



Fingal Joint Policing Committee



Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



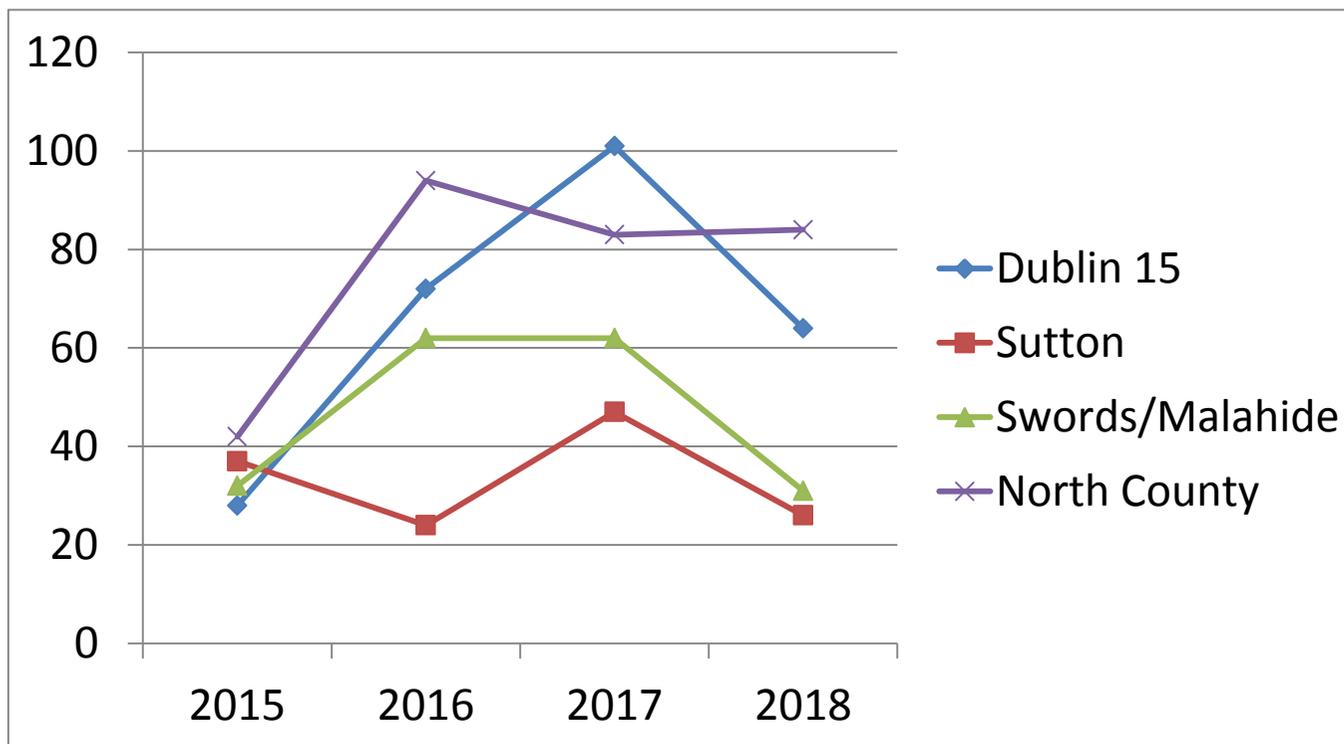
Report on Series of Public Meetings held in April 2018

The series of 2018 Joint Policing Committee Public Meetings concluded on Wednesday 25th April 2018, with the Swords/Malahide meeting for Swords, Malahide, Portmarnock, Santry, Donabate and Portrane and areas, which took place at the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords.

The other meetings were held on Wednesday 4th April at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown for Dublin 15 area; on Wednesday 11th April at the Marine Hotel Sutton for Howth, Baldoyle, Sutton areas; and on Wednesday 18th April at the Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan for the North County area including Balbriggan, Naul, Garristown, Rush, Lusk, and Skerries and surrounding areas. All meetings were very well attended by members of the public, An Garda Síochána, Local Authority staff and Elected Representatives (including Oireachtas members), and in 2018 a number of appropriate agencies such as Fingal Public Participation Network, Safer Blanchardstown, Foroige and Sonas had information stands at the meetings.

