

To the Lord Mayor and
Members of Dublin City Council

Report No. 89/2008
Report of the Chairperson of the
Joint Policing Committee



Dublin City Council

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

Report from the Joint Policing Committee on the performance of its functions during 2007.

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. Under paragraph 14.1 of those guidelines the Joint Policing Committee is required, not later than three months after the end of the year, to submit a report to the City Council, on the performance of its function during the preceding year.

Accordingly I wish to report as follows:

Report of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee 2007

The Dublin City Joint Policing Committee held 3 meetings in 2007, 26th March, 2nd July and 24th September. The following is a synopsis of the achievements and issues looked at during the year 2007.

- **Workshop** : A workshop was held in January 2007 - it looked at the experiences of initiatives in Britain and Northern Ireland. It also addressed issues like preventing anti social behaviour, managing anti-social behaviour, use of and effectiveness of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs), alcohol and drug related crime, estate management, etc. In excess of 100 people attended the Workshop. Speakers were Amanda Mulholland, (Banbridge District Policing Partnership on community policing), Gill Strachan, (British Home Office), Ian Walker, (Newham Borough Council, London), Johann Watson, (Glasgow City Council)

- **Estate Management** :

The first meeting of the Working Group on Estate Management was held on 28th May 2007 and agreed the following actions –

- A report from Dublin City Council on estate management to be compiled addressing issues raised by the committee.

- A Community Safety Strategy to be drawn up
- A protocol around evictions to be established

The Working Group met on a number of occasions during 2007 and the following progress has been made –

1. A major issue raised by the Working group was the keeping of aggressive dogs by people in their homes, leading to an atmosphere of fear and intimidation in housing estates. The group monitored and approved the introduction of the ban on restricted breeds of dog by Dublin City Council on 1st July 2007.
2. The group agreed the process for the preparation of a City-wide Community Safety Strategy, including consultation with all stakeholders. A draft strategy will be presented to the Joint Policing Committee in 2008.
3. A draft procedure for the re-housing of former tenants evicted by the City Council for anti-social behaviour has been prepared. This sets out a procedure by which such tenants could again be considered for social housing.

- **Alcohol Related Issues** : The Working Group on alcohol-related issues was set up by the JPC to investigate the extent, causes and effect of alcohol in area under the control of Dublin City Council and make recommendations in relation to same. It has met on a number of occasions over the last 12 months. In that time the following progress has been made by the Working Group. It has :-
 - a) Invited submissions from public, community groups, general business, vintners, hotels, off licences regarding alcohol issues.
 - b) Set up pilot scheme in two parks in each of the 5 Committee Areas where problem relating to alcohol, congregation, drugs, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour were a regular occurrence. The pilot consisted of a partnership of local residents, local area management, local parks management and local Gardai. Pilots to be reviewed Q1. 2008
 - c) Set up City Centre night economy management partnership consisting of Central and South East Area Managers, Store Street and Pearse Street Garda, Vintners, TASQ, National Association of Off-Licences and Dublin Bus. The emerging BID's company will also be tied in and steps are being taken to bring in the fast food industry; the taxi industry has agreed to participate. The Hotels Federation and Night Clubs Association have been invited to join.
 - d) A visit to Belfast City Council and the PSNI took place in September 2007 where an exchange of experience and best practice took place.
 - e) Mobile urinals deployed on Friday & Saturday Nights in Westmoreland Street and around Croke Park on big match days.
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The activities of the 5 **Sub-Committees** during 2007 were as follows:

CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2007

The Central Area JPC Sub-committee met on the following dates in 2007 - 29th January, 30th April, 30th July and 5th November.

