



# **South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee 2010**



## South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee.

Our aim is to bring about a safer county by working in partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour, reduce crime and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support, enthusiasm and commitment to making South Dublin a safer county in which to live, work, study, visit and socialise.

Cllr. Robert Dowds



## **South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee**

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee was established on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The Committee continues to provide 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.

Working in partnership with local communities has proved to be an effective method of tackling local issues, and plays an important and significant role in developing strategy and policy for the reduction of crime.

2010 saw the development of a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for South Dublin County Council with input from the Joint Policing Committee, Community CCTV, the establishment of the local policing fora and their holding of public meetings and the production of a report on safety and public parks.

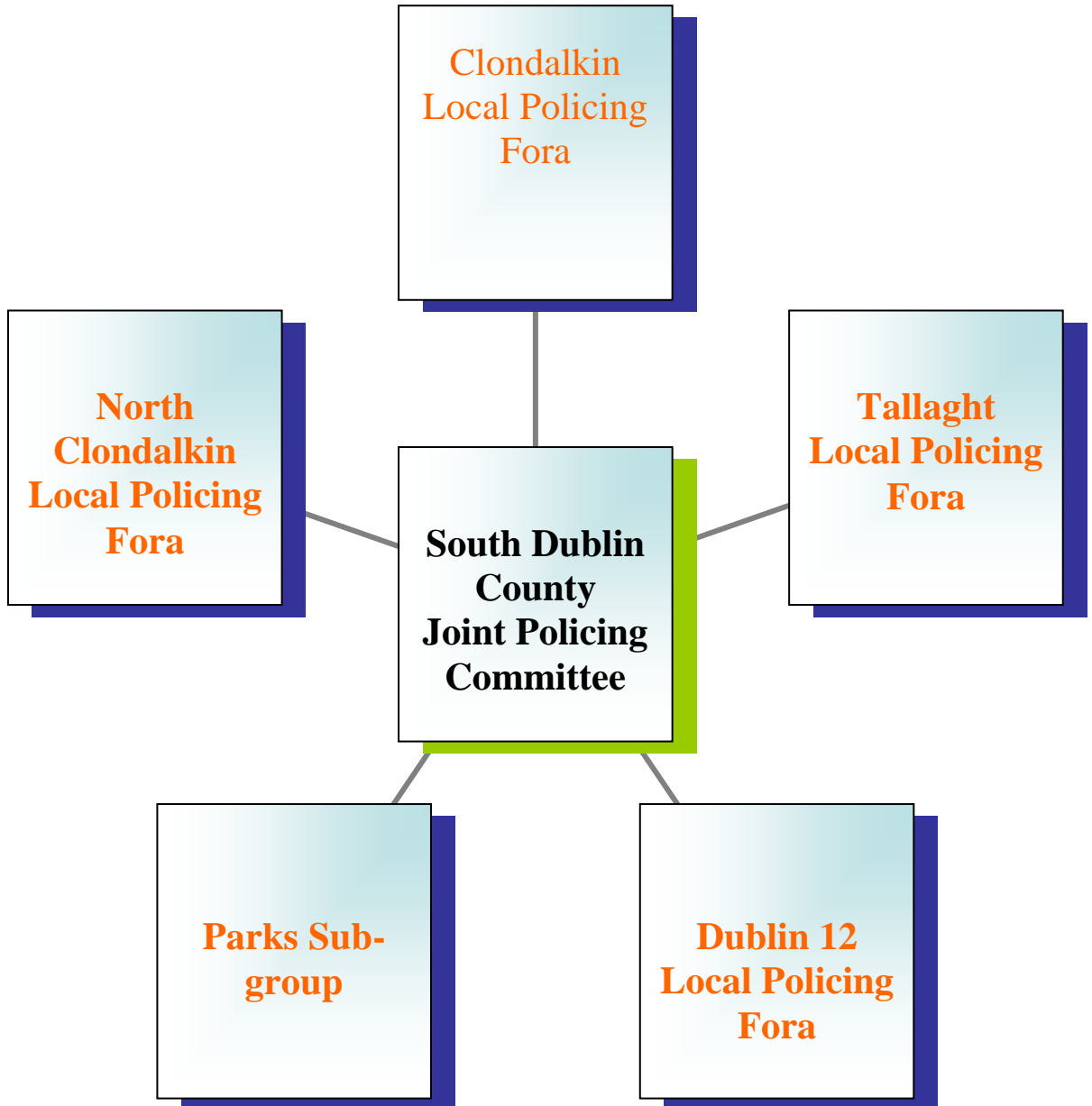
The South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee met four times during 2010.

- 5 February
- 14 May
- 10 September
- 19 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.

