

**South Dublin County Joint Policing
Committee**

Annual Report 2008

Introduction:

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee was established on the 26th October 2007. This Committee provides a forum for representatives from An Garda Síochána, South Dublin County Council, Oireachtas members and Community representatives, to make an important contribution to addressing issues relating to crime locally, to get together in a regular and structured way to consult with each other, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of South Dublin County.

South Dublin Joint Policing Committee serves as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of South Dublin County and in particular to the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

South Dublin County Council provide the administrative backup needed to support the work of the Joint Policing Committee.

This report will give an overview of the membership, meetings and work of the sub-group.

Membership:

Local Authority Members

Cllr Robert Dowds,	Lab (Chairperson)
Cllr. Therese Ridge,	FG
Cllr. Shane O'Connor,	SF
Cllr. Bill Gogarty,	Green
Cllr. Guss O'Connell,	Ind
Cllr. Joe Neville,	FF
Cllr. Karen Warren,	FG
Cllr. Mick Murphy,	Soc
Cllr. Jim Daly,	FF
Cllr. Marie Corr,	Lab
Cllr. Cathal King,	SF
Cllr. John Lahart,	FF
Cllr. Tony McDermott,	Green
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh,	Lab
Cllr. Cait Keane,	PD

Oireachtas Members (5)

Paul Gogarty TD	Green
Joanne Tuffy TD	Lab
Charlie O'Connor TD	FF
Alan Shatter TD	FG
Pat Rabbitte TD	Lab

Garda Officers (2)

John Manley	Chief Superintendent
John Twomey	Chief Superintendent

Local Authority Officers

Joe Horan	County Manager
Frank Nevin	Director of Housing

Community/Voluntary Sector

Marie Price Bolger (replaced by Michelle Kearns	Community Platform
Michael McLoughlin (replaced by Tom Aspil	Community Forum
Jim Lawlor	Community Forum

Meetings

The South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee met five times during 2008.

- 1st February
- 11th April
- 20th June
- 12th September
- 21st November

The Chief Superintendents provided a comprehensive report to each meeting giving details of crime, detection, community policing and general information on the issues affecting the County. The Chief Superintendents were accompanied by the Superintendents for the County. The County Manager also provided reports and presentations on the work the Council is involved with which has an impact on safety and crime in the community. Transport and Safety was one important issue which was discussed at the Joint Policing Committee during 2008 and a representative of Veolia Transport Company who operate the LUAS System attended the June meeting and a frank and useful discussion was had. A number of detailed presentations were also made during the course of the year which resulted in further discussion by the Committee such as:

- RAPID Programme with a focus on community safety
- Community Mediation
- South West Clondalkin Safety Forum
- Dublin Mountain Partnership

Sub-Committee

One sub-committee was set up during the year which discussed the Sale of Alcohol Bill. A special task group was set up by the Minister for Justice and the sub-group on behalf of the full Joint Policing Committee made a detailed submission which was considered by the government task-group in making its report to the Minister.

(Attached as Appendix 1)

Inter-Agency Work

South Dublin County has a long tradition of statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations working together and sharing information and resources. The Joint Policing Committee is seen here in South Dublin County as another mechanism to further develop this work. Reports on the Joint Policing Committee meetings are circulated and discussed where necessary at the South Dublin County Development Board meetings and also at the Social Inclusion Measures Sub- Committee Meetings.

Reports of all Joint Policing Committee meetings are presented on a regular basis to full meetings of the Council.

Website

South Dublin County Development Board has developed a website which provides information on the CDB itself and also on the many inter-agency committees working throughout South Dublin County. The Joint Policing Committee is included in this website and information on meetings, presentations, guidelines, membership etc. are available here. It is intended in 2009 to increase the information available to the public on this site. The JPC pages can be accessed at:

http://cdb.southdublin.ie/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=227
http://cdb.southdublin.ie/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=227

Conclusion

The Joint Policing Committee will continue to meet for 2009 and is awaiting the Department of Justice Guidelines on the establishment of the Local Policing Fora. The good relationship built up between the members will continue to be built on over the coming months. 2009 will also see a period of change as the local elections are scheduled for June and this may result in a change in membership.

However the commitment from the Elected Representatives, Community Organisations, Local Authority officials and the Gardai will continue and it is fully recognised that one agency working alone cannot address the difficulties and challenges that are facing local communities.

Appendix 1

Joint Policing Committee South Dublin County Council

Sub-Group on Drugs and Alcohol Issues

Sale of Alcohol Bill Submission

Following a general debate at a meeting held on 11th February 2008 the sub-committee agreed that the issues hereunder be highlighted as of particular concern and submitted as proposals for consideration and action.

- Having regard to the consideration that drinking amongst young people will not be eliminated entirely that learning be gained from the elimination of the 10 packs of cigarettes and the reports of resultant increase in cigarette consumption that alcohol be made available in smaller units.
- That stricter control and enforcement of the licensing laws be applied to sale of alcohol at petrol stations.
- That strict enforcement be applied to venues where young people (16 – 18) are manning tills.
- That the term off-licenses be redefined – that segregation of trade within shops and petrol stations and other outlets be defined and enforced – that appropriate training of staff in the sale of alcohol be approved by the Gardai and be mandatory – only stand alone off-licenses be allowed sale of alcohol and no outlets such as petrol stations or home convenience shops
- That under-cover surveillance/test purchasing is applied vigorously to ensure stricter enforcement of laws and regulations in the sale of alcohol and some element of traceability be considered particularly in the area of home deliveries and taxis and other delivery agents involved in such practice
- Revocation of licenses for breach of regulation and laws governing sale of alcohol – site notices be a requirement indicating application for license renewal
- Mandatory ID cards be introduced for ages 12 to 18 years of age – consider also the possibility of having such cards as swipe versions with magnetic strip which can store information on purchases and use
- Provision of recordable CCTV inside and outside all off-licenses and other outlets involved in the sale of alcohol – this may be a condition of planning for new premises and by regulation on renewal of license for existing premises
- That an empowered Body be put in place to ensure Implementation of the recommendations of Task Forces reports on sale of alcohol – 12 Reports and 8 committees to date.
- Recognition of alcohol as a drug of dependency