- The sub-committee has arranged legal opinion on Section 5 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 1927 (General Resolution). This action has been completed.
- The sub-committee has investigated the possibility of setting up a Community Policing Forum in the northwest area of the city, a formal submission has been made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- The sub-committee has mandated the existing Community Fora administered by the Central Area Office to become sub groups of the Central Area sub-committee.
- Two locally based stakeholder groups have presented at sub-committee meetings (i.e. Cabra Community Policing Forum and the Dublin Regional Neighbourhood Watch Regional Committee,) with a view to being represented on the Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee. The sub-committee has written to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government enquiring if it is intended to enhance community representation on the committees during the review of the current pilot phase of the JPCs.
- The Stoneybatter and Drumcondra/Glasnevin areas were two areas identified as not being serviced by a community forum. A forum has been set up in each area. Meetings are hosted on a quarterly basis.
- The sub-committee has received a presentation from the director of Ruhama (NGO that works with women involved in prostitution) on the group's services and issues for women who are involved in prostitution.
- Following a discussion on the issue of the proliferation of adult retail outlets in the Central Area in terms of planning and licensing, the sub-committee has written to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government enquiring if the Department has any plans to introduce legislation in this regard.
- A Senior Executive Planner has presented a report on planning issues in relation to Off-Licences.
- Liberty Park is being used in a pilot initiative to tackle antisocial behaviour in Parks. Works such as removal of trees and shrubs to upgrade the area and curb public drinking are being carried out. Another pilot initiative to combat antisocial behaviour is currently taking place in the Basin Park in conjunction with DCC Park Wardens and Mountjoy gardaí.
- The issue of antisocial behaviour in private rented accommodation has been discussed by the sub-committee, representatives of the Private Rented Tenancies Board and DCC Rental Accommodation Scheme have been invited to attend the next meeting in February to discuss what procedures they have in place and how issues can be addressed
- It is proposed to amend the Dublin Corporation (Prohibition of Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor on Streets and in Public Places) Bye-Laws, 2000, with a view to increasing the amount of the fixed payment. This issue along with other issues around the consumption of alcohol in public places which could be addressed through amendments to the bye-laws will be discussed at the next meeting in February.

NORTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2007

The first official meeting of the North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-Committee was held on 8th January 2007 with further meetings taking place on the 2nd April 07, 9th July, and 8th October 2007.

The issues dealt with at these meetings included:

The effective use of CCTV

A report was presented on the current situation regarding cctv in the area. The Minister for Justice Equality and Law Reform was contacted to ascertain the amount of funding available for CCTV outside rapid areas. Arrangements were made to install further cameras adjacent to the UCI complex in Coolock to monitor the open space.

Public disorder in Parks

A report was presented on this matter and site meetings were arranged to specific parks. A request was sent to the Minister for the Environment to re-examine legislation in relation to City Council Parks and open spaces being classed as public Places in relation to vehicle use etc. Mr.Martin Cullen, Minister for Transport has confirmed for the purposes of the Road Traffic Acts, "public place" means any public road, and any street, road or other place to which the public have access with vehicles whether as of right or by permission and whether subject to or free of charge. Road traffic law does not extend to the use of mechanically propelled vehicles in private property.

Drug supply in the North Central Area

A presentation was given on this matter by the Gardaí. The Gardaí issued figures of the amount of drug seizures, which took place in the North Central Area in 2006 and to-date for 2007. The Gardaí informed the Committee that Community Police engage on an ongoing basis with children regarding the Drugs Situation.

The Dublin North East Drugs Task Force also gave a presentation to the Joint Policing Sub Committee. They explained that the Voluntary and Community Organisations are vital partners in programme delivery. Their aim is to act as quick response units, providing speedy services for those with greatest needs.

Addiction services in the area

The Health Services Executive gave a comprehensive presentation on Addiction Services in the North Central Area. The Health Services Executive strategic objectives are to provide Education and Prevention Programmes, Outreach services aimed at delivering advice and harm minimisation programmes, treatment programmes, rehabilitation and aftercare programmes. They work in partnership with Local agencies and in line with the National Drugs Strategy.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Parks

It was agreed at a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee working group on Anti – Social behaviour that Local Area Joint Policing Committees be requested to choose two or three priority parks in their area to pilot an initiative to combat antisocial behaviour in parks particularly during long evenings and at weekends.

The initiative is a joint venture between Local Residents, Local Gardaí, Local Parks Management, and the Local Area Manager. The primary objective of these meetings are to obtain the views of the residents and ensure that a joint approach was taken

by all the bodies in attendance. The North Central Area identified three parks in the area to pilot as follows -: Ellenfield Park, Mount Olive Park, Streamville Park

There has been a marked decrease in anti social behaviour in the parks. This can be seen as a direct result of both the recent efforts by the Park management, the residents' work and the Public Domain Officer and the Garda presence.

Operation of Joint Policing Sub- Committee meeting

Committee expressed their wish to raise local Issues at this forum. It was stressed that the Joint Policing Sub Committee meeting is to deal with Higher Level/ Strategic Issues. - Local fora deal with localised issues.

Report and Review of Litter Management Plan

A report was presented by the Engineering Department and the Committee commended the North Central Area in their speedy removal of graffiti and requested that the North Central Area be used as a best practise area.

Collection of Fixed Fines

A report was presented on the collection of fixed fines and it was agreed to recommend to the Joint Policing Committee that the system for the collection of fixed fines be reviewed in terms of manpower and resources. It was suggested that Bye Laws be changed as a matter of urgency.

