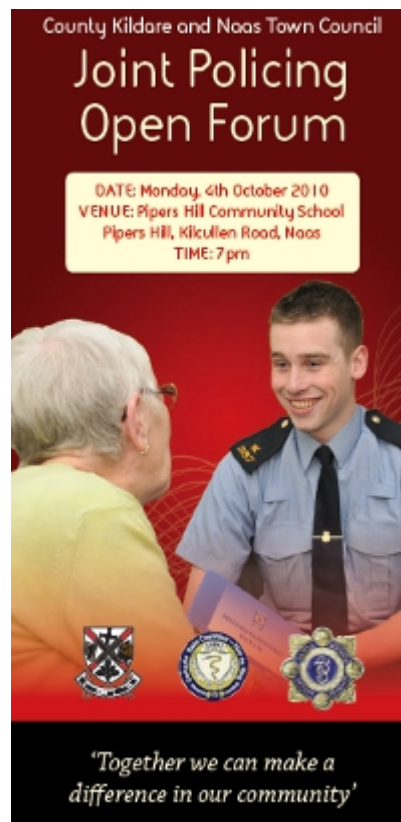


**Report**  
**On**  
**Kildare Joint Policing Open Forum**  
**Monday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2010**  
**Pipers Hill, Naas, Co. Kildare**



## **Table of Contents:**

- Introduction
- Purpose of Joint Policing Committees
- National Framework
- Joint Policing Committees in Kildare
- Purpose of report
- Open Forum
- Workshops
- Moving Forward – Developing a work programme
- Appendices
  1. Forum Agenda
  2. County Kildare JPC Members & Naas JPC Members
  3. Newspaper Report
  4. Transcript of issues raised in workshops

## **Introduction**

In 2009 County Kildare Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and Naas Town Council JPC held their inaugural meetings. These meetings marked the beginning of a new approach to policing with a commitment to partnership between the local authority, the Garda Síochána and the local community. Part of this commitment includes ongoing consultation and open dialog with the broader community and on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 the first County Kildare and Naas Town Council Joint Policing Open Forum was held (Appendix 1).



The forum offered communities the opportunity to influence the work of the JPC's by prioritising key community policing issues and identifying initiatives which could contribute to improved community policing and prevention of future crime in County Kildare.

Over 150 people attended the forum from a wide variety of backgrounds, including community groups, residents associations, elected members, Gardaí, concerned members of the community, parents and young people.

## **National Framework**

Under Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, Joint Policing Committees have been established to provide a forum where Local Authority and senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing of that area.

## **Purpose of Joint Policing Committees**

The purpose of the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultation, discussion and recommendation on matters affecting the policing of a Local Authority by:

- Keeping under review the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area.
- Advising the local authority and the Gardaí on how best they might perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area.
- Arranging and hosting public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authorities administrative area.

- Establishing in consultation with the local Garda Superintendent local policing fora.

### **Joint Policing in County Kildare**

Kildare has five Joint Policing Committees (JPC)

- County Kildare Joint Policing Committee (JPC)
- Leixlip JPC
- Naas JPC
- Newbridge JPC
- Athy JPC

The County JPC has 26 members and is comprised as follows:

- 13 elected members with at least two from each electoral area. The Mayor will be an ex-officio member.
- 5 Oireachtas members
- 2 local authority representatives (The manager and one other nominee)
- 2 Garda representatives (One being the Chief Superintendent)
- 3 community representatives

Naas JPC has 19 members and is comprised as follows

- All local authority elected members of the Town Council.
- 3 members of the Oireachtas.
- 2 local authority representatives. (The town manager and one other nominee)
- 2 Garda Officers
- 3 community representatives.

Appendix 2: County Kildare JPC Members & Naas Town Council JPC Members



## **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to collate the key issues identified at the forum and highlight those prioritised by the participants. These actions will then be used to formulate the work programme of JPC's in the County, in particular those of County Kildare JPC and Naas JPC.

## **Open Forum**

### **Overview**

As part of the overall community consultation with the Joint Policing Committees (JPC) the inaugural Public Joint Policing Open Forum took place on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Pipers Hill, Naas, Co. Kildare. The objective of the event was to give communities an understanding of the work of the JPC's and to provide them with the opportunity to influence the JPC programme of work by putting forward their key issues and potential solutions to problems.