In 2018, an information leaflet about the series of public meetings was circulated to 58,000 homes across the county, and was printed in 6 languages: English, Irish, Polish, Romanian, French and Russian.

Following the series of Public Meetings, any attendees who provided a contact email address were contacted with an invitation to sign up to a regular Fingal Joint Policing Committee email. Attendances in 2018 were down at all locations except Balbriggan where they were similar to 2017. The following table shows the changes year on year from 2015.



Year	Dublin 15	North County	Sutton	Swords/Malahide
2018	4 th April 64 attendees	18 th April 84 attendees	11 th April 27 attendees	25 th April 31 attendees
2017	5 th April 101 attendees	26 th April 83 attendees	12 th April 47 attendees	19 th April 62 attendees
2016	20 th April 72 attendees	6 th April 94 attendees	27 th April 24 attendees	13 th April 62 attendees
2015	25 th March 28 attendees	8 th April 42 attendees	1 st April 37 attendees	15 th April 32 attendees

The Council is represented at the meetings at Director of Services/Senior Executive Officer level and on the Garda side by the relevant Chief Superintendent and Superintendent. In 2018, the Criminal Assets Bureau attended each of the four public meetings and gave a brief presentation on the work of CAB within the community. A representative of Muintir na Tire attended the North County meeting to briefly speak about Community Text Alert schemes. Presentations on Cybersafety for adults and children were also made at the Dublin 15 and Sutton meetings.

Each meeting commenced with a short introduction by the Chairman of the Fingal Joint Policing Committee, Councillor Kieran Dennison on how the JPC conducts its business. This was followed by a short presentation by a representative from CAB, and then by the local Garda Superintendant in each of the 4 districts, giving an overview of Garda strategic objectives in the area, local crime statistics and details of specific operations targeting particular types of crime. At each meeting Crime Prevention advice was provided based on prevalent crimes in the area. In 2018, the key issues again were related to community policing, youth issues, and Garda resources.

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:

DUBLIN 15 MEETING – CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL – WEDNESDAY 4th APRIL 2018

Issue	Response
Representative of FPPN/JPC outlined to attendees how to bring issues to JPC Meetings	Advised attendees that JPC meet quarterly and any issues notified to JPC members may be brought to committee meetings.
Resident of Hansfield queried how to get estates added to patrol routes?	AGS outlined that specific units to patrol Tyrrelstown and Ongar have been established to deal with particular problems in those areas. Hansfield is included.
Resident of Tyrrelstown queried how to have abandoned cars removed from public roads?	AGS advised if the car is not taxed or insured and on a public roadway, the Gardai can take action. If the car has no registration plates, the local authority can take action and seize the car. DMR-W seize approximately 100 cars per week (either parked or driving).
A resident queried about dogs off leads in public places	AGS referred to Control of Dogs Act, and role of local authority. Further information is available from Fingal County Council http://www.fingal.ie/media/Responsible%20Dog%20Ownership.pdf
Resident of Kirkpatrick commented that mountain bikes were mentioned in Garda presentation, what other transport is available in the area?	AGS acknowledged that available transport is always an issue, and outlined a variety of reasons why patrol cars could be off the road at any time. AGS also emphasized that in event of emergency, call 999 / 112 and if a car is not available locally, then nearest available one will be deployed.
Member of the public queried a recent delay in Gardai responding to a call.	AGS requested to talk privately after the meeting.
Member of the public queried what is the response time if a burglary is reported.	AGS outlined a variety of reasons why patrol units may be delayed with one specific problem, and may not be available to respond to calls.
Resident of Woodvale commented on change in area over 20 years – much quieter now. Queried can parents be brought to court if teenagers are causing problems? Also queried local authority Fix My Street system	AGS outlined Youth Diversion work and engagement with Foroige in relation to youth issues. FCC addressed system problems – Fix My Street is UK based and not accessible by Irish Local Authorities. Fix Your Street is Irish version.
Member of the public raised issue of Neighbourhood Watch system, and response times for critical incident?	AGS outlined Command and Control centre, calls are monitored and public safety/preservation of life is prioritised. Ongoing monitoring, and AGS aim to improve response times. Noted that DMR-W and Blanchardstown Station is the busiest in the country. Finglas is back-up for Blanchardstown District.
Member of the public queried cars speeding and breaking traffic lights	AGS outlined an increase in detection of motoring offences, additional resources for DMR-W will allow district to develop plan around traffic policing. Noted that significant amount of traffic Gardai spend time on M50 between J6 and J7 investigating traffic accidents.
Resident of Allendale queried response times to public order issue?	AGS requested to talk privately after the meeting.
Resident of Riverwood queried faded road markings around estate, and also mentioned abandoned cars.	FCC noted matter, and explained that local authority generates work programme from requests rather than inspections for lining matters.
Member of Briarwood Residents Association queried Garda resources on hand at present, and compared to 2008?	AGS outlined deployment of resources to match patterns of calls, and outlines crossover shifts. Depending on trends, specific operations may be put in place. When calls come into Command and Control Centre, they are evaluated and priority assessed. No published priority order as this is inflexible and doesn't allow AGS to respond based on urgency.
MEETING CONCLUDES	At meeting conclusion, Ch. Supt Wheatley noted that more Garda members are due to be assigned to district in June and again in September. Resourcing issues are being gradually addressed.

SUTTON MEETING – MARINE HOTEL – WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL 2018

Issue	Response
Member of the public queried CAB definitions of assets? Member of public queried CAB joint investigations?	CAB representative responded to a number of queries relating to the presentation
Resident of Abbey Park queried response times and repeated thefts of motorcycle from area	This was a detailed issue and AGS requested to speak to the person privately after the meeting.
Elected representative noted presentation on Cybersafety and queried if it is rolled out to older persons/active retirement groups?	AGS confirmed that presentation was made to schools and also Raheny area Age-Friendly group. Also confirmed they would be happy to make presentation to any other groups requesting it.
Resident of Balscadden Road queried use of CCTV for investigating car break-ins?	AGS noted that that location is used by visitors and tourists to the area, and they may leave items on display in the car. Thefts from vehicles mainly targeted at vans in anticipation of expensive work tools/items. AGS operations to tackle vehicle break-ins. RE CCTV, FCC noted that systems are expensive to monitor and there are unresolved issues over governance and data privacy.
Representative of Abbey Park Residents Association noted that there was an increase in attempted break-ins in area.	AGS requested to speak privately after the meeting.
Member of public queried legal position on bullying?	AGS outlined general description of bullying and that all efforts are made to apply legislation to address problems. Noted that new legislation is due, and will include clearer definitions.
Member of the public queried nuisance calls received by older persons?	AGS noted that calls originate overseas (Africa/Eastern Europe etc) and smartphones will show the international dial code number. Advise that if the number isn't recognized, don't answer it. If answered, the call used reverse charge calls for money fraud.
Question from member of public re statistics on drug seizures.	AGS clarified difference between personal use and other, and noted that some incidences are visitors to the area.
Query from member of the public about AGS continuous development? And Local Authority continuous development.	AGS confirm CPD is part of training and ongoing training for all members at Templemore and Harcourt St. Noted that AGS work with and co-operate with other forces i.e. PSNI, UK Police Forces, Europol etc in relation to training and knowledge exchange. Noted that every organization is continually improving.
Query from member of the public regarding stray horses between Baldoyle and Portmarnock.	FCC addressed this matter, Control of Horses is local authority matter, where horses are on extensive lands, it can be difficult to round them up. Landowner has responsibility to secure lands.
Question from member of the public regarding burglaries at houses with or without alarms.	AGS do not have specific figures relating to house burglaries with/without alarms.
Elected representative noted that previous summer months resulted in youths gathering on beaches.	AGS/FCC assured that seasonal policing plan is in place and is improved upon each year. Regular liaison with Dublin Bus/Irish Rail, any alcohol is confiscated and word spreads quickly.
Query from member of the public regarding diving boards at Balscadden	AGS noted that this is an issue and have been in contact with person who put up boards. Could be responsible if anyone is injured, Department of Marine to enforce removal of boards. People putting them up know how to use them, but visitors could be attracted to them.
MEETING CONCLUDES	Ch. Supt Curran noted that 14 new members will be assigned to the district in June.