NORTH WEST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2007

The Committee meet quarterly on the 3rd Monday of January, April, July and October.

The members agree a specific topic for discussion at each of the quarterly meetings. This format entails a presentation on a particular matter of concern to the committee and the wider community from a community safety perspective and usually follows with a broad debate on the issue.

To date presentations have been made by:-

- The Co-ordinator of the Finglas Cabra Local Drugs Task Force
- The Finglas Suicide Prevention Network
- Procedures and Policies on Estate Management.
- The local Comhairle na Nóg
- Minister Pat Carey T.D. on the National Drugs Strategy
- Community/Sports Development in the North West Area.

In addition the NWA Joint Policing Sub-Committee has been involved in a number of initiatives.

- As part of the 'Local Parks Initiative' the members nominated 3 parks in the North West Area, Tolka Valley Park, Johnstown Park and Coumry Neighbourhood Park, to examine ways to combat anti-social behaviour in the parks. Working groups have been formed to come up with proposals, in conjunction with local residents to encourage positive use of the parks in order that people using the parks feel safe doing so.
- Members also noted the amendment to the Intoxicating Liquor Bye Laws made under the Local Government Act, 1994 and agreed to make a submission on the bye laws to the North West Area Committee meeting in February 2008.

- As part of the CCTV Strategy for Ballymun, the Joint Policing Committee approved the seeking of the Garda Commissioners approval to operate the proposed CCTV system in Ballymun.

Members also discussed progress by the local safety Fora - Safer Ballymun and the Finglas Safety Forum. Safer Ballymun was developed in partnership between Dublin City Council, Ballymun Regeneration Limited, the Gardai and the Ballymun Community. Safer Ballymun have produced a 'Community Safety Strategy' based on community safety priorities in Ballymun. The Finglas Safety Forum has recently been reconvened. It is hoped that this forum will develop along similar lines to Safer Ballymun.

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2007

The South Central Area Joint Policing Committee has met four times during 2007

- 19th January 2007
- 20th April 2007,
- 20th July 2007
- 19th October 2007

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

- The Committee agreed to two applications for the installation of CCTV equipment at Oliver Bond House and St. Teresa's Gardens.
- The Committee sent a letter to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, requesting that legislation be put in place to deal with alcohol related home deliveries.
- The Committee put forward a request to Dublin City Joint Policing Committee suggesting one telephone number be used for the entire Dublin Area for the "The Dial to Stop Drug Dealing" initiative. It also included a request seeking government funding for this initiative.
- The Committee sent a letter to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, requesting up to date information on the situation with regard to funding for the anti Graffiti activities.
- The Committee is establishing a database of Community contacts within the South Central Area
- It has been agreed that the Committee with Senior Gardai and Council Officials visit Ballyfermot Garda Station in April 2008 to view CCTV facilities and visit local Park (Le Fanu Park), as part of the Parks Anti Social behaviour Initiative

SOUTH EAST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2007

The South East Area Joint Policing Subcommittee met on five occasions in 2007. In February, May, June, September and November.

- The subcommittee sought initially to understand issues relating to policing in the Area i.e. Garda structure, policy, manpower etc. This resulted in a comprehensive presentation by Chief Superintendents Derek Byrne and John Manley to the subcommittee in Pearse St. Garda Station in March 2007. This provided members with an overview of the Garda organisation and an

explanation of the Divisional Plans for the Area as well as District Policing Plans.

- Issues discussed to date include anti social behaviour orders; substance abuse; the management of parks in the South East Area; Community Policing; the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the installation of security gates on residential properties. The issue of liquor licensing was also discussed. This included consultation on the Liquor Bye Laws. The issue of substance abuse was addressed at two meetings and presentations were given in June on behalf of Teresa Weafer of the Ringsend and District Response to Drugs, which was followed in November with a presentation on the issue by the Gardai.
- Following a presentation by City Parks Superintendent, Gerry Barry to the subcommittee in May 2007 it was agreed to establish a Working Group, made up of Dublin City Council Officials, Garda Officers, Community Representatives and Local Councillors in relation to the management of parks with particular reference to Ringsend Park. Issues discussed to date include the abuse of drink and drugs in the park and measures that Dublin City Council can take in conjunction with the Gardai and local community to address these problems. Events organised during “Drugs Awareness Week” in conjunction with the Gardai, the HSE and the Ringsend and District Response to Drugs have developed vital links with teenagers who had been drinking in the park. Ways of maintaining these important links will be a focus of the working group. The working group met in June, July and November of 2007.

Councillor Michael Conaghan
Chairperson