In order to provide participants with a broad understanding of community policing Sergeant Patrick Conway of the National Joint Policing Committees Monitoring Office gave a comprehensive presentation which set the National context from which the JPC's were established. The presentation also outlined key national strategies and policies which influence community policing in Ireland and identified models of good practice and current programmes being delivered in communities.

Keynote speaker to the event was Niall Quinn, former Irish international footballer, current chairman of Sunderland AFC, and resident of County Kildare. Niall spoke of his experiences in Sunderland of developing local Programmes with the community to help curb anti social behaviour and highlighted the importance of working in partnership with communities in developing strategies to address such issues. (Appendix 3; Media report)



An opportunity was then given to each of the Chairpersons of the working groups of the JPC to provide an overview of their work to date and to set a context for the workshops.

The themes of the open forum workshops were strategically aligned to the three thematic working groups established under the JPC as follows:

- Crime, Drugs and Public Order
- Community Engagement

### **Workshops:**

The primary aim of the open forum was to provide the public with an opportunity to put forward their key issues and concerns around community policing matters in County Kildare. Nine workshops in total were held, 6 on Crime, Drugs and Public Order, 2 on Community Engagement. There was an overwhelming interest in the Crime, Drugs and Public Order workshops



with over 70% of attendees choosing to attend. The remaining 30% attended the Community Engagement workshop. While attendees were given the opportunity to attend a workshop on traffic, the two other themes dominated. The following is an overall analysis of the key issues raised and prioritised in the workshops (Appendix 4)

## **Theme 1: Crime, Drugs and Public Order**

### **1. Community Policing**

#### *Garda Presence and Visibility:*

Issues relating to Garda presence and visibility in communities were prevalent in each of the Crime, Drugs and Public Order workshops. Many residents vocalised a feeling of disconnection with the Gardaí and cited issues of station opening hours, response times and a lack of Garda “on the beat” as core challenges to community policing. While there was a realistic recognition that such issues were a direct consequence of the limited resources available to the Garda there was also a strong belief that Kildare was significantly under resourced by comparison to other counties and that the issue of equity of resources and fair share should be raised at national level.

#### *Garda Bike Unit*

The Garda Bike Unit was highly praised for a number of reasons namely it created Garda visibility within communities, young people tended to respond

positively to the Gardaí on bikes and it enabled Gardaí to cover a number of communities in a shorter period of time, than on foot. Again issues relating to the Garda Bike Unit were directly associated with resources available and there was strong support for increasing the number of Gardaí trained to use the bikes throughout the County.

### *Communication*

Communication between the Gardaí, local authorities and communities was seen as very important but currently not strong enough, many people were as yet unaware of the Joint Policing Committees and the facility to submit questions. It was suggested that the opportunities available to communities through the JPC's should be promoted and all community groups, residents associations and neighbourhood watch groups should be circulated with the relevant information. Communities believed that they could be an excellent information resource to the Gardaí and Local Authority and that the system provided could provide positive opportunities for the three sectors to work together.

## **2. Public Order & Anti Social Behaviour**

Anti social behaviour in all its forms featured strongly in all the workshops and the influence of drink and drugs in such behaviour was evident.

### *Underage Drinking*

Communities showed serious concern for the availability of alcohol to young people and felt that this issue needed to be addressed and patrolled as a matter of urgency. There was a recognition that anti social behaviour that involved young people was a consequence of inadequate facilities and alternative social opportunities within communities.

### *Gang Culture*

There were concerns about a gang culture emerging particularly between housing estates. It was recognised that young people gathering together is positive to their social development, however this needs to be facilitated through healthy alternatives such as sport, culture and social activities, initiatives such as FAI Mid - Night Leagues and Youth Cafes were identified as positive examples of this. Again the importance of the relationship between Gardaí and young people was highlighted and initiatives such as school visits and the Garda Bike Unit were cited as positive.

### *Parental Responsibility*

One of the main issues relating to anti social behaviour among young people across all workshops was that of parental responsibility. Communities felt that many parents did not have knowledge of the whereabouts' of their children and this was key to tackling the problem, possible solutions included a "where is your child campaign?" asking parents to ensure they know where their child is at all times and highlighting the possible dangers of anti social behaviour and its consequences. It was also felt that parents should be liable for

damage caused by their children or fines issued for their intimidating or anti social behaviour.

