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COMMUNITY TIMES

COMUNIDLY LIWES



Gardaí Welcome Communities



An Garda Síochána | Working with Communities to Protect and Serve

COMMUNITY TIMES

eNEWSLETTER

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About this eNewsletter

We would like to thank everyone for comments and good practice material sent in.

THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO BE READ ONLINE. PLEASE DO NOT PRINT.

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of the Community Times eNewsletter.

As part of our service at Community Relations and Community Policing Division we are publishing a quarterly eNewsletter for the information of our partners representing such crime prevention initiatives as Community Alert, Neighbourhood Watch, Joint Policing Committees and Local Policing Fora.

It will keep you up to date with important developments, news and events happening in the area of Community Policing.

We continue to celebrate our engagement with the communities in which we serve, through information and articles of interest as well as examples of good practice from around the country.

These innovative examples of good practice in crime prevention initiatives, submitted by Garda members involved in Community Relations duties and activities, will be added to a permanent database of 'Good practice Initiatives' to be utilised by Community Policing Units nationwide.

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On the Cover...

Picture taken at the Intercultural Open held at Mullingar Garda Station in November 2011.



Working With Communities



Neighbourhood Watch Signs are a very useful means of promoting crime prevention. In the previous issue we examined how important it is to ensure that existing signs are maintained and replaced, as necessary. However, what do you do if you need to apply for a new sign to be placed on a public Street?

Ask your Liaison Garda for a N.W. 3 Form, which they can obtain directly from the Garda Portal. The form is self explanatory, and must be accompanied by a map of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (A Google style map will suffice).

Each Neighbourhood Watch Sign costs €32.50 plus vat and they can be obtained from Rennicks, Kilbride, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15, telephone 01-8859200. This price represents a 30% discount and the manufacturer has agreed to hold this price until 31st May 2012 to assist in promoting Neighbourhood Watch.

You should normally expect to get word from your Local Authority within one month of submission of the completed form. Once the N.W. 3 form has been submitted by the Liaison Garda it is transmitted to Garda Community Relations & Community Policing for verification. The verified N.W. 3 form is then sent to your Local Authority who will contact the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator named on the N.W. 3 form.

Agreement was reached with the Department of Environment whereby any public liability issues arising from the

placing of Neighbourhood Watch signs in public places would be covered by the Local Authority, so long as the Local Authority erected such signs. This is a very important concession.

If you live in a housing complex that is still privately controlled the signs can be obtained directly from Rennicks and placed by the Management Company at their discretion within the private confines of the estate. So unless your Local Authority has taken possession of your Neighbourhood Watch Scheme area then it will be necessary to follow this advice and erect your own signs. Please do not complete a N.W. 3 form in this case.

A few tips;

- Get value for money and reposition redundant signs. Otherwise buy a minimum number of signs and place them at principal entrances to your scheme area.
- Obtain local sponsorship for the Neighbourhood Watch signs from local business.

Community Alert Signs - New Look

A year ago saw the formation of a new Community Alert Group Lattin, Cullen and Solohead, just outside Tipperary Town, as a response to a number of burglaries in the areas. A number of people got together with local Gardaí to form the Lattin/Cullen/Solohead Community Alert Group. The Garda Liaison Officer is Sergeant Paul Dennehy. As with all

Community Alert groups throughout the country, they received tremendous support from Muintir na Tire.

One of the first projects which they undertook was to erect Community Alert Signs in the area. The group have a lot of younger people involved and it was from the younger members of the group, that the initiative to design a new type of sign was suggested. It was decided that the signs would differ from the more traditional type of sign which we have become accustomed to seeing on our roadways.

Local Gardaí in Tipperary encouraged the venture as they saw this as an opportunity for the whole community to take stronger ownership of the signs and also recognised that a move away from the more traditional sign would indicate the existence of a very active and modern thinking group.

The signs were officially launched on the 8th of October last, by Mr Tom Hayes T.D. for Tipperary South during a Family Safety Afternoon which was organised by the group along with the Gardaí in Tipperary Town.



Clare 'Beat The Streets' Soccer

The 'Beat the Streets' soccer initiative began in the inner city area of Dublin for disadvantaged kids and was introduced to the Clare Division three years ago by Garda O'Brien who runs the annual event in the Shannon Sub-District.

The event which is very popular with the youths from the Shannon area has seen International Soccer Legend Ray Houghton attending in the past. Last years "Beat the Streets" started on Friday the 4th of November and concluded on Friday the 25th of November. The tournament accommodates 4th, 5th and 6th year students attending both Secondary Schools and Youth Reach Projects in the Shannon area.

The event is designed to include youths from all segments of society from the Shannon and surrounding area, including youths from local soccer clubs and youths that are not part of clubs and don't normally get to play sport in a controlled environment.

Last year over 100 teenagers from Shannon and the surrounding areas took part in the league seeking to claim the title as Shannon 'Beat the Streets' Champions. The teams

represent their area in 5-side games over the 4 week period in teams of 8. They name the teams after their local areas which they then represent. The winning team received a perpetual trophy sponsored by the Clare District Soccer League and 8 tickets to an Ireland International Soccer Match in the Aviva Stadium sponsored by the FAI.

