



Dublin City Council

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

Annual Report of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee on the performance of its functions during 2010

In 2006, Dublin City Council established a Joint Policing Committee and 5 Sub Committees corresponding to its 5 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.

Report of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee 2010

The Dublin City Joint Policing Committee is chaired by Lord Mayor Gerry Breen (Vice Chairperson is Councillor Larry O'Toole) and held six meetings in 2010, on 1st February, 22nd March, 31st May, 5th July, 4th October and 22nd November. Below is a summary of the achievements and issues looked at during the year 2010.

The following is the full current list of Membership:

1. Councillors John Redmond, Marie Metcalfe, Brid Smith, Cieran Perry, Larry O'Toole, Eoghan Murphy, Tom Brabazon, Mannix Flynn, Michael Conaghan, John Gallagher, Eric Byrne, Edie Wynne
2. Deputies Aengus O'Snodaigh, Maureen O'Sullivan, Thomas P. Broughan, Catherine Byrne, Cyprian Brady & Seán Ardagh
3. Peter O'Connor (Community Policing Forum) & The Archdeacon of Dublin, the Venerable David Pierpoint & Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association
4. Lord Mayor, Gerry Breen
5. City Manager, Mr John Tierney
6. Mr Philip Maguire and Mr. Richard Brady, Assistant City Managers, DCC
7. Garda Officials – Assistant Commissioner Mick Feehan and Chief Superintendent Tom Conway

The following is a brief summary of some of the issues raised and decisions taken in 2010:

- Head Shops: Contact was made with the Minister for Justice, Planning Department and a number of agencies regarding substances available, labelling/packaging/sale of such products, change to opening hours etc. Legislation was enacted to eliminate some of this activity.

- Department of Justice White Paper on Crime: Two Workshops took place in 2010:
 - “Discussion Document No. 2-Criminal Sanctions”
 - “Discussion Document No. 3-Organised & White Collar Crime”.
- Reports on Local Drugs Taskforces operating in all areas were circulated.
- Workshops were held to discuss the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy, subsequently adopted at the November City Council meeting.
- The feasibility of the introduction of Community Courts was discussed. The Lord Mayor met with the Deputy City Manager and two representatives of the Courts Service to discuss.
- The inaugural meeting of the Dublin Local Business Policing Forum was held in September. It comprises representatives from Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána, Dublin’s Business and Tourism Sectors.
- Presentation by Vincent Jennings of the Convenience Stores & Newsagents Association to discuss Off-licences.
- Presentation by Enda Martyn, Centra, Dame Street.
- Presentation by Valerie Gaughran, Mediation Co-ordinator, Northside Community Law Centre.
- Presentation by Anne O’Brien, DCC’s Play Development Officer re *Cyber Bullying*.
- Presentation by Dr. Ann Hope, Trinity College Dublin on Community Alcohol Strategy.
- Presentation by Seamus Whitty & Chris Barrow, Kerry Life Education Ltd.

The activities of the five **Sub-Committees** during 2010 were as follows:

CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2010

The Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee was established in late 2006 and is currently chaired by Councillor Mary Fitzpatrick. Four meetings took place in 2010 on 8th February, 10th May, 13th September and 13th December.

Below is a brief summary of some of the issues raised and decisions taken in 2010:

- Issues discussed: distraction burglaries, antisocial behaviour, horse fair at Smithfield, vandalism, ‘headshops’, garda case management, drug abuse and offences, Halloween, street selling of prescription medication and public consumption of alcohol.
- A steering group was established and met on four occasions.

- A special meeting was held in Store Street Garda Station to discuss Policing Plans for 2010.
- Crime analysis update reports were presented by Gardaí at each meeting.
- A community/local policing forum for Navan Road/Pelletstown was established by DCC, with its inaugural meeting held in October so all communities within the Central Area are now serviced by a community/local policing forum.
- A report on the activities of community/ local policing fora operated by DCC in the area was given at each meeting.
- The NEIC Community Policing Forum, Cabra Community Policing Forum and the Finglas/Cabra Local Drugs Task Force attended and presented reports.
- Anti-social behaviour – meetings held to discuss anti-social behaviour in Smithfield, St. Laurence's Place East, Nottingham Street, a licensed premises and O2 premises in North Wall.
- A submission was made to the Department of Justice and Law Reform on the second White Paper on Crime – Criminal Sanctions.
- A public information meeting to raise awareness of the JPC process was held in the Croke Park Conference Centre in September. A number of presentations were given and 70 community representatives attended.
- Following the Committee's request, Iarnród Éireann secured fencing at lands at Mount Bernard Park, preventing access to drivers of scrambler motorbikes.
- Noise and antisocial behaviour at a licensed premises has decreased due to the intervention of the Gardaí.
- A report on drug selling in communities recommended by the Finglas/Cabra Local Drugs Task Force was distributed to members.
- At Halloween, co-operation between Gardaí and DCC staff lead to the removal of bonfire material. A dedicated phone number was given to Councillors and staff were on duty to respond to calls, with Gardaí providing security.
- The possible link between repeat prescriptions being issued by GPs and the street selling of prescription medications led to contact being made with the Irish Medicines Board.

NORTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2010

The North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee is currently chaired by Lord Mayor Gerry Breen; Vice Chair is Cllr. Larry O'Toole. 4 meetings took place during 2010 on 18th January, 19th April, 19th July and 18th October.

Below is a brief summary of some of the issues raised and decisions taken in 2010:

- Annual work plan and progress
- Anti-social behaviour orders
- Customer Care
- Burglaries
- Garda statistics
- Crime prevention
- Forms at Garda stations
- Setting up of new Forum for Donaghmede
- Report on Head Shops
- Noise pollution regulations
- Motor bikes in parks
- Reports from the Safer Darndale, Safer Clongriffin and Edenmore Fora
- White Paper on Crime : Criminal sanctions
- Introduction of an electronic quarterly bulletin
- Introduction of three short-term sub-groups to examine some local issues:
 - Substance abuse in Belcamp/Darndale/Moatview
 - Underground car parks: access/safety of people and property in Belmayne/Clongriffin
 - Graffiti: Occurrence and control in Belmayne/Clongriffin
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- Attendance at national seminar with Lord Mayor Gerry Breen (Chair JPC sub committee) and Minister for Justice on White Paper “Criminal Sanctions”.
- Assistance to Coolock Garda on Fingal & Balgriffin cemetery masses
- Liaison with Community Gardaí and assistance from Gardaí in staging DCC events
- Presentation by Sphere 17 VEC Youth Service
- Presentation by Mediation Northside
- Presentation on Crime Prevention
- Presentation on Communications initiative
- Presentation on Community Restorative Justice

NORTH WEST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2010

The current Chair of the Sub-Committee is Councillor Paul McAuliffe and the Vice Chair is Councillor John Redmond. Four meetings took place during 2010 on 18th January, 19th April, 19th July and 18th October.

Below is a brief summary of some of the issues raised and decisions taken in 2010:

- In addition to Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána providing quarterly reports, the agenda of the meetings was widened to include reports from the co-ordinators of the Local Drugs Task Forces and community representatives on behalf of the Finglas Safety Forum and Safer Ballymun.
- Gardaí Local Policing Plans
- Draft Anti Social Behaviour Strategy
- Requirement to regulate home deliveries of alcohol.

- Level of rent allowance paid by the HSE, particularly in Finglas and absence of any estate management procedures to manage anti-social behaviour problems with tenants in rent allowance properties.
- Delays in Garda vetting for people engaged in the provision of youth services is undermining service delivery.
- Policing and Safety in Public Parks - 'hot-spot' or flash points of anti-social behaviour in parks, certain housing estates and detenanted flat blocks.
- The sought after legislation on head shops resulted in the closure of the head-shop in Finglas Alcohol Strategy for Ballymun launched.
- Community and Garda attendance on a cross-border training project with the aims of knowledge sharing either side of the border through shared learning.
- Two hugely successful Halloween Events in Finglas and Ballymun including Safety weeks held in Finglas and Ballymun prior to Halloween and strong working relationship between area staff and An Garda Síochána in the run up to Halloween; 6,500 people attended the events; big increase in volunteerism from the community; 50% reduction in emergency services calls during Halloween.
- Department of Justice approved the transfer of funding by the Finglas Cabra Drugs Task Force to provide for the employment of a co-ordinator for the Finglas Safety Forum; interview taking place in early February 2011.
- Town CCTV launched in Ballymun and Village CCTV in Finglas operational.
- Friends of Park and Park Watch and School Watch Initiatives continuing. Enhanced Park Warden Service.
- Provision of additional facilities in Tolka Valley Park (including CCTV), Johnstown Park and Kildonan Park, Finglas underway.
- Plans to establish neighbourhood fora and an apartment owners' forum in the area are progressing.

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2010

The current Chair of the Sub-Committee is Vincent Jackson and the Vice Chair is Councillor Críona Ní Dhálaigh. Four meetings were held in 2010 on 15th January, 16th April, 16th July and 15th October.