### *Family Supports*

With regard to anti social behaviour being perpetrated by families it was felt that a more holistic approach was needed, that family support should be prioritised and regular contact with Gardaí and the Local Authority was an important factor in deterring such behaviour.

### *Planning & Design*

The planning and design of civic spaces was seen as key to deterring anti social behaviour particularly in parks, playgrounds and canal ways, many examples were given of areas where such planning was not adequate and there was frustration that communities were not listened to in the design and development stage. For the purpose of this report specific areas have not been named but have been passed on to the JPC separately.

### *Dangerous Driving*

Dangerous driving was also a significant issue for communities particularly speeding through housing estates. Road safety measures such as speed ramps and driver awareness were seen as primary solutions, it was proposed that national and local agencies could roll out road safety reminders and trivia via text messaging. While the issue was not seen as one specific to young people there was strong support for educating young people in schools about road safety and dangerous driving. The Donegal model was cited as an example of good practice for young driver education.

### *Bye laws*

The powers of the council to make Bye-Laws to prevent or stop any nuisance in communities was cited as a tool for addressing public order or anti social behaviour. However it was suggested that residents blatantly flaunt such laws as they do not believe they will be pursued due to the expense of the legal costs to the Local Authority. It was suggested that the JPC be used to strengthen the impact of bye laws and address issues relating to enforcement and prosecution.

## **Theme 2: Community Engagement**

### **1. Community Schemes:**

#### *Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert*

Community schemes such as neighbourhood watch and community alert featured very positively in each of the workshops. However there was a sense that these programmes need a revival of sorts and had become stale in many communities. Regular contact with Community Gardaí seemed important to nurturing the programmes and keeping them active. It was also suggested that such schemes need to utilise modern technologies such as text messaging and web opportunities to bring them into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The example of the Rathangan Community Text scheme was given where a network of communication with the local Gardaí has been established to report suspicious behaviour in the community via text. It was felt that initiatives such as this enable communities to assist the Gardaí and it was proposed that the JPC co-ordinate a similar scheme at County level.

#### *Intergenerational Programmes*

In trying to engage communities effectively in development programmes and community policing matters the issue of generational divide was seen as a key barrier. Communities felt that those active in the area were often at odds with younger generations very often due to lack of communication, the example was given of young people congregating in one area being intimidating to older members of the community, yet the young people were unaware of the issue and the intimidation was unintentional. Mutual respect was central to addressing this issue but bridging the communication gap was seen as a key challenge. Community initiatives which provided the opportunity for young and old to work together and establish a positive rapport were suggested as possible solutions. The wisdom club model was cited as a positive example of such an initiative.

#### *Positive Role Models*

Following Niall Quinn's input many people felt that positive role models like him were not promoted enough to communities and young people. It was felt that many of the celebrities promoted by the media did not engage in society in a positive, healthy way, yet they are becoming the people we model ourselves on. Where possible it was felt that community organisations and structures like the JPC should partner with positive role models in order to encourage and promote community engagement among all.

## 2. Strengthening Communities

### *Capacity Building*

Numerous groups working on similar issues and a lack of awareness of each other featured strongly in the workshops. In order to create a strong movement or impact communities should be working together and developing collective strategies. Support may be needed to do this and groups identified the need for capacity building to strengthen the voice against crime and develop good community policing partnerships.

### *Funding*

The current economic situation was seen as a major threat to the voluntary sector in Ireland and the importance of ongoing funding was highlighted. Communities in Kildare have already seen local budgets cut and it was felt that this will influence the level of engagement within communities.

### *Sharing resources*

The issue of community facilities was raised as a barrier to community engagement and it was felt that sharing of facilities could provide a possible solution. However while many communities do make their facility available to outside groups there was a belief that lack of information was central to the issue as opposed to lack of facilities. It was proposed that a community directory be developed of all facilities in the County so that communities have the necessary contacts to develop relationships and sharing of resources.



## **Moving Forward – Developing a work programme.**

The key object of the forum was to give communities the opportunity to put forward their issues and concerns relating to community policing matters. The role of the JPC is now to examine the issues and recommendations put forward by participants and develop appropriate responses.

