

Present: Tess Collins – South Tipperary County Council (Chair), Matthew Peters & Marie Grant – Environmental Section, South Tipperary County Council, Mark Ryan – Tipperary RAPID, Sue Cox – Tipperary Youth Services, Marie O’Connell – Tipperary RAPID community Rep, Eugene Cuddihy , Marie Boland – Tipperary Libraries, Padraic Powell – Cahir Garda Station, Diarmuid O’Sullivan – Carrick on Suir Town Council, Labhaoise Mckenna – Heritage Officer South Tipperary County Council, Antje Hogan – County Tipperary Citizens Information Service, Geraldine McGrath – Residents Group, Julie White – South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum, Stephen O’Sullivan – Carrick on Suir Garda Station, Tom O’Dwyer – Garda Station Clonmel, Ray O’Leary – South Tipperary Fire & Rescue Service, Valerie Connolly – South Tipperary Sports Partnership, Shirley Fahey – Clonmel Youth Training Enterprises Ltd.

Apologies David Lenane – Soccer Development Officer, Marie McGivern – Cashel Town Council, , Martin Nolan – Cashel Town Council, Michael O’Brien – Carrick on Suir Town Council, Billy Doyle - Clonmel Borough Council, Marie McGivern - Cashel Town Council, Inspector Kevin Bowen – Garda Suiochana, Sally O’Leary – Arts Officer, Marie McMahan - Museum Curator, Dennis Shanahan, Marie O’Gorman, Jean Nelson, Super Intendent - John Courtney, Sheila Collins & Andrew McMahan – HSE, Geraldine Malone – Cuan Saor

1. **Introduction and Minutes.** Minutes from previous meeting were adopted. Pat Holland attended this part of the meeting and expressed his thanks to all the members in relation to their input and support over the last number of years. He wished the group well in their continued endeavours and informed them that Ann Ryan would be the Community & Enterprise support to the group in the future. The Chair and the members thanked Pat for his valuable contribution to the Safety & Security Partnership.

Matters arising from Minutes:

Ann Ryan informed the group that Pat Holland brought the recommendation of the group re ‘Racism, Migrant Workers and Multi- culturalism’ to the SIM meeting. She informed the group that the relevant agencies at SIM felt it would be very difficult to assess the level of English when people applied for PPN numbers as it would be very judgemental and it difficult to implement an assessment. SIM members pointed out that there were ongoing English Language lessons available and that the VEC English Language officer is trained to complete an assessment when someone enrolls. SIM agreed that details of the English Language lessons available would be displayed in front line offices of Agencies in different languages. Liam O’Brien, the FAS rep on SIM agreed to bring the idea of English Language modules on FAS courses to the relevant people in FAS.

2. Main Theme: Bonfires, Are there new ways of dealing with this issue?
Ann pointed out that other guests such as cultural providers in the county e.g. Arts Officer, Museum Curator, Heritage Officer, South Tipperary Sports Partnership- Sports Co-ordinator, