



Sergeant Gary Gordon and Kilkenny Community Police Officers with Maureen O'Hara. Photos with thanks to Pat Moore, Kilkenny Advertiser



Chief Superintendent Michael McGarry and Superintendent Michael Nevin with Maureen O'Hara



The much-loved Irish actress Maureen O'Hara was in Kilkenny for the launch of the Kilkenny Age-Friendly County Strategy, in the Ormonde Hotel on Wednesday 30th March 2011.

Welcoming the initiative she told an enthusiastic audience that she was concerned about the treatment of older people in Ireland. The actress said she loved being at home but would like to see improvements in the welfare of older people.

The 91-year old legendary star of the silver screen met and greeted a private gathering, which included Chief Superintendent Michael McGarry, Superintendent Michael Nevin and his Community Policing Gardaí, the Kilkenny Mayor, Martin Brett, Chairman of Kilkenny County Council, Catherine Connery and Members of the Ageing Well Network.

Kilkenny is taking part in the piloted Age-Friendly County Programme and is the first county in the southern region to pioneer such a programme. As part of this initiative, it intends to establish Ireland's first county based Business of Ageing Forum.

The objective of the initiative is to kick-start a six month county-wide consultation and awareness raising exercise, which will result in the Kilkenny Age-Friendly Plan.

The process is being led by an initial alliance, hosted by the County Development Board and is chaired by Joe Crockett, county manager, and includes the heads of relevant organisations such as the Gardaí and the Leader Partnership.

County Louth has established an Age Friendly County Programme in the Northern Region. The aims of an Age Friendly County are;

- To increase the participation of older people in the social, economic and cultural life of the community, for everyone's benefit;
- To improve the health and well-being of older people in the county;
- To show how services and supports for older people can be made more responsive, caring, professional and accessible, through imaginative and cost-effective partnerships.



Contact the Garda Racial, Intercultural and Diversity Office;
Telephone 01 6663150
Email diversity@garda.ie