12.30pm) for off licences on Sundays and St. Patrick’s Day and early closing hours (10pm) everyday; Strengthen public order grounds for Garda objections to late night opening of pubs and clubs which must also comply with fire safety standards; Courts can attach a requirement for CCTV and trained door-staff for licenced premises; The so called Happy Hour, 2 for the price of 1 or other alcohol promotions are prohibited; Advertising, sale and display of alcohol is restricted to a specific, structurally separated area of mixed premises; Test purchasing to prevent underage sales is authorised; General powers granted for the confiscation by Gardaí of alcohol being consumed in public places; Court closing orders on pubs and clubs for underage sales or serving to intoxicated customers must now be for a minimum of 2 days. It is understood that a codifying Bill covering all aspects of the Licenced Trade is planned for the next 12-18 months.

In the meantime City Council has amended its own Drinking in Public Bye-laws to cover (a) Confiscation of all alcohol being consumed in public (This will work with Sections 14 and 19 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2008) (b) Increase the on the spot fine to €75 and the maximum Court fine to €1900 (c) Inclusion of Beaches, Boardwalk, Canal, Towpaths, Curtilage of Public Building, Cemeteries in the definition of Public Places. These new Byelaws are now operational and have been copied to Dublin Gardai. Dublin City Council has also amended the Development Plan to provide a policy framework covering applications for planning permission for new off licenced premises (This will work in tandem with Section 7 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2008). The City Centre Night Economy Partnership Group has continued to operate. The Parks Public Order Initiative has now been running for over 12 months under the Aegis of the Area JPCs; Area JPCs have been requested to review the outcomes of this initiative and to consider whether a second phase extending to two additional Parks for area would be worthwhile and timely. The Chair of the City JPC is meeting the Chairs & Managers of the Area JPCs to review progress to date & identify priorities for the future.

The activities of the 5 **Sub-Committees** were as follows:

### **CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee was established in late 2006 and meets on a quarterly basis.

The sub-committee discuss issues which they feel need addressing in the context of the forum, which is to provide an opportunity for consultation and discussion on matters affecting the policing of the area. At each meeting the Gardaí give a report on policing in the area and pertinent crime issues which they are addressing. Members add individual issues of concern to the agenda for each meeting.

As Stoneybatter and Drumcondra/Glasnevin were two areas identified as not being serviced by a community forum, a quarterly forum has been set up in each area.

Concerns were raised regarding antisocial behaviour in private rented accommodation and representatives of the Private Rented Tenancies Board and DCC Rental Accommodation Scheme made presentations at the February meeting on their roles and functions in relation to this issue.

The sub-committee wrote to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform following the April meeting, to express opposition to the legalisation of slot machines in betting shops. It has since emerged that due to widespread opposition, it is unlikely to form part of the proposed gambling legislation.

A representative of DCC's Anti-Social Policy unit made a presentation to members on the policies, procedures and legislation utilised for addressing antisocial behaviour among Dublin City Council tenants. The new Housing Bill and its provision for a council anti-social behaviour strategy, which is to include consultation with the local JPC, is an item that has remained on the agenda since the September meeting and update reports are made, as appropriate.

Intoxicating Liquor byelaws, along with other issues around the consumption of alcohol in public places have been discussed. A motion was sent to Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform expressing concerns regarding the inconsistencies in prison sentences imposed on drug offenders. The response stated that notwithstanding the existence in law of a maximum penalty, it is up to the judge to exercise his/her discretion, within that maximum penalty, in each individual case.

A Senior Executive Officer from the Waste Management Department attended the September meeting to give details of the five key priority areas for litter management and the co-operation between DCC and the Gardaí, particularly with regard to graffiti crime and litter fines. At that meeting it was noted that a Garda youth diversion project has been set up in the Sheriff Street area. Also, a major operation was undertaken by the Gardaí to confiscate alcohol consumed in public places.

A Garda report was made on prostitution in the Arbour Hill area and the Gardaí have extended their operation as a result of this issue being raised in the forum. It was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to request that the fine for soliciting be increased.

A discussion on the JPC structure and focus and the how the sub-committee will progress in 2009 took place at that meeting. The subject of the two pre-established Community Policing Fora arose and it was agreed that the possibility of the carrying out of a review of these be put forward to them for consideration. This is with a view to the CPF and JPC committees moving forward together.

An Inspector from Store Street Garda Station made a report on traffic issues around the O2 arena. It was agreed to invite a representative of the venue to a future meeting. DCC's Anti-Social Policy Unit representative returned and made a report to the sub-committee on matters arising from several High Court decisions which found against certain procedural matters as implemented by DCC.

### **NORTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The issues dealt with at these meetings recently included:

- Alcohol in public places
- Anti-social behaviour
- Bus Shelters
- Community Policing
- CCTV
- Fast food and public order
- Graffiti
- Litter management
- Police Plan
- Safety forums
- Traffic management.
- Youth Diversion

Presentations were made by the Gardaí, the City Council, the HSE and the local Drugs task force over the year.

### **Safer Darndale and Safer Clongriffin forums**

There was the establishment of the pilot community forums - Safer Darndale/Belcamp/Moatview and Safer Clongriffin/Belmayne.

