

# Fingal Joint Policing Committee

## Report on Series of Public Meetings held in April 2016

The Joint Policing Committee has recently concluded a series of public meetings which took place at four locations around the County. The meetings are scheduled so as to provide at least one public forum in each of the four Garda Districts on an annual basis. The table below shows a comparison between the 2016 series of public meeting and the previous series in 2015:

Area	Catchment	2016 Date & Venue	2016 Attendance	2015 Date & Venue	2015 Attendance	Notes	2016 Report Pages
BALBRIGGAN	Balbriggan, Balbriggan Rural, Rush, Lusk, Garristown, Naul, Skerries	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan	94	08 <sup>th</sup> April Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan	42		3-4
SWORDS/ MALAHIDE	Swords, Santry, Malahide, Donabate, Portrane, Portmarnock	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords	62	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 Malahide Library, Malahide	32		5-6
DUBLIN 15	Blanchardstown, Castleknock, Ongar, Carpenterstown, Clonsilla, Mulhuddart, Tyrrelstown	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown Town Centre	72	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015 Mulhuddart Community Centre, Mulhuddart	28	2015 attendances low possibly due to inclement weather. Change of venue in 2016 more central	7-8
HOWTH & AREA	Howth, Sutton, Baldoy,e	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 Marine Hotel, Sutton	24	01 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 Marine Hotel, Sutton	37	2015 attendances primarily from Admiral Park area. Issues dealt with over the year.	9

The Council is represented at the meetings at Director of Services level and on the Garda side by the relevant Chief Superintendent and Superintendent. In addition, Garda personnel from Traffic, Community Policing, and Drugs Units also attend, where local issues dictate. The meetings were chaired by Cllr Kieran Dennison, Chairperson of the JPC, and by Cllr Grainne Maguire, Vice Chairperson of the JPC at the Balbriggan meeting.

Each meeting commenced with an introduction to how the JPC conducts its business. This was followed by a short presentation by the local Garda Superintendant in each of the 4 districts, which gave an overview of Garda strategic objectives in the area, local crime statistics and details of specific operations targeting particular types of crime. At the Dublin 15 Meeting, presentations were also made on the related topics of the Garda Diversion Office (Juvenile Liaison) and the Youth Service (Foroige). At each meeting Crime Prevention advice was then provided based on prevalent crimes in the area. In 2016, there continued to be an emphasis on burglaries and theft from cars, as was the case in 2015.

The next stage in the meetings is to invite questions from the floor for both the Council and the Gardaí on matters relating to public order and local community safety. Speakers are prohibited from mentioning specific names and individual cases will not be discussed. An opportunity is provided at the end of every meeting for members of the public to approach the Gardaí or the Council on a one to one basis on specific issues, and in general this can be very productive, specifically in relation to concerns regarding local drug dealing.

The main issues which arose at each of the meetings are as set out in the tables below:

## Balbriggan Meeting – Bracken Court Hotel 06<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Issue	Action	Garda Update	FCC Update
Resident queried burglary figures for the Rush/Lusk area	AGS advised that figures presented related to the entire district.	Burglary has reduced by 39%	No response required from LA
Resident and member of Rush Text Alert Committee noted difficulties contacting Garda Station.	AGS acknowledge that on occasion for operational reasons it may take a little time to get through to the station. Any emergencies should be called through to 999/112 as that is priority.	Receiving ongoing attention	No response required from LA
Resident of Balbriggan commented on graffiti at particular locations	AGS role is to investigate graffiti as vandalism/crime, FCC role to remove graffiti	No developments	FCC will arrange the removal of graffiti from public property. It is the responsibility of a private property owner/utility company to remove graffiti from their property.
Resident of Balbriggan queried Policing plan for beach patrols during the summer	AGS outlined seasonal policing for areas such as beaches.	Initiative to increase patrols on weekends	No response required from LA
Resident of Skerries outlined incident where Garda response to call out was delayed.	AGS requested details after the meeting to follow up on issue.	Sergeant Mitchell, Skerries, dealing with same	No response required from LA
Resident of Fulham Green outlined some issues with pedestrians, littering and ASB.  Also outlined issue contacting Garda Station to report these issues.	FCC requested details after the meeting to follow up on issue.  AGS requested details after the meeting to follow up on issue.	Receiving ongoing attention	Information from the resident has been passed on to the Housing Department who are following up directly with the resident.
Resident of Balbriggan noted the increased issues of litter/noise/drunkenness from late night venues in the town.	AGS noted the resourcing issues experienced over recent years, and also changes in tasks/new tasks. AGS to look into any actions possible to deal with late night venue issues. Licensee has obligations.	Receiving ongoing attention	No response required from LA
Resident of Rush noted traffic offences i.e. no tax/no insurance.	Question responded to at meeting.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Resident of Lusk asked about measures to engage with juvenile offenders	AGS outlined Garda Diversion Office/Juvenile Liaison Officers and use of Community Gardai and Foroige in Balbriggan to engage with youth population.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Attendee noted the use of Social media amongst young people.	Question responded to at meeting	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA

## Balbriggan Meeting – Bracken Court Hotel 06<sup>th</sup> April 2016

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Garda Update</b>	<b>FCC Update</b>
Resident of Rush commented on teenage discos/events and traffic management etc at Wright Venue in Swords as good example.	Issued responded to in conjunction with earlier comments on late night venues. AGS noted that location of venue lends itself to traffic management.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Resident of Balbriggan suggested that AGS and FCC collaborate on addressing issues through the planning system and through environmental design.	Question responded to at meeting	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Representative of Foroige Balbriggan outlined the services offered, and made a call for volunteers	AGS noted a number of programmes and activities i.e. Transition Year projects, Late-Nite Leagues etc	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Resident of Rush noted the matter of alcohol companies sponsoring activities targeted at young people.	Question responded to at meeting	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Resident of Balbriggan noted issue with dog litter and requested additional bins at specific locations.	Question responded to at meeting	No response required from AGS	FCC continuously review placement of litter bins and review usage of bins. Requests for new/additional bins subject to resources.
Resident of Balbriggan commented on increase in burglaries in Hampton Cove area.	Question responded to at meeting. AGS noted that not all crimes are reported, and emphasized the importance of reporting all crimes.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Resident of Balbriggan raised subject of CCTV and use of in detecting burglaries.	AGS outlined the uses of CCTV on private property both as a deterrent and also in investigating crimes. Some additional Crime Prevention tips also outlined.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Resident of Balbriggan requested ramps on Quay Street Balbriggan.	Question responded to at meeting	No response required from AGS.	FCC requested details after the meeting.
Resident of Barons Hall Balbriggan commented on issues with attempted burglaries and ASB in the estates.	AGS to consider extra policing in the area, and possibly a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.	Dealt with at meeting.	No response required from LA