The Joint Policing Committees approach in addressing such issues is one of collaboration and interagency co-operation. Agencies represented on the JPC have committed to playing their part and thinking outside traditional agency boundaries. To date sub structures have been developed to facilitate more focused dialogue on the three core themes identified by the JPC (Crime, Drugs and Public Order, Community Engagement and Traffic). Each sub group will now be responsible for moving forward on key actions arising from the forum. In order to now maximise the success of the Forum, agencies must clearly listen to the issues raised and work together in a real and meaningful way to fulfil their commitment to community policing in County Kildare.

The following table outlines key solutions arising from the consultation and provides a basis of a future work programme. However, none of this can be achieved without the leadership of the agencies and communities of the JPC. The next step is to discuss in depth what is need to achieve these action and for agencies to sign up to committing the time and resources required.



## Crime, Drugs and Public Order recommendations

Issue	Possible actions	Approach and responsibility
Community Policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ National lobbying for increased Garda resources</li> <li>✚ Increase Garda bike unit, more training for existing Gardaí.</li> <li>✚ Promotion of JPC Website and resources.</li> </ul>	
Public Order / Anti Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Establish an “underage patrol” to combat youth access to drink</li> <li>✚ Positive social outlets for youth e.g. FAI Midnight Leagues and Youth Cafés</li> <li>✚ Parental responsibility: “Where is your child?” campaign.</li> <li>✚ Family supports – regular contact with Gardaí and local authorities.</li> <li>✚ Anti social “proofing” in design of public spaces.</li> <li>✚ Road safety text messaging and young driver programmes (Donegal model)</li> <li>✚ Enforcement of Bye Laws</li> </ul>	-

**Community Engagement recommendations:**

Issue	Possible actions	Approach and responsibility
Community Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="676 472 991 725">✚ Revival of Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert Schemes</li> <li data-bbox="676 748 991 837">✚ Community Text Scheme</li> <li data-bbox="676 860 991 994">✚ Intergenerational Initiatives e.g. the wisdom club</li> <li data-bbox="676 1016 991 1106">✚ Positive role models</li> </ul>	
Strengthening Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="676 1135 975 1173">✚ Capacity building</li> <li data-bbox="676 1240 842 1279">✚ Funding</li> <li data-bbox="676 1352 991 1442">✚ Sharing of Resources</li> </ul>	

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Agenda of Forum

#### Agenda for the Forum

**6.00pm** Registration / Refreshments

**7.00pm** Welcome & Introductions

**7.10pm** Community Policing - Model of good practice

**7.30pm** Keynote speaker

**7.45pm** Introduction by the chairs of each of the working groups:

- Crime, Drugs & Public Order
- Community Engagement
- Traffic

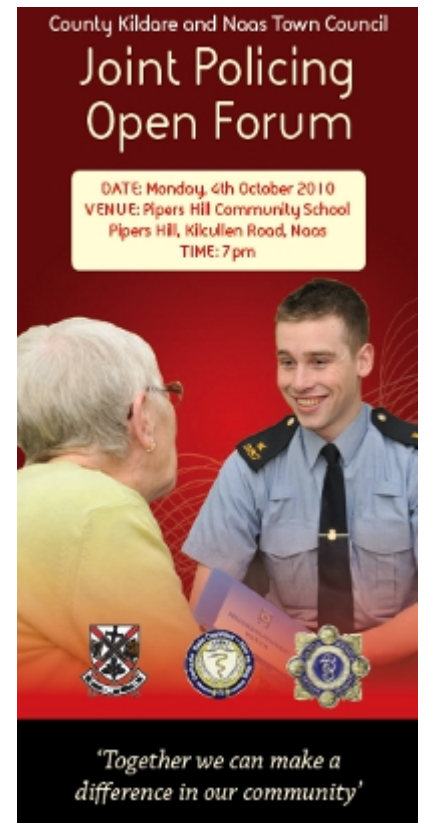
**8.00pm** Two Workshops:

1. Crime, Drugs & Public Order
2. Community Engagement

**9.00pm** Tea / Coffee

**9.15pm** Feedback from workshops

**9.30pm** Close



## **Appendix 2: JPC Members**

### **County Kildare JPC:**

Chief Superintendent Michael Byrnes	An Garda Síochána
Cllr Suzanne Doyle	Local Authority Member
Deputy Bernard Durkan	Oireachtas Member
Ann Flynn	Community Representative
John Fullam	Community Representative
Cllr Senan Griffin	Local Authority Member
John Hayden	Community Representative
Cllr Martin Heydon	Local Authority Member
Cllr Paul Kelly	Local Authority Member
Cllr Seamus Langan	Local Authority Member
Cllr Tony Lawlor	Local Authority Member
Michael Malone (County Manager)	Kildare County Council
Superintendent Pat Mangan	An Garda Síochána
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy	Local Authority Member
Cllr John McGinley	Local Authority Member
Cllr Paddy McNamara	Local Authority Member
Peter Minnock	Director Housing, Community & Culture
Cllr Tony O'Donnell	Local Authority Member
Deputy Sean O'Fearghail	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Sean Power	Oireachtas Member
Cllr Colm Purcell, (Mayor)	Local Authority Member
Cllr. Darren Scully, (Chairman)	Local Authority Member
Deputy Emmet Stagg	Oireachtas
Cllr Mark Wall	Local Authority Member
Deputy Jack Wall	Oireachtas Member
Cllr Brendan Weld (Mayor)	Local Authority Member

## **Appendix 2 Cont.**

### **Naas JPC**

Cllr. Rioghnagh Bracken	Local Authority Member
Deputy Aine Brady, Minister of State	Oireachtas Member
Cllr. Anne Breen	Local Authority Member
Sgt. Tim Burke	Gardai
Cllr. Willie Callaghan	Local Authority Member
Cllr. Pat Clear	Local Authority Member
Mr. John Drewett	Community Representative
Cllr. Ger Dunne	Local Authority Member
Deputy Bernard Durkan	Oireachtas Member
Mr. John Holmes	Community Representative
Mr. Ken Kavanagh, Town Clerk	Local Authority
Supt. Pat Mangan	Gardai
Cllr. Emer McDaid	Local Authority Member
Cllr. Seamie Moore	Local Authority Member
Cllr. Alan O'Kelly	Local Authority Member
Mr. Eamonn O'Sullivan, Town Manager	Local Authority
Cllr. Darren Scully	Local Authority Member
Ms. Margharita Solon	Community Representative
Deputy Emmet Stagg	Oireachtas Member

## Appendix 3: Leinster Leader

### Niall Quinn gives crime-beating tips from Sunderland

**Published Date:** 06 October 2010

By Paul O'Meara

**MORE Gardai are needed on the streets of County Kildare. Community leaders have called for Gardai already based within the county to be more visible throughout local communities and there have been demands for more Gardaí to be detailed to work in the area.**

The inaugural open forum organised by the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee took place last Monday night amid fears that the area is under resourced. Eadestown resident and former Irish international soccer player Niall Quinn was the guest speaker at the event, which was held in Piper's Hill Community College.

The forum was the first of its kind to be held since the policing committee was formed and it also heard criticism that the growing number of public playgrounds built for children act as gathering venues for gangs.

Cllr. Darren Scully told the attendance, which included Chief Supt. Michael Byrnes, Minister for State Aine Brady and Deputy Emmet Stagg, that recommendations made by the forum would be taken seriously.

"This is not going to be a talking shop," Cllr. Scully pledged. Mr Quinn said the co-operative approach of the forum would lead to a stronger community, and spoke of crime-fighting initiatives at Sunderland.

The Sunderland Football Club chairman said one of the strengths of the club was its close links with the Tyneside community.

"We (Sunderland) have won one trophy since the 1930s and we had the biggest attendance at any Premiership game last weekend," he said. He also

highlighted a programme aimed at young people at risk of getting into trouble.

"The foundation employs 96 people and is based in an office block at the Stadium of Light (Sunderland FC's home ground) and it has helped to keep people out of trouble. We found that crime involving young people peaked on Friday evenings after school and the programme has cut this dramatically through encouraging children to get involved in football because they found a different path through football," Mr. Quinn.

He also said the club runs a project for fathers absent from the lives of their children which encourages better parenting by getting them to become involved and this is done with inputs from education, social welfare and school authorities.

He said the projects cost £2m. sterling per annum and are self financing."The club has always promised to make up any shortfall but the project has not yet come to the club for a penny," he added. He said county Kildare has a lot going for it.