Shannon "Beat the Streets" is a prime example of how a community based initiative can provide an alternative activity for teenagers in the Shannon and surrounding areas during the winter months. The advantages of having youths involved in sport cannot be under estimated. 'Beat the Streets' provides an alternative activity on Friday nights to loitering in the town and engaging in anti social behaviour which can be a nuisance and subject to a lot of complaints to the Garda Station. It also provides a platform where Gardaí can interact with the youths in a non confrontational

capacity.

Over the past three years as a result of "Beat the Streets" soccer tournament Garda O'Brien has succeeded in improving community relations with the youths in Shannon. Youths from all backgrounds take part.

Other agencies that assisted Garda O'Brien are The Order of Malta ambulance crew, Club members from Shannon Soccer clubs, and WolfTones GAA. This is a prime example of how community policing together with the various organisations in Shannon can come together for the benefit of the community.





Community Police Conference

Gardaí from Kevin Street hosted the DMR South Central Community Police Conference at the Mosque, South Circular Road last month (22nd February 2012). The theme of the Conference was “Second Generation Integration” and was attended by eighty Community Police from the DMR South Central Division.

Opening the Conference, Assistant Commissioner John Twomey welcomed participants to the Mosque and thanked the Imman for kindly allowing the Gardaí use of the Mosque for the conference. Assistant Commissioner Twomey believed that it was the first time throughout Europe that such a conference was held in a Mosque.

Chief Superintendent Michael O’Sullivan chaired the conference and recalled times he served abroad when meetings were adjourned by the Muslim call to Prayer. He described the conference as a unique event in An Garda Síochána and complimented Gardaí from the Division on how they had embraced other Cultures and their ability to forge strong links with the Community which was evident by holding this event in the Mosque.

The three hour conference heard from Mr Declan Hayden, Dublin City Council’s Office of Integration who spoke about the evolution of migration and outlined what his office does to facilitate migrants to the City. He said that Dublin City Council have a policy of “One City One People” and every effort is made to secure this image through the running of events such

as Dublin Chinese New Year, Experience Japan, Africa Day, Dublin Latin America and Dublin India Festival. Declan offered assistance to Gardaí in the organisation of events throughout the city.

Community Gardaí Jimmy Tao Yu, Pearse Street and Martha Radziul, & Mirel Basic, from Kevin Street spoke of how they migrated to Ireland and their experiences in joining and being accepted into An Garda Síochána.

Garda Catherine Byrne from the Garda National Diversity Office, HRM, explained about the office and how they have developed an internal Human Resources diversity policy.

Traditional refreshments were served and Community Police throughout the Division got an opportunity to meet each other and view the Mosque.

Garda Jonathan O’Mahony and Sergeant Alan Keane then addressed the group on the workings of the Garda Racial, Intercultural & Diversity Office and made a presentation to the group on Community Police Best Practices. They spoke about Court Practical’s, Knife Crime, Self Defence, Late Night Football Leagues, Garage Watch, Pre School Visits and Intercultural Open Days as an example of initiatives that could be replicated throughout the Division.

Mr Ken Mc Cur from Sports against Racism Ireland (SARI) spoke of the work being done by his organisation and the efforts to

bring people from all ethnic backgrounds together through sport. He said the focus was on second Generation families whose parents migrated to this Country fifteen to twenty years ago and are well established in the community.

Finally Somalian National and Community activist Ifrah Ahmed Hussain spoke of her experiences living and working in Ireland and in particular her work with Cairde, The African Centre, Somali Community Ireland and Integration of African Children in Ireland. Ifrah spoke of her interest in health issues and her efforts to bring about Legislation to prevent Female Genital Mutilation in this jurisdiction. A victim herself, Ifrah explained that the Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill 2011 was at its Second Stage and would probably become law before June 2012.

Chief Superintendent O’Sullivan closed the conference, thanking the organisers and speakers and hoped that those attending had benefited from the presentations and would be able to take something from the Conference to bring back to the communities they serve.

Article submitted by: Inspector Brendan Costello and Sergeant Michael Nagle.





Strategy For Older People

The Strategy for Older People, implemented during 2011 contributes directly to ensuring a peaceful community, by working with communities, and more specifically older people and those working with older people. It is underpinned by the National Model of Community Policing and the national Diversity Strategy, complementing and further developing existing support structures and communication methods already in place.

Within the strategy four key objectives were identified:

1. Develop and maintain effective communication links between Gardaí and older people
2. Deliver a timely and effective proactive response by An Garda Síochána for older people
3. Increase trust and confidence by lessening the fear of crime amongst older people
4. Determine and respond to the needs and expectations of older people on an ongoing basis.

Submissions in relation to these objectives were received from Garda Divisions nationally and reviewed.

Findings showed that around the country many 'tried and trusted' initiatives were successfully put in place.

These included such activities as: engagement with Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch groups, local media input, crime prevention advice, road safety advice, school visits and promotion of the Garda website.