## SWORDS/MALAHIDE MEETING – CARNEGIE COURT HOTEL SWORDS 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016

Issue	Action	Garda Update	FCC Update
Attendee noted theft from vehicles at beach car parks / remote areas	AGS advised this is opportunistic theft, at amenity areas the owner is clearly away from the vehicle for a period of time. CCTV good prevention and also for investigations.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Attendee commented on need for traffic calming on Malahide Road.	Noted at meetings	This matter has been referred to the Divisional Traffic Unit for further attention and monitoring.	No update at present. Will liaise with AGS Traffic if necessary.
Resident of Rathbeale Road Swords noted a number of traffic offences in the area	AGS noted these issued and will make arrangements for Gardai to visit the location more often	This matter has been referred to the Divisional Traffic Unit for further attention and monitoring.	No response required from LA
Attendee commented on use of ASB orders.	AGS outlined how the ASB order process works.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Attendee queried what action can be taken over graffiti.	AGS role is to investigate graffiti as vandalism/crime, FCC role to remove graffiti	Identifying culprits involved in graffiti can be difficult. Efforts are made to identify 'Tags' which are unique identifiers for persons involved in graffiti.	FCC will arrange the removal of graffiti from public property. It is the responsibility of a private property owner/utility company to remove graffiti from their property.
Resident of Portmarnock queried AGS numbers and any plans to reopen Garda Stations	Question answered at meeting	There are no plans to close Malahide Garda Station. The opening hours will remain the same.	No response required from LA
Resident of Portrane commented on young people drinking alcohol etc on public open space	AGS emphasised the importance of reporting this behaviour before it becomes a problem, not to let it develop & call the Gardai early.	Targeting this type of anti-social behavior will form part of the policing plan for the summer months for the Donabate / Portrane area.	No response required from LA
Resident of Swords outlined issue with road linings at Balheary/Glen Ellan	FCC requested details at the end of the meeting	No response required from AGS	FCC Traffic Section to inspect location and issue outlined and to report back to Operations Department
Resident of Swords requested ramp to reduce speed of traffic exiting Applewood	FCC outlined limitations and constraints around using speed ramps. Agreed to look at further	No response required from AGS	FCC Traffic Section to inspect location and issue outlined and to report back to Operations Department.
Resident of Malahide queried if there had been any Garda retirements from the area.	AGS confirmed none out of Malahide G.S in last 12 months, 2 new Gardai assigned to Malahide to cover.	One Garda member retired on the 13/05/16.	No response required from LA
Resident of Brackenstown in Swords raised matter of motorbikes/scramblers using the park area.	AGS requested further details at the end of the meeting.	Issue is being attended to by a member of Community Policing Unit in Swords. Efforts are being made to identify the youths involved & meet with their parents.	No response required from LA

## SWORDS/MALAHIDE MEETING – CARNEGIE COURT HOTEL SWORDS 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016

Resident of Ridgewood Swords asked about	AGS outlined resourcing issues and outlined	Patrols are determined on a daily basis	No response required from LA
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Garda patrols in the area	daily meetings to decide priority areas for patrolling.	and are targeted at crime areas. This is an ongoing process.	
Attendee raised issue of Text Alerts systems in Donabate and Malahide	AGS asked for details at the end of the meeting	There is a Text Alert operating in Malahide. Gardai would be supportive of such a scheme in Donabate area.	No response required from LA
Elected Representative queried extra Garda numbers and extra Garda vehicles/resources	AGS confirmed that numbers of vehicles were sufficient, difficulty is in manpower resources.	There are sufficient Garda vehicles attached to the District. Resources are constantly reviewed and maximized to best effect.	No response required from LA
Elected Representative noted that residents of Malahide would continue to lobby to retain Malahide G.S. and to restore it to 24hour	Question responded to at meeting.	No further update.	No response required from LA
Elected Representative commented on ASB in playgrounds in Swords.	AGS will monitor locations over coming weeks.	Areas of anti-social behavior continue to be monitored and patrolled.	No response required from LA
Elected Representative commented on value of CCTV in detecting illegal behavior	Questions responded to at meeting	No further update. CCTV continues to be a valuable tool in crime prevention and detection.	No response required from LA
Elected Representative commented on layout of public office in Swords G.S.	AGS confirmed that there was approval for improvements to the public office in Swords over the next few months. A temporary office would be in place while works were being carried out	No commencement date has been indicated for these works to start.	No response required from LA

## DUBLIN 15 MEETING – CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, BLANCHARDSTOWN T.C. 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016

Issue	Action	Garda Update	FCC Update
Resident of Bramley Estate queried use of mobile phones while driving, and driver lack	AGS agreed mobile phone use by drivers and pedestrians was a problem. Extra	No further update	No response required from LA