### **NORTH WEST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Presentations made during recent meetings covered a variety of topics as follows:

- Minister Pat Carey gave an overview of the preparation of the Local Drugs Task Forces Strategic Plan for 2008-2016 and on the role of the Local Drugs Task Forces.
- A new resident living in Finglas South, formerly from Nigeria, spoke to the Committee on the challenges facing his family in integrating into the existing community.
- The Rapid Co-ordinators were invited to give an overview of their role in the North West Area.
- Community Development/Sports Development staff outlined their programmes and ongoing work in the area.

In addition, An Garda Síochana provided statistical reports on levels, trends of crime in the area. A number of joint initiatives took place between the North West Area and local Gardaí on improved safety in parks, lifting wandering horses in the area, and working closely with Dublin Bus to assist in maintaining a high quality bus service throughout Finglas and Ballymun and mitigate against anti-social behaviour on buses.

The Joint Policing Committee provided support in an application for funding to provide for CCTV in Ballymun.

The Local Safety Fora in Finglas and Ballymun continued to meet and report quarterly to the JPC. A number of community representatives were elected to the steering group of Safer Ballymun. Safer Ballymun received two awards, the Taoiseach's Award for Public Service Excellence and the Vodafone Innovation in Government Award (Best Community Project Category).

### **SOUTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE**

As a result of the meetings a number of initiatives have been suggested which I now set out below: -

- Having had a presentation on 'Dial to stop Drugs' initiative in Blanchardstown the Committee forwarded a letter to Minister of State John Curran T.D expressing disappointment that " Dial to Stop Drugs " was not implemented in South Central Area. A response from the Ministers Office indicated that each Drugs Task Force Area could choose whether to become part of the scheme.
- As part of improving links between the Area JPC and local Policing groups Mr John Mortin from Bluebell Community Policing Forum was invited to present to the Committee. He outlined the work of the forum and issues raised.
- The Committee paid a visit to Ballyfermot Garda Station to view the CCTV system operation. It has greatly reduced anti-social blackspots in Ballyfermot.
- The Committee visited Markievicz Park in Ballyfermot, which has a local Parks Safety Committee operating successfully.
- Two new Community Representatives joined the Committee and are actively participating in the Committee.
- Chief Superintendent John Manley gave a presentation to the Committee on the D12 Safety Partnership.

- It has been agreed that the Committee request a representatives from Dublin Bus & Luas be invited to present to the Committee on the strategies for dealing with criminality and anti social behaviour.
- The Committee received a presentation from South Inner City Local Drugs Task Force (S.I.C.L.D.T.F) to inform the Committee of their work.
- A report on Estate Management processes and activities within the South Central Area was delivered by John Bruckshaw, Area Housing Manager, Ballyfermot.
- Since then the Area Housing managers present to the Committee on Estate Management issues in South Central Area at each meeting
- Report on the Park Warden Service delivered by Gerry Barry (Chief Parks Superintendent)

### **SOUTH EAST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The following issues were discussed at the recent South East Area Joint Policing Subcommittee meetings: Policing Plan 2009, Prostitution, Graffiti, Noise Issues and Control of Dogs. Dublin City Council and the Gardaí gave presentations on the Policing Plan 2009, Anti Social Behaviour relating to parks and alcohol, Graffiti Reduction Schemes, Noise Control Bill and the Responsibilities of Various Agencies regarding the Control of Dogs.

A presentation was given by a representative of Ruhama on issues relating to prostitution. The link between homelessness and prostitution was also raised and as a result arrangements were made for Ruhama to participate in the Open Day for Homeless Service Providers in the South East Area. This allowed Ruhama to highlight the issue and provided a link between Ruhama and local service providers.

The members of the Subcommittee were regularly updated on the Joint Policing Subcommittee - Parks Working Group. This Group is made up of Dublin City Council Officials, Gardaí, Community Representatives and local residents and has met at regular intervals in relation to the management of parks, with particular reference to Ringsend Park. Issues discussed include alcohol abuse, licensing laws, drug abuse, promotion of the park's facilities to non-users and antisocial behaviour issues surrounding Halloween. A number of initiatives came out of these discussions.

A number of issues previously raised by residents have been addressed such as the closure of a laneway, which was the focus of anti-social behaviour, and the pruning of trees and shrubbery which were perceived to be making the area unsafe and providing opportunities for anti social behaviour.

The Working Group and Gardaí met with local publicans and off licence owners regarding Liquor Licensing Laws and their responsibility with regard to the sale of alcohol to minors. The Gardaí have also increased the number of patrols of the area.

A very successful Ringsend Park Open Day was organised in September 2008, to promote the use of the park's excellent facilities in order to encourage the wider community to use the park and thus provide activity, which will reduce the opportunity for anti social activities.

Overall, anti social behaviour incidents have been reduced in the vicinity of Ringsend Park. In 2009 the Parks Working Group is examining issues around Halloween, Antisocial Behaviour,

Lighting in Ringsend Park and the further promotion of activities in the park and Irishtown Stadium thereby further reducing anti social behaviour.

A full summary report of the activities of all the Joint Policing Committees must be made to City Council during the first quarter of 2010.

It should be noted that since the April meeting, Assistant Commissioner Al McHugh, who has been the Garda Representative on the City Joint Policing Committee established in 2006, has retired. On behalf of the City Council I want to formally record our thanks and appreciation to Al for all his help and cooperation during this time.

**Philip Maguire**

**Deputy City Manager**