

Fingal Joint Policing Committee Report on Series of Public Meetings held in April 2017



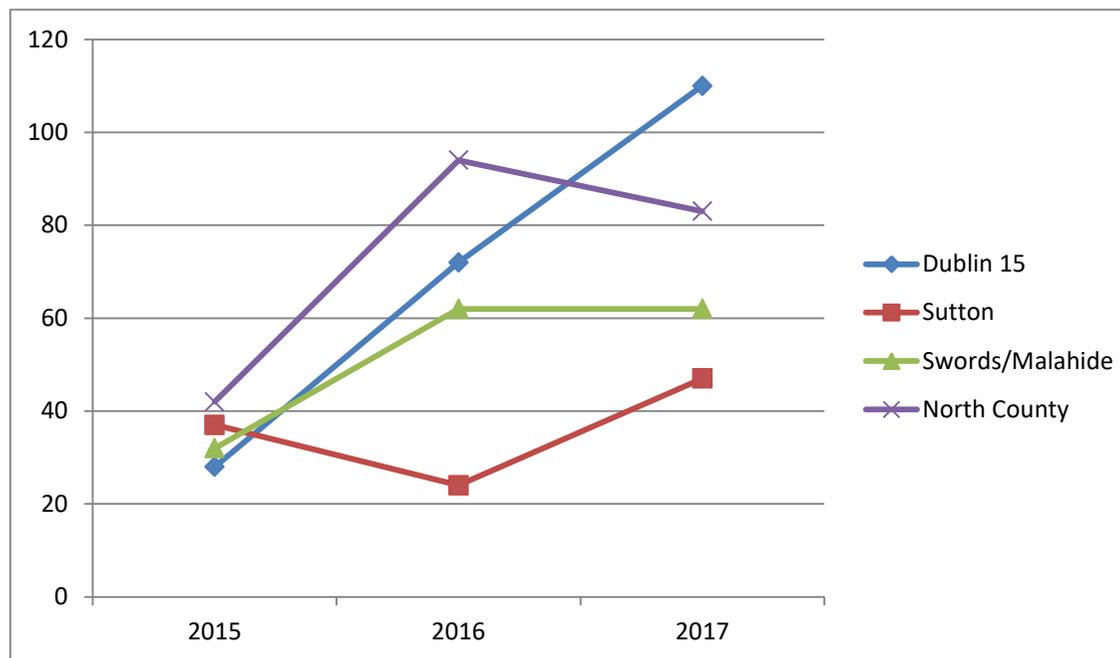
The series of 2017 Joint Policing Committee Public Meetings concluded on Wednesday 26th April 2017, with the North County meeting for Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush, Lusk, Garristown, Naul, Oldtown and areas, which took place in the Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan.

The other meetings were held on Wednesday 5th April at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown for Dublin 15 area; on Wednesday 12th April at the Marine Hotel Sutton for Howth, Baldoyle, Sutton areas; and on Wednesday 19th April at the Grand Hotel Malahide for Swords/Malahide, Portrane, Donabate, Portmarnock areas. All meetings were very well attended by members of the public, An Garda Síochána, Local Authority staff and Elected Representatives (including Oireachtas members).

In 2017, 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. In 2016, the information leaflet was in English and Irish only, and circulated to approx. 55,000 homes across the county.

Following the series of Public Meetings, any attendees who provided a contact email address were invited to participate in a short feedback survey. The results of this are on P13

Attendances have been very positive year on year from 2015/2016/2017 with the following table showing the changes.



Year	Dublin 15	North County	Sutton	Swords/Malahide
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
Notes	2015 meeting held in Mulhuddart Community Centre, 2016/2017 meetings held at more central venue of Crowne Plaza Hotel.	2015 meeting held at Combined Clubs hall. 2016/2017 meetings held at Bracken Court Hotel.	All meetings held at Marine Hotel Sutton.	2015 meeting held at Malahide Library. 2016 meeting held at Carnegie Court Hotel Swords, and 2017 meeting at Grand Hotel Malahide.