Below is a brief summary of some of the issues raised and decisions taken in 2010:

- The Committee agreed to move future meetings back to the local areas. Meetings were held in Ballyfermot and Crumlin and will continue in 2011 to be held at various locations throughout the South Central Area.
- A new Community Representative joined the Committee.

- The Committee expressed concern at the levels of anti social behaviour and criminality affecting public transport in the South Central Area and representatives of Veolia (Luas) / S.T.T. Risk Management Ltd (Luas Security) and Dublin Bus presented to the Committee at the July 2010 meeting.
- Mick Clarke from the DCC Anti Social Unit made a presentation to the Committee.
- The principals of Basin Street and Harold's Cross National school (Scoil Mológa) attended the April meeting to discuss traffic management issues.
- H.S.E. rep. Requested to attend a future meeting to discuss the issue of Anti Social behaviour in privately rented dwellings, where the residents are in receipt of rent allowance.
- Area Housing Managers and Divisional Gardaí made presentations to each meeting.
- Measures put in place to curb anti social behaviour leading up to Halloween with co-operation between An Garda Síochána and DCC.

SOUTH EAST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2010

The current Chair of the South East Area Sub-Committee is Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Edie Wynne. Four meetings took place in 2010 on 15th March, 28th June, 29th September and 3rd December.

Below is a brief summary of some of the issues raised and decisions taken in 2010:

- Intercultural Policing Forum
- Local Policing Fora: The South East Area is finalising the establishment of Local Policing Fora (LPF) in the area. Meetings have been held with the coordinator of South Inner City Drugs Task Force Area, members of An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council staff and community representatives to progress the establishment of LPF in the South East Area. Forums will be established in Pearse Street, Ringsend and in the Charlemont/Whitefriar Street area.
- Graffiti remains on the agenda. Since the new citywide tender commenced in May 2010 in excess of 5,600m² of graffiti was removed in the South East Area.
- Cycling Issues
 - A letter was issued to 37 courier companies in the city requesting that a circular containing "Rules of the Road for Cyclists" be brought to the attention of all relevant staff.
 - A casualty reductions implementation plan was implemented by An Garda Síochána during the year with part of the plan targeting pedal cyclists for lighting offences, one way street infringements, traffic light infringement and footpath infringement.

- Possible introduction of a fixed charge penalty notice for pedal cyclists who disobey rules of the road. Correspondence from Minister for Transport advised that it would not be practicable.
- Ringsend Park Working Group: Met on twelve occasions in 2010 to discuss management of Ringsend Park. An ongoing tree pruning programme has addressed residents concerns regarding natural light into their homes and reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- Low Level Crime and Crime Statistics
- Head Shops
- Misuse of drugs and alcohol
- A series of events during Drugs Awareness Week were held.
- Burglaries
- Anti-social behaviour
- Presentation by An Garda Síochána Youth Crime Case Management System
- Presentation by Mr. Ciaran Fallon, Dublin City Cycling Officer
- Presentation by Mr. Vincent Healy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing, Social & Community Affairs on Dublin City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour
- Presentation by Chief Superintendent Michael O'Sullivan on Policing Plan 2010
- White Paper on Crime Workshop: Submissions were made by members to the Department of Justice and Law Reform on the second White Paper on Crime – "Criminal Sanctions".
- A series of free events organised by International Women's Day 2010 was supported by the Group.
- Halloween: A very successful Halloween Festival was held in Ringsend. Following discussions at the meetings sites in the area were visited and pallets and tyres were removed resulting in very few bonfires in the area.
- Creation of a Community Garden in Ringsend Park with 34 allotments.
- The Group is currently working on proposals to make the "Drain Walk" – a roadway that runs between the Park and Irishtown Stadium towards Pigeon House Road safer by enhanced lighting and road surface. Improvements will be done in early 2011.
- Estate Management Statistics were provided at the December meeting and will be provided at all future meetings.

- The Committee wrote to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform requesting consideration for a change in legislation to increase the powers of An Garda Síochána in relation to “Money for Gold” campaigns.
- The potential risk which could be caused by money transit vans driving onto footpaths was discussed and An Garda Síochána agreed to correspond with Security Companies.
- Anti-social behaviour at Trinity Hall - Meeting held with the Management Team at Trinity Hall and Gardaí patrol the LUAS Line to prevent and detect anti-social behaviour.

Lord Mayor Gerry Breen
Chairperson
Dublin City Joint Policing Committee