NORTH COUNTY MEETING – BRACKEN COURT HOTEL BALBRIGGAN – WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL 2018

Issue	Response
Query from member of the public regarding setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Attempted to previously establish a group.	AGS asked to speak after meeting
Query re St. Georges School and Castlemill Road, dangerous driving, particularly at school times.	AGS confirms School Wardens have power to stop traffic, described Garda Operation in different district which addressed problem of cars driving on footpath at school drop-off/pick-up times. Noted that difficulty with prosecutions is no visible tickets to act as deterrent to other drivers.
Resident of Castleland Court noted that Train Station is unmanned at nighttime, ASB in area and no security.	Chairman noted that Irish Rail have been contacted by the JPC regarding unmanned stations, and they are invited to next Committee meeting to address matter.
Representative of Naul Road Safety Group raised matter of driver behavior on rural roads. People walking on roads & driver behavior incl. using mobile phones.	AGS noted that road traffic in rural areas including Naul is an ongoing issue and AGS attend local meetings. Plans to have extra Garda based at Garristown in near future, and this may address problem.
Representative of Skerries Youth Support Services noted complaints about cocaine use in the town and queried if any plans for any Comm. Gardai for Skerries	AGS confirm that increased cocaine use is evident, it will take some time to get Drugs Unit properly resourced again and noted that this type of work is not carried out by uniformed members. Plans to have extra Gardai in Skerries area in near future. Noted that there is a shortage of supervisory (sergeant) grades across the Division, but hope to have that addressed by year end.
Query from resident of Skerries regarding a vacant house in his locality and it being used for ASB.	AGS requested to speak privately at conclusion of meeting and confirmed that all Gardai, not just Drugs Unit, have role to play.
Resident of Balbriggan stated that ASB issues in vicinity of Dunnes Stores are getting worse.	AGS confirmed they are aware of on-going issues and requested to speak privately at the conclusion of the meeting.
Resident of Balbriggan described harassment experienced by her.	AGS requested to speak privately at the conclusion of the meeting.
Resident of Rush noted references to re-opening Rush Garda Station in media etc. Queried if same level of Community Policing in towns of similar size?	AGS confirmed that policing services delivered to Rush from Lusk station. Unclear what intentions there are in the future for Rush Station, noted that a full complement of staff/resources would be required to re-open station.
Member of Ballyboughal Community Council noted Community Text Alert system well used, but commented on increase in theft of tools and re-sale at local markets.	AGS noted accepted practice of “buying back tools” and indicated this contributed to problem. Garda operation with Ballymun Division at markets, AGS need people to report theft and not just buy back.
Member of the public from Lusk referred to ASB in Lusk estate and queried if AGS could attend in plain clothes.	AGS noted matter.
MEETING CONCLUDES	