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 addition, Garda personnel from Traffic, Community Policing, and Drugs Units also attend, where local issues dictate. The 2017 Public Meetings were chaired by Cllr Kieran Dennison, Chairperson of the JPC.

Each meeting commenced with a short 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, a presentation was also made by Sgt. Dave McInerney from the Garda Diversity Office, on the topic of Ethnic Policing and Integration matters. At each meeting Crime Prevention advice was then provided based on prevalent crimes in the area. In 2017, the key issues 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 5TH APRIL 2017

Issue	Response	Update (if any)
Resident of Glenville noted problems with parking/traffic at school drop off/pick up times, particularly in regard to emergency vehicles access.	AGS acknowledged that this is a problem in many areas and locations, and undertook to look at this specific area and monitor parking/traffic matters.	Traffic and Community Police members continue to monitor parking at schools in particular morning times when issue is most problematic
Attendee queried how many nationalities were represented in AGS	60 members in full-time force, and 110 Garda Reserves from different nationalities. Noted that age limits apply, and many people are working with little free time.	
Residents of College Grove noted historic issue of DYLS, parking problems and response times by AGS when called out.	Chair of JPC noted that this issue had been raised and discussed many times at Area Committee stage and AGS acknowledged matter and requested to speak privately to residents after meeting. Residents left before public meeting concluded.	
Resident of Riverwood commented on diversity/ethnic presentation and noted a need for more resources particularly	AGS advised that additional hours were approved to get Gardai out and about, and more visible, but will also look at this specific area to see if further measures can be put in place.	
Resident of Delwood noted that school parking was a problem, and mentioned Garda mountain bikes as very effective.	AGS undertook to monitor	Traffic and Community Police members continue to monitor parking at schools in particular morning times when issue is most problematic
Representative of My Lovely Horse organization raised issue of urban abandoned horses on open space.	FCC noted the very successful Horse Project at Dunsink, and that abandoned horses in urban areas should be reported to DSPCS. Local Authority use contractor to remove from public open space. Requested to speak privately after the meeting.	
Resident of Briarswood/Woodlands/Huntstown area noted Garda resourcing issues.	AGS advised staffing numbers for Blanchardstown District and noted that recruitment was in progress but vacancies will take time to fill to bring units up to strength.	
Resident of Tyrrelstown commented on ASB, carried out by small group of youths in area.	AGS advised there is a high profile AGS presence in the area, and that the Public Order unit was deployed for a specific event. AGS are working with local Residents Associations and Community Groups to tackle this matter.	As reported at meeting AGS continue to assign resources to this area and the increased presence has received favorable comment from local residents. Meeting continue with stakeholders including FCC and Tyrrelstown Development Group with objective of restoring public confidence and Community spirit in the area
Resident of Tyrrelstown enquired what options FCC have to deal with absentee landlords?	FCC noted that where there is a Council tenancy, there is a robust ASB strategy. Private rented properties are a matter for AGS and the PRTB can take actions.	
Resident of Woodbrook noted offensive graffiti in foreign language	FCC noted that Graffiti can be dealt with on public property by the Local Authority.	
Resident of Tyrrelstown commented on numbers	FCC outlined that private landlords have responsibilities to their tenants, and to	

of social/RAS tenants in area.	the community, and this instance was clearly the responsibility of the landlord. Where the landlord is not contactable, the PRTB can deal with issues. The Chair of the JPC noted that there are effective mechanisms through the District Courts.	
Resident of Castleknock Close noted that many private rented properties result in numbers of vehicles belonging to the tenants, and that residents parking becomes problematic.	FCC advise that parking is permitted on public roads, and AGS can take action only if it is causing a danger/obstruction.	
Representative of Blanchardstown First Responders noted that defibrillator equipment was presented to AGS for community use.	This was acknowledged by all attendees.	
Representative from Dromheath Residents Association noted some ASB issues in area	Noted by AGS.	This matter is being followed up by FCC/AGS
Resident of Waterville noted that the local Park was perceived unsafe, with empty cans etc, and ASB at local Spar	Noted by AGS.	
Public representatives in the audience made a number of comments either in support of matters raised, or to clarify certain topics.	Noted by all attendees.	
Attendee noted the problem of abandoned cars in residential estates, and how can they be dealt with.	AGS advised that where a car is not legally valid to be on a public road it can be removed, and that the Local Authority also have powers to remove abandoned vehicles.	FCC currently reviewing its policy on this matter and a report will be brought to the Council when the review is complete.
Resident of Briarwood noted that a property had 3 abandoned cars in the front garden.	FCC noted the details – to be followed up.	As reported at the meeting AGS have no powers in respect of vehicles parked on private property.

SUTTON MEETING – MARINE HOTEL – WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL 2017

Issue	Response	Update (if any)
Resident of Baldoye noted attractiveness of local amenities and queried how to police area to make it safe for locals and visitors	AGS outlined Operation Irene for seasonal policing issues. AGS aware of flashpoints i.e. end of school year/Leaving Cert etc. Also take account of weather forecasts, and intelligence from other agencies i.e. Dublin Bus/Irish Rail	

	<p>etc. Monitor social media, and roster accordingly to deal with issues which might arise. In certain cases use discretion as arrests will take Gardai away from location. Community Garda deal with low-level issues and involve parents if appropriate.</p> <p>AGS work closely with Howth Harbourmaster in that location. Noted that Public Order policing is labour intensive, and better to anticipate the possible issues and deal with them before they arise.</p>	
Resident noted that when AGS are present there are very few ASB / Public Order issues, when they are not present, it can be a problem.	AGS noted, and requested resident to contact them directly.	
Resident noted that outside of summer season, sometimes businesses downplay ASB as they don't want it to affect visitors/business. Mentioned East Pier Howth.	AGS advised that overtime is prioritised and resources are frontloaded to the times where there is a known likelihood of problems. Noted the specific area referred to and agreed to monitor	
Attendee described incident of vandalism at large boulders in Sutton and noted that FCC attended to matter promptly when it was reported.	FCC acknowledged the issue, and advised attendees that any legitimate works will be identifiable by either a Council branded van, or staff wearing Council branded clothing. Any doubts as to works being carried out, residents should contact the council for clarification and if it is not legitimate works, it will be dealt with.	
Representative of Howth/Sutton Community Council noted that buses travelling along Hill of Howth can be restricted by poor parking. Outlined example of ESB poles locations contributing to poor parking, and buses not being able to get past.	FCC agreed to look at this location and to consult with AGS to see if extended DYLS would be of benefit to keeping the roadway clear for larger vehicles (buses).	
Resident of Sutton noted that drivers are speeding along the Greenfield Road/Church Road coming from Baldoyle direction. Suggested additional signage due to school children in vicinity.	AGS acknowledged that there is a large volume of traffic in the area, and outlined results of a FCC speed survey which indicated satisfactory compliance with the speed limits in the area. Acknowledged that there are a small number of drivers with poor driver behaviours. Noted that there are some traffic management solutions i.e. anti-skid and VMS signs that are effective. AGS not keen to use ramps/speed cushions for traffic management as can cause more problems in residential areas due to excess noise when used. FCC also agreed to look at these areas again, as not aware of the level of the problem. Additional lining may help also.	
Resident of Sutton commented on school buses (serving Santa Sabina) restricting residents from entering/leaving their houses by blocking access	AGS will raise this matter with School Management .	
Resident of The Coast estate Baldoyle noted that Clongriffin Dart Station was unmanned and was the location for increasing ASB.	AGS noted that Clongriffin is policed out of Coolock District, and agreed to follow up. AGS are aware of incidents and do follow up, but sometimes the activity is in secluded area. Also noted safety aspects of pursuing people in vicinity of rail line. AGS have regular meetings with Irish Rail and since major recent issue at Clongriffin, the structure was to be repaired with a more robust	