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

## South Dublin County Joint Policing Structure



## **Membership:**

### **Elected Local Authority Members**

Councillor Robert Dowds (LAB), (Chair)  
Mayor Cllr. Mick Duff (Lab) - (Replaced by Mayor Cllr. Eamon Maloney)  
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave (LAB),  
Councillor Sean Crowe (SF),  
Councillor Gino Kenny (PBPA),  
Councillor Matthew Mc Donagh (SF),  
Councillor Guss O'Connell (IND),  
Councillor Pamela Kearns (Lab)  
Councillor William Lavelle (FG),  
Councillor Brian Lawlor (FG),  
Councillor Cait Keane (FG), Replaced by Cllr. Colm Brophy (FG)  
Councillor Emma Coburn (FG),  
Councillor John Lahart (FF),  
Councillor Eamonn Walsh (FF),  
Councillor John Hannon (FF),

### **Oireachtas Members (5)**

Paul Gogarty TD	Green
Joanne Tuffy TD	Lab
Charlie O'Connor TD	FF
Alan Shatter TD	FG (Senator Frances Fitzgerald (FG) attended)
Pat Rabbitte TD	Lab

### **Garda Officers (2)**

John Manley	Chief Superintendent
Declan Coburn	Chief Superintendent

### **Local Authority Officers (2)**

Joe Horan	County Manager
Billy Coman	Director of Housing and Social Development

### **Community/Voluntary Sector (3)**

Michelle Kearns	Community Platform
Tom Aspil	Community Forum
Jim Lawlor	Community Forum



## Parks Sub-Committee

The Parks sub-group was established to work on an action included in the Work Plan "to deter crime and anti- social behaviour in public parks." It was agreed that the two parks to be primarily examined would be St. Cuthbert's Park in Clondalkin and Killinarden Park in West Tallaght. The Sub-group presented their report entitled Reclaiming our Parks and a subgroup is being set up to oversee the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.

## Bonfires

Halloween 2010 took place on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, in anticipation of this event a programme was put in place to minimize the opportunities for anti social activity and hopefully reduce number of bonfires countywide. This programme came about after a series of meetings between the Councils Community, Environment, Housing & Parks Departments in conjunction with the Gardai, Fire Brigade & Civil Defence.

This programme included an awareness campaign, limiting the availability of and removing material and free access to the Waste Disposal Centre for householders.

This resulted in a reduction of illegal bonfires from 523 in 2009 to 345 in 2010 and a reduction in clear up costs.

Organised Bonfires in Tallaght and Clondalkin took place which allowed families to enjoy the evening in a safe and controlled environment.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour Policy**

South Dublin County Council consulted with the Joint Policing Committee in the preparation of its new Policy. The Gardai, Oireachtas members and the Local Community Representatives were afforded the opportunity to input into this policy and allows for an inter-agency approach to tackling the problem. The policy was adopted by the Council incorporating a number of changes put forward during the consultation phase.

## **Active Citizenship Week 2010**

A number of events were held throughout the County which encourages active citizenship. The Garda Siochana Reserve Force held information sessions in both the Mill and the Square Shopping Centres. A large number of interested individuals visited the stands

## **Drug Driving Awareness Campaign**

The Joint Policing Committee, South Dublin County Council, the Gardai and the Regional Drugs Task Force drew awareness to the Drug Driving Awareness Campaign at the TOP GEAR Show in City West in November. Visitors to the show were reminded of the legal and social consequences of driving while under the influence of illegal or controlled substances.

The poster campaign invited festival goers to help promote the message by posing with a bill-board of life sized mug-shots which illustrated social and legal penalties such as "*A Drug Conviction can lead to foreign travel restrictions.*" The message ambassadors took the opportunity to pledge not to drive or travel in vehicles where the driver is under the influence of substances.

## **Local Policing Fora**

Four Local Policing Fora are now established in the County.

Tallaght Local Policing Fora  
North Clondalkin Local Policing Fora  
Clondalkin Local Policing Fora  
Dublin 12 Local Policing Fora

The Local Policing Fora serve as a forum for consultations, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting their local area. They keep under review the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area and consider the factors underlying and contributing to these. The Local Policing Fora report to each meeting of the JPC on issues relevant to their area and also raises issues that cannot be resolved effectively at local level. The local policing fora is a partnership of the Gardai, Local Authority, Local Drugs Task Force, Elected Representatives and the local community. Public Meetings have been held in the County and are managed by the Local Policing Fora. Issues raised at these meetings include Anti-social behaviour, traffic management, drug abuse and graffiti.

## **CCTV**

Community CCTV is now operating in areas of Tallaght and Clondalkin and now works in tandem with the Garda CCTV scheme. This has been installed for the sole or purpose of securing public order and safety in public places by facilitating the deterrence, prevention, detection and prosecution of offences. Advances regarding monitoring the schemes were made during 2010.

## **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 Council meetings, South Dublin County Development Board meetings, Social Inclusion Measures Sub- Committee Meetings and internal Staff meetings of South Dublin County Council. The many community safety projects operating in the County include representation for the many statutory and voluntary agencies operating in the County working in partnership with the local community.

## **Going Forward**

The Joint Policing Committee will continue to meet in 2011. The good working relationship built up over the past number of years will continue. The commitment from the Elected Representatives, Community Organisations, Local Authority officials and the Gardai will also continue and it is fully recognised by all involved that one agency working alone cannot address the difficulties and challenges that are facing local communities.