SWORDS/MALAHIDE MEETING – CARNEGIE COURT HOTEL SWORDS – WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL 2018

Issue	Response
Resident of Malahide welcomed extension to opening hours at Malahide Garda Station	AGS confirm intention to extend opening hours in Malahide Garda Station, pending resources approval from Garda HQ. Noted old public office had to be changed due to H&S requirements.
Representative of Seabury Residents Association queried implications of private CCTV showing incident broadcast on facebook?	AGS agreed CCTV is very useful tool for investigations, but there are significant issues around Data Protection and making material public. Outlined if residents see suspicious movements, call AGS, and they will review CCTV. Noted that AGS also use material from Dashcams.
Resident of Malahide queried Text Alert System?	AGS fully supportive of Text Alert systems. Changes in staffing in Malahide may have impacted on continuity of service, this will be addressed.
Resident of Rathbeale Road Swords outlined problem cyclists using footpaths. Suggested additional signage, and driver feedback signage.	AGS confirmed that where signage is in place they can enforce. Requested resident to contact Community Policing Unit in Swords with details of pattern (time/day etc) and AGS will work from that.
Resident of Seabury Malahide queried statistics provided and noted CSO statements on matter	AGS confirm figures are as reported to Gardai, but note that there are incidents where crime is committed and not reported to Gardai. Outlined daily management meeting for district where all incidents over previous 24 hours are reviewed. Outlined some upgrades/enhancements to PULSE system.
Resident of The Links Donabate noted Community Policing service was very good, and queried Garda management plans for growth in area over next 5-10 years?	AGS gave brief update on overall Garda figures and intention is to reach 15,000 by 2021, with annual intake of 800, an additional 400 civilians and 200 Reserve Gardai. Current numbers low on supervisory grades (Sergeant/Inspector). Noted that figures lean more to Dublin City Centre, large population, many tourists, issues very visibly reported.
Member of the public noted traffic issues at Donabate for events in Newbridge Demesne – mentioned Flavours of Fingal.	AGS agreed that traffic management around large events at Newbridge Demesne was ongoing, and lessons learned from each event. Joint review between AGS and FCC after 2017 events, and recommendations now included for 2018 traffic management.
Elected representative noted Garda Clinic at Donabate worked well but low numbers attending didn't justify continuing. Noted summer season will be busy.	AGS confirmed clinic ran for approx. 9 months including adjusting the times to evening times, but low attendances didn't justify committing resources. Preferable to have Gardai patrolling and not indoors at clinic.
Elected representative queried current issues over Referendum posters.	FCC confirmed poster causing either pedestrian hazard or road safety (visibility) issue are removed by local authority. Posters with no name of organization may be removed by AGS.
Elected representative queried works at Airport and impact on local residents. Confusion between APFS and AGS as to correct authority	AGS confirmed that APFS responsibility is of bye-law level and lies inside Airport perimeter and AGS are statutory agency for outside perimeter. Airport is in Ballymun district, but patrolled out of Coolock, anomaly raised with Garda HQ and hope to have review completed.
Elected representative queried statistics on domestic violence noting third parties will report other crimes.	AGS outlined issues around third party reporting DV, and any time children are involved the incident is referred to TUSLA.
Resident of Malahide commented on summer concerts in Malahide Castle, in 2017 people remained in village and not enough transport	AGS noted pre-event planning meetings take place and for 2018 Dublin Bus and Irish Rail will provide additional and later services to bring concert goers out of Malahide village. If public transport providers cannot provide service, then concert promoter has to do so.
Elected representative outlined a list of issues compiled in advance of the meeting from emails from members of the public	Issues noted for follow up by FCC and AGS. AGS addressed matter of bogus callers.

SWORDS/MALAHIDE MEETING – CARNEGIE COURT HOTEL SWORDS – WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL 2018

Elected representative queried powers of Park Rangers in Malahide Demesne.	FCC noted this is the only park with dedicated ranger service (mobile ranger service at all other parks). Outlined powers available to rangers under Parks Bye-Laws.
Resident of Longlands Swords noted temporary events at Pavilions SC land caused nuisance to residents and queried if any permissions granted?	FCC clarified that temporary events under a certain number do not need planning permission, and if on private land they do not need permission of the Council. Noise disturbance can be reported to EPA but may not be practical.
MEETING CONCLUDES	