"There are problems out there especially at this time but it's nowhere near as bad as in Sunderland or ever will be. I'm living here seven years and there are a lot of positive things going on but the community needs to work hard to maintain this," he added.

#### **Appendix 4: Transcript of issues raised in workshops.**

## **Group A: Crime, Drugs and Public Order:**

### **Anti Social Behaviour**

- Focused support on habitual offenders
- Isolate youth from ring leaders
- Active community groups – residents associations
- Mobile text schemes with Gardaí
- Make Offenders give back to community
- More Gardaí resources
- More youth outreach resources
- Make parents pay
- Supervised facilities
- Family education evenings
- More Garda patrols
- Name and shame
- Manage crime through environment (design of open spaces)
- More legislation
- Warden more versatile.

### **Alcohol:**

- Identify adults selling drink to young people or getting it for them
- Underage patrol
- Lock up playgrounds at night

### **Other**

- Youth engagement
- Lack of enforcement of by laws relating to drinking in public areas
- Litter
- Drug and drink (numerous)
- Make parents responsible
- Anti social behaviour along canal
- CCTV in playgrounds
- Lock parks at night
- Family education evenings with Gardaí
- Parental Control
- Monitor public areas where people gather to drink
- Vandalism
- Break-ins
- Graffiti
- Vandalism
- Youth intimidation
- Fear to speak out
- Dumping in ditches
- More Garda reserves in Kildare

### **Solutions:**

- Identify habitual offenders
- Better alignment between council and Gardaí (policy and strategy)

- More active community groups – a better co-operation and communication.
- Make parents aware and responsible
- Community leaders need to be more proactive in getting young involved more Isolate ring leaders immediately
- CCTV
- Close Local playgrounds
- Community Gardaí to liaise with schools
- More feedback from Gardai
- Children /youth should not be targeted
- Agencies to be more proactive than reactive
- Fear of anti social behaviour at certain times of the year
- Bad design of parks

### **Group B: Crime, Drugs and Public Order:**

#### **Main Issues:**

##### 1. Garda Resources:

- More visibility
- Fair share of Garda resources

##### **Solutions:**

- Re-allocation of resources from other areas
- Training for Garda Bikes
- JPC involvement in resource allocation

##### 2. Public Order Issues:

- By-Laws not being implemented
- Lack of facilities for youth
- Availability of alcohol
- Parental control
- Fear and intimidation

##### **Solutions:**

- Better liaison between Gardaí and local authority
- Resources for youth café and midnight soccer (FAI)
- Raise legal drinking age to 21 years
- Better use of media for parental responsibility.

##### 3. Joyriding particularly in rural areas.

Solution:

Increase Garda resources. .

### **Group C; Crime, Drugs and Public Order:**

**Main Issues:**

- Drink Driving
- Anti social behaviour from young people
- Garda Resources – Police Presence / Follow Up

**Solutions:**

- Texts from national providers warning of dangers
- Police visits from Gardaí in uniform to schools.
- More parental involvement.

**Other issues raised:**

- Lack of follow up
- Fire works and BB Guns
- Garda presence on street
- Response times from Gardaí
- Police numbers
- Drink Driving
- Availability of drugs and alcohol to young people
- Anti social behaviour in playgrounds
- Garda schools programme
- Anti social behaviour and its impact on community facilities
- Underage drinking
- Drinking in Public Areas.

**Group D: Crime, Drugs and Public Order:**

## Anti Social Behaviour

- Gang culture
- Intimidation
- How to address this culture
- Deterioration of family groups and values
- Parental responsibility
- Lack of youth facilities
- Drug pushing
- Homelessness

**Solutions:**

- Residents associations may be able to assist
- Communicate with Gardaí, give names
- Cross generation barriers
- Liaise with parents in both public and private estates
- Early interventions
- Local authority should be more proactive when complaints are made to Gardaí and council
- Improved community facilities
- Eviction – successful in deterring anti social activity, you deal drugs your out. Very successful