	<p>material. Original design of station was to be manned at all times, design not conducive to unmanned status.</p> <p>AGS expressed concern at corporate decisions taken by other agencies (i.e. Irish Rail) to cut budgets by leaving stations unmanned, when public order/ASB issues now have to be attended to by AGS, causing a drain on scarce Garda Resources.</p>	
<p>Resident of Sutton Park commented on older teenagers playing football on the road in the estate every evening.</p>	<p>AGS undertook to follow up and monitor this matter. Confirmed that Community Garda would attend to this.</p>	
<p>Resident of Sarto Park commented that teenagers playing football on the road were making it difficult for residents to park on the road.</p>	<p>AGS undertook to follow up and monitor. Agreed that this is a quality of life matter, and requested to speak privately to the resident after the meeting.</p>	
<p>Resident of Strand Road Baldoyle raised matter of no pedestrian crossing between Baldoyle Church and Sutton Cross. Traffic backs up due to level crossing no opportunity for pedestrians to cross.</p>	<p>FCC to follow up and look at this location to see if there are any measures which could be implemented.</p>	
<p>Resident raised general issue of speeding – said that speed readers were not precise and felt that they understated the speed of drivers.</p>	<p>FCC to follow up and check speed readers.</p>	

SWORDS/MALAHIDE MEETING – GRAND HOTEL MALAHIDE – WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL 2017

Issue	Response	Update (if any)
Resident of Malahide noted resourcing issue, and queried if reduction in reported crime was due to lack of reporting or reduction in crime?	AGS noted that they can only respond to what is reported to them. Lack of reporting of crime may be down to owners decision that low value item doesn't warrant report and investigation.	
Elected representative commented on youths congregating in town centre of Donabate.	AGS acknowledged that Donabate/Portrane peninsula is a concern for AGS and are ensuring that it remains a priority for policing out of Swords District. Where possible, overtime facilitates additional available resources to patrol.	
Attendee queried if there is anything the public can do to assist the Gardai i.e. lobby politicians to improve resources	AGS acknowledged the comment, and outlined the particular constraints around a backlog of understaffing, recruiting, back-filling posts due to retirements/promotions or transfers to national units. Noted that the matter needs to be continuously articulated to elected representatives.	
Resident of The Rise commented on FCC current specific public consultation on traffic management.	FCC clarified the matter and confirmed that AGS are consulted on traffic management and are part of the discussion.	
Resident of Donabate noted Garda Clinic at Community Centre very welcome and requested extended hours.	AGS agreed to look at options to offer other days or times in conjunction with shift overlap opportunities.	Current operation of Clinic will be reviewed in June. Consideration will be given to adjusting hours to facilitate evening clinic.
Resident of Donabate raised matter of youth ASB in area.	AGS outlined measures taken to deal with ASB, and how it is monitored. Noted that there is a concern that teenagers will not give information to AGS and that it is important for parents to be vigilant and to report any information or details to AGS.	
Representative of Swords Tidy Towns commented on graffiti on shop fronts and utility boxes, and noted ASB around Castle S.C Swords	FCC outlined that business owners and utility companies have responsibility to ensure that their property is not graffitied. AGS noted that no record or report of ASB at Castle S.C. received by them.	
Resident of Seabury commented that parents should check children's school books as graffiti tags are often practiced there.	Noted by all attendees.	
Resident of Donabate/Portrane referred to recent issue at train station.	AGS outlined their concerns with unmanned train stations, and confirmed that they are liaising with Irish Rail on a number of rail-related issues. Noted that youths involved in this incident were not from the area.	This matter is still ongoing. Awaiting further discussion with Irish Rail.
Resident of Malahide suggested that train station operators be requested to install high quality CCTV.	AGS noted and commented that CCTV is useful, and that there are proposals for a "netwatch" type scheme.	
Elected Representative noted that role of Oireachtas members is to furnish resources. Requested clarification on "end-of-life" Garda cars	AGS clarified the situation regarding Garda vehicles, refers to unmarked vehicles which are not routinely replaced like marked patrol cars. Most of the fleet are 2005/2006/2007, and will all be out of service at the same time. There are no resources to replace these as required.	
Attendee queried possibility of extending opening hours at Malahide Garda Station.	AGS commented that if possible extended hours would be considered, but the balance with taking someone off patrol to man the station would have to be	