of attention at e.g. traffic lights	traffic patrols would help.		
Attendee queried low crime detection rates	AGS outlined that preference is to prevent crime taking place, or catch in the act. Low detection may be down to criminals being more forensically aware and not leaving evidence. Noted that new DNA database in place could take 24 months + to build up profiles.	No further update	No response required from LA
Resident of Glenville Estate queried increase in attempted burglaries in Glenville and Laurel Lodge.	AGS outlined successes of Operation Thor in prevention.	No further update	No response required from LA
Resident of Briarwood queried if any plans to roll out static version of ANPR system e.g on lampposts	AGS have a number of cars fitted with ANPR and also draw on other organisations i.e. Local authority cameras, M50 traffic cameras.	Addressed at meeting, no further update.	No response required from LA
Resident of Ongar raised issue of ASB in open space area.	AGS very conscious of issues in greater Dublin 15 area. Requested details at the end of the meeting.	Dealt with at meeting.	No response required from LA
Resident of Ongar raised issue of damage to Ongar House.	AGS requested details at the end of the meeting	Dealt with at meeting.	No response required from LA
Resident of Riverwood queried use of Neighbourhood Watch to tackle unlicensed collectors (clothing/charities etc)	AGS advise if vehicles are taxed and insured very difficult to do something with them. Operation Thor to deal with this type of activity.	No further update	No response required from LA
Resident of Clonsilla raised issue of abandoned cars in residential areas.	AGS confirm that abandoned cars can be removed by AGS. Vehicles may be reported stolen.	Dealt with at meeting, no further update.	No response required from LA
Resident of Charnwood noted 3-tonne vehicles breaking limit in estate	AGS to monitor	Addressed at meeting.	No response required from LA
Resident of Bramley Estate queried most effective way of reporting a crime	AGS advise report crimes on 999 / 112. CCTV very beneficial to AGS.	No response required from AGS	
Resident of Ongar raised issue of accident in village earlier in the year	AGS noted accident was under investigation and not appropriate to comment in public forum.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA

## **DUBLIN 15 MEETING – CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, BLANCHARDSTOWN T.C. 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

Resident of Park Avenue queried Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Question responded to at meeting	Dealt with at meeting.	No response required from LA
Attendee noted high value cars left parked for weeks/abandoned	AGS to monitor and check registrations with ANPR	No further update.	No response required from LA
Elected Representative queried number of Garda vehicles in D15 area	AGS confirmed sufficient number of vehicles in district, not enough staff trained up to use.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Elected Representative queried number of Community Gardai in D15 area	AGS confirmed reviewing deployment and additional resources to Community Policing.	Addressed at meeting.	No response required from LA
Elected Representative queried number of AGS retirements and new Gardai assigned to D15	AGS confirmed 35 new Gardai to DMRW and 10 to Blanchardstown DS.	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA



## HOWTH/SUTTON MEETING – MARINE HOTEL SUTTON – 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016

Issue	Action	Garda Update	FCC Update
Resident of Admiral Park commented on the success of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme introduced since 2015, and AGS activity.	Questions responded to at meeting.	No further response.	No response required by LA
Member of Howth/Sutton Community Council queried public transport related matters, and illegal parking/traffic enforcement.	Questions responded to at meeting. FCC confirmed that lining/DYLs will be looked at for the location in question	Addressed at meeting.	For consideration by Traffic Section FCC
Elected Representative commented on the hard work of Howth AGS in relation to issues at Howth (people with suicidal intent)	AGS figures do not reflect crimes/issues prevented by good and active policing. Acknowledged a lot of work is unrecognised.	Addressed at meeting.	No response required by LA
Attendee commented that no provision was made for the meeting to be conducted in Irish/bilingually	Comments addressed at meeting	No response required by AGS.	No obligations under Official Languages Act or FCC Irish Language scheme to conduct meeting bilingually or in Irish.
Resident of Sutton commented on speeding cyclists using narrow roads. Also commented on amount of dog litter around	Bicycles exempt from speed limits unless cycling in a dangerous manner.  FCC note Howth Harbour is under the control of the Harbourmaster. To follow up on dog litter issues in public places.	No further update.	For consideration by Environment Department FCC
Attendee commented on success of Electronic speed readers	AGS noted that too much signage loses effectiveness. Other methods such as anti-skid can be effective	Addressed at meeting.	No response required from LA
Resident of Balscadden commented on seasonal (summer) ASB	AGS outlined seasonal policing strategy and occasional difficulties in identifying the main culprit.	No further update.	No response required from LA
Resident of Admiral Park commented on success of signage agreed at 2015 meeting and suggested “No Parking” signs might be effective where there is an issue with people gathering.	Question addressed at meeting	No response required from AGS	No response required from LA
Attendee commented on noise issues from gym opposite Howth G.S.	AGS outlined that this is a civil matter	Addressed at meeting	No response required from LA