In addition to these a number of innovative and unique initiatives were implemented around the country:

Feedback from the Community Fora has been included as a part of local policing plans.

Material from the Community Times newsletter and the Community Policing toolkit has been developed as part of an ongoing strategy to promote good practice.

A 'Friendly Caller' service to older people has been designed to ensure that a person living alone will have contact with a friendly caller 5 days a week. One of the most important aspects of this service is that when a person doesn't answer their phone, the friendly caller will ring one of their contact people.

Social media sites, such as Facebook, as well as community websites have been used by Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch groups to promote crime prevention.

Older person networks in consultation with partnership boards, local authority and senior citizen groups have been developed.

Consultation with An Post, clergy, public health nurses to identify vulnerable people.

A module on crime prevention in relation to older people has been included in CPD training.

Garda clinics are held for older people at appropriate centres.

Specific operations have been put in place to target criminal gangs engaged in crimes against older people.





'Don't Pour Your Dreams Away'

During September 2011, the 'Don't Pour Your Dreams Away' initiative was launched in County Monaghan, for the second year running. This campaign is run during the lead up to, and the week of, the Junior Certificate Results being released. The campaign's objective is to heighten awareness of the dangers of alcohol abuse around the time of the celebrations of the Junior Certificate results.

This campaign was run with the co-operation of Monaghan County Council Joint Policing Committee, the five town Joint Policing Committees, Community Policing Units in Carrickmacross and Monaghan, and the County's secondary schools. The campaign was run in Monaghan Town only in 2010 but due to its great success, all six JPCs came together to roll out the campaign throughout the county.

The initiative involved a 45 minute talk to students awaiting their Junior Certificate results. A member from Monaghan County Council's Community and Enterprise Section spoke about alcohol awareness and celebrating responsibility followed by a Community Garda discussing the law in relation to under-age drinking, procedure on arrest, and the Juvenile Liaison Scheme.

Posters were displayed in all of the schools and leaflets were distributed among the students. The approach adopted was to emphasise responsible behaviour and to talk with young people rather than at them, and this seems to have gone down well.

The campaign in 2010, was a huge success with a massive drop in incidents from the year before, from 40 incidents to 4 in Monaghan. The 2011 campaign also proved to be successful throughout the county with only three arrests in Monaghan Town.

This campaign received compliments from all parties within the Joint Policing Committees and from all the schools involved, and received great praise and recognition in the local papers. Some of the schools have requested that these talks are given to other students also which is being undertaken. Due to its success, it is proposed to continue this initiative every year.

Pictured are members of the Joint Policing Committee along with members of Community Policing Units:- (Left to right), Sgt Yvonne Martin, Monaghan, Sgt Ken Coughlan, Carrickmacross, Garda Stephen Carroll, Monaghan & Garda Margaret Olyphant, Monaghan.

Around The Country...



An intercultural open day was held in November 2011 at Mullingar Garda Station. It was an excellent event, enjoyed by both the public and the Gardaí. Feedback from the community since the event has been very positive. A full Garda Open Day is now planned for later this year on the back of this success.



On the 27th of November, 2011 Garda John O'Shea attended The Special Olympics Ireland Bowling tournament in Stillorgan featuring teams from Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare with over 150 participating athletes. The occasion was a great opportunity to raise much needed funds for Special Olympics Ireland. Blackrock Community Gardaí are actively involved in this event and along with organiser Chris Mackey, they are hoping it will be run annually.



On the 7th February Tralee Community Policing Unit & Students Union organised a Road Traffic Collision Demonstration at the Institute of Technology College Tralee as part of the Road Safety Week in the college. The Community Police played the role of the Gardaí attending the scene of the collision and presented information about drink driving and fatal collisions.



On Saturday, 29th October 2011, the Kerry Garda Ladies took on the Tralee Ladies Rugby Squad in a football match for the Carmel O'Connor Memorial Shield. The Memorial Shield began in 2006 to remember our Colleague Carmel O'Connor who sadly passed away after a battle with illness. Carmel was stationed in Listowel Garda Station. €300 in donations was raised on the day for Adapt, Kerry Women's Refuge and Support Services. The event was supported by Gardaí from the four Garda Districts in Kerry. Carmel's daughter Ruth lined out on the Garda team.



Gardaí in the Cahir held the Older Persons party on the 20th of January 2012. Members from the six stations in District; Cahir, Cashel, New Inn, Ardfinnan, Clogheen & Ballyporeen assisted in the function. Over 300 people attended. The help of young people from Colaiste Dun Iascaigh & from the 7th Tipperary (Cahir) Scout Group was greatly appreciated. The event began 12 years ago as a joint event between An Garda Síochána, the local Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch.



In September 2011, 40 Gardaí from Kilkenny and Carlow did a 100km cycle from Kilkenny to Carlow and back through towns and villages, raising money along the way and also through sponsorship. €5100 was raised for a Christmas party for older people in Kilkenny and Carlow. 400 people attended this event. Local Gardaí also provided crime prevention material at the event.

