



Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN) – Community Safety Linkage Group (Linkage Group)

Report of the Fingal PPN to the JPC on 3 June 2022

Introduction

Following the establishment of the Fingal PPN in 2014 there have been 7 PPN representative places on the JPC. As expected, with any new initiative, the development of the JPC has been challenging at times.

Future PPN Representation Changes on JPC

Following the September 2022 meeting of the JPC, the PPN is expecting to see 6 of its 7 members replaced with new members for a period of 3 years. We appreciate this will be challenging for continuity, but the Linkage Group is putting a “buddying” system in place to ensure that new members will be mentored by experienced former members of the JPC to ensure a smooth transition for new members and to ensure the JPC can operate to maximum capacity.

Training

We are suggesting that the JPC training be run again for new PPN community members and JPC committee members who could not attend the last session as the training was found invaluable by all members who attended.

Thematic JPC Meetings

Following the training we suggest that each future JPC meeting has an agreed theme as the themes raised in questions to the JPC, and at linkage group meetings, are common themes e.g., anti-social behaviour, CCTV, Community Garda and Garda presence in the Community, Drug abuse etc. We believe meetings on a themed basis will facilitate the JPC to take a strategic view of current practice, discuss and make recommendations and initiate actions which will improve safety in our communities. For example, anti-social behaviour and the inconsistencies in the use of ASBOs was a major topic at our last Linkage Group meeting.

Strategic Plan

The need to develop a strategic plan was agreed at the training session and our members are seeking a definitive date for beginning this process as it is considered long overdue.

Property Marking Machine

The members have again requested an update on the purchase of a property marking machine and an update on dates for the public JPC meetings.

Statistics – Addition of Comments

The members suggest that the Garda statistics include comments in the reports which may help explain or understand the reasons for increases or decreases in specific criminal activity.

Abandoned Cars

We have been very pleased to receive the report which clarifies the role of both FCC and the Garda in relation to abandoned cars and have shared this with member groups and can continue to share when the matters arise at Linkage Group meetings.

Conclusion

Overall, our Linkage Group meetings are striving to be positive across a broad range of community safety topics, and they facilitate the dissemination of comparative information across Fingal. The issues of concern are experienced to some degree by all communities in Fingal and the PPN is able to reassure communities of the work being carried out by the Gardai across the county. Communities are able to compare notes and seek to implement initiatives that are found to succeed in other areas. The community groups and organisations in the PPN recognise that working in partnership to introduce a strategic plan will provide achievable actions and recommendations which may result in a reduction in crime and make Fingal a community where people feel safe.