	taken into account.	
A number of attendees asked for clarification on Garda numbers for Swords/Malahide district as referred to in the opening presentation	AGS clarified all numbers and different circumstances which could impact on staffing.	
Resident of Kinsealy referred to some particular incidences where AGS did not attend to call out. Stated that criminals are getting bolder all the time.	AGS acknowledge matter and requested to speak privately at the end of the meeting.	
Elected representative raised a number of issues in the Donabate/Portrane area: if Garda Clinic is carried out on overtime, is that sustainable? Traffic in the village is causing problems, Local Supermarket has off-licence positioned at front door.	AGS confirmed they have been in contact with local supermarket regarding the positioning of alcohol in the shop, and in relation to traffic in the village, although parking fines are managed by FCPN, Gardai on patrol have placed notices on vehicles that have received fines, to act as a deterrent to other drivers. Clinic is not all managed on overtime, shift overlap facilitates it.	
Elected representative raised topic of abandoned cars in residential areas.	AGS advised that where a car is not legally valid to be on a public road it can be removed, and that the Local Authority also have powers to remove abandoned vehicles.	
Elected representative raised topic of CCTV for Malahide, and queried AGS resources.	AGS stated they are supportive of CCTV, and clarified the resourcing matter in relation to full-time Gardai and civilians carrying out office duties.	

NORTH COUNTY MEETING – BRACKEN COURT HOTEL BALBRIGGAN – WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2017

Issue	Response	Update (if any)
Resident of Castleland raised issue of burglaries. At meeting last year suggested Neighbourhood Watch scheme, but has had no update.	AGS stated that break-ins are a problem across all areas, and can be mainly opportunistic. AGS concentrate patrols in risk areas. Outlined some basic tips i.e. not leaving property visible in cars, ensuring car keys are not accessible from	

	letterbox. Also movement-activated lights are useful. Requested to speak to resident privately after the meeting in relation to Neighbourhood Watch.	
Resident of Fulham Green raised matter of lack of security, and request to FCC for boundary fencing around open space.	FCC confirmed that they are aware of the matter and requested to speak privately to the residents at the end of the meeting.	
Attendee raised matter of statistics relating to ethnic diversity and integration	AGS confirmed that CSO figures are available, and there are a number of Garda programmes to promote and support integration. All Gardai are trained in the Liaison code. FCC noted that Local Authority Community Department may have useful figures.	
Resident of Balbriggan referred to racial attack .	AGS confirmed that they are aware of the matter and that they have had meetings with the person involved and that he will be kept informed of any developments	
Resident of Chieftains estate commented on ASB, with car windscreens being broken at Halloween. Sent in request for Neighbourhood Watch and has not had update.	AGS requested to speak privately at end of the meeting in relation to NW scheme.	
Resident of Dun Saithne estate commented on ASB, and particularly damage to playgrounds	AGS noted that the age profile of Balbriggan was quite young, and there are many different youth projects, schools programmes. Outlined services such as Youth Service/JLO programme. Preference is to divert youth away from ASB and into programmes rather than justice system of courts/prisons.	
Resident of Skerries Road raised issue of ASB at nightclub in Balbriggan.	AGS aware of issues, there has been a change of ownership for the nightclub. AGS to follow up with plain-clothes unit, and monitor situation. AGS will also liaise with nightclub management. Noted that licence renewal period is in September and any resident may lodge an objection at that time.	
Resident of Balbriggan asked question about allocation of resources	AGS clarified that new intake Gardai are spread across Division and then to Districts, and are allocated where most needed. Priority is to maintain baseline policing and then when that is reached to then allocate based on demand.	
Resident of Moylaragh called for Elected representatives to ensure resources made available where needed.	Noted by all attendees	
Resident of Balbriggan stated that ASB over past 4 years increased, and is unhappy with AGS response everytime station is contacted.	AGS asked to speak privately at the end of the meeting.	
Representative of Property Management Company stated that many estates are privately managed and ones taken in charge by FCC are not maintained.	FCC agreed to follow up on issue and requested to speak privately to attendee at end of the meeting.	FCC confirmed that estates specifically mentioned are not taken in charge, and remain the responsibility of the developer / management company
Resident of Lusk mentioned petition last year to have Lusk Garda Station re-opened. Seeking update	AGS confirmed no plans to re-open Lusk GS. Also noted concerns that re-opening Garda Stations without providing additional staff members will result in having to withdraw Gardai from patrol to man the station, if this is managed	

	within existing resources.	
Resident of Rush commented on ASB in Rush particularly drinking in open spaces.	AGS confirmed that personnel assigned to Rush area after station closure has been reduced due to retirements. Closure of Rush Garda Station was not AGS decision, but had to be implemented by AGS. AGS encouraged people to continue to report issues, as lack of reporting can be perceived as no need for extra resources.	
Resident of Glebe Crescent stated that there are parking problems at the estate and requested that AGS/FCC would look into it.	FCC agreed to follow up on issue and requested to speak privately to attendee at the end of the meeting.	Glebe Crescent is not taken in charge by the Local Authority. Parking issues are a matter for the developer/management company.
Representative of Fingal County Council Community Department commented on attendance and outlined how Community Department can assist groups.	Noted by all attendees.	
Resident of Seapoint commented on speed limit of 50kph and requested speed survey from FCC	Noted by FCC	
Resident of Fancourt Heights also commented on speed limits along road. Stated drivers were going to fast.	Noted by FCC	
Resident of Trimlestown mentioned ASB in area and commented that age group is 13-15.	AGS clarified that age group is suited to JLO Programme. Clarified some incorrect information resident had previously received from Gardai.	
Resident from Huntstown also commented on speed limits and on previous discussion on nightclub.	FCC requested to speak privately at the end of the meeting.	
Resident of Vauxhall Street commented on youths aged 17-18 involved in ASB and harassment.	AGS reiterated previous information in relation to youth programmes.	
Resident of Fulham Green noted that parking issues occur at pick-up/drop off times at Chapel Street School.	FCC to follow up on parking issues, and examine any solutions to cars driving between bollards as reported.	
Resident of Moylaragh commented on previous discussion on nightclub and suggested CCTV link to Garda Station	AGS clarified resourcing issue manning CCTV	
Resident of Balbriggan commented on unmanned train station and daughter doesn't feel safe walking there at night.	AGS outlined concerns held over unmanned train stations, and confirmed that they are liaising with Irish Rail. Also confirmed that once it's brought to Garda attention about personal safety concerns, then patrols are requested to cover it on their route.	

Feedback Survey on Joint Policing Committee Public Meetings

- Almost 300 people attended the combined 4 public meetings, and of them, 112 left a contact email address. 112 people were invited to participate in the Feedback Survey between 12th May and 17th May and **37** people took the survey.
- Age profile of attendees: 31-49 – 9 people **50-64 – 20 people** Over 65 – 8 people
- Gender was evenly split at Male – 18; Female 18 and 1 respondent ticked “prefer not to say”
- 14 people attended the Dublin 15 Meeting; 7 people attended the Sutton Meeting; 13 people attended the Swords / Malahide Meeting
3 people attended the North County Meeting

- 16 people indicated they had previously attended a JPC meeting, and 21 indicated they had not previously attended a JPC meeting.
- How did you hear about the meeting?
Leaflet delivered to home – 12 Via the Gardai – 3 PPN or Community Group – 7 Word of mouth – 7 Other – 8
- 31 people travelled to the meetings in a private car, 4 used public transport, and 2 walked or cycled.
- All 37 respondents indicated that the time of the meeting 7.30pm-9pm suited them; however 3 people also indicated that 7.00pm-8.30pm suited better and 1 person indicated 8.00pm-9.30pm was their preference
- What did you think of the meeting?
29 selected “the meeting was informative and worthwhile attending”; 7 selected “ I asked a question or spoke privately to an official afterwards”; 1 person selected “The meeting was not useful to me”
- 35 respondents indicated that they would attend a JPC Public Meeting again, 2 people indicated “maybe” and no respondents say they would not attend again.
- Attendees at the Swords/Malahide and Balbriggan meetings were mostly happy with the venue. Dublin 15 venue was noted as too small, and poor sound, and Sutton venue was also indicated as poor sound. The majority of respondents indicated that they would like to be added to a mailing list (via email) for JPC related topics.