**Group E: Crime, Drugs and Public Order:**

- Provide alternatives to occupy youth on key days, nights and events.
- Gardaí need to interact more with young people
- Public lighting
- Garda on beat
- Youth Facilities
- Street lighting
- Lack of response from Garda Stations
- Garda Patrols
- Inaction and lack of communication when complaint is made
- Community alerts need to expand
- Drugs information
- Direct contact between Gardaí and community groups
- Youth vandalism, drinking, drugs, loitering, graffiti
- House parties
- Anti social behaviour
- Noise at night
- Derelict building sites – a/s behaviour
- Vandalism / damage to cars / egg throwing
- Increased Gardaí manpower
- Naas – drugs freely available
- Naas – underage sales
- Unoccupied houses – Millbrook
- Moving anti social families from one area to another
- Derelict homes
- Wreak less driving by learner drivers
- Rented houses – lack of info about tenants / owners

### **Group F: Crime, Drugs and Public Order:**

#### **Key Issues:**

1. Anti Social behaviour
  - behaviour of young people
  - Lack of responsibility
  
2. Garda issues
  - Visibility within communities
  - Feeling of disconnect between communities and Gardaí
  - Stations not manned
  
3. Crime:
  - Transport network make Kildare an easy target, need to support communities along motorways to protect against crime.
  - Issues at bridges, a lot of crime and anti social behaviour taking place.

#### **Solutions:**

- Community text schemes e.g. Rathangan model
- Garda bike patrol very effective – more training for guards.
- Where is your child campaign / connect with parents.

- Improved driver education beginning at school level (Donegal model)
- Need for more positive role models for young people in local media e.g. Niall Quinn.
- Increase of neighbourhood watch scheme especially along motorway communities, bring neighbourhood watch into 21<sup>st</sup> century – e-mail / text / web.
- Increased promotion of JPC website and facility for local to pose questions, raise issues and identify solutions.

## **Group G – Community Engagement**

### **Issues:**

- Lack of Garda resources and personnel

### **Solutions:**

- Increased community assistance and involvement
- Better communication between Gardaí and public (text scheme)
- JPC Involvement
- Community Officers

### **Issue**

- Funding for community groups and programmes

### **Solutions:**

- Raise awareness of facilities
- Develop a directory of facilities
- More negotiation with local groups re rent etc.

### **Issue:**

- Lack of communication / awareness between different groups

### **Solutions:**

- Develop capacity of Community council
- Website / texting
- Awareness notices
- Intergenerational initiatives.

## **Group H – Community Engagement**

- Issues of Garda resources
- Lack of connection and understanding between different generations living in same area.
- Anti –social behaviour
- No clear understanding of role of groups
- Groups dominated by party politics
- Need for more speed bumps and public lighting
- Youth lack of knowledge of services available.
- Lack of street lighting in Ballitore
- Road safety in Ballitore – speed ramps needed

- Reactivate neighbourhood watch groups (in Clane and co ordinate through Clane community council)
- Lack of new blood on groups
- Funding for venues to roll out community programmes
- Groups dominated by party politics
- No clear understanding of role or purpose of groups.
- Racers

**Solutions:**

- a. Lack of Garda presence / resources;
  - Lobby department for additional resources
  - Community officer contact
  - Community assistance and involvement, vigilance
  - Technology and communication improvements between Garda stations.
  
- b. Community Issues (anti social behaviours / facilities and public order)
  - Raise awareness of facilities and services available
  - Create a directory of services
  - Funding needed to use facilities
  - Negotiate between local groups to use facilities
  - Use CCTV in problem areas.
  
- c. Lack of connection and understanding between generations living in the area:
  - Raise awareness in young people of how behaviour can be intimidating to others.
  - Develop intergenerational initiatives
  
- d. No clear understanding of the role of groups:
  - Lack of awareness and understands, numerous groups trying to address similar issues.
  
- e. Groups dominated by party politics'
  - Develop criteria for joining
  - Develop clear constitution.
  
- f. No new blood:
  - Delegation within the group, share work load, one job per person, may encourage others to become involved.
  - Clear definition of what is expected.
  
- g. Reactivate neighbourhood watch
  - Liaise with Gardaí
  - Raise awareness in the locality, use local media, websites, and newsletters.
  - Text message updates / awareness notices.
  - Communication technology.
  
- h. Youth lack of knowledge of facilities available:

- Funding and budgets available.

**Main issues:**

1. Lack of Garda resources
2. Funding for community programmes
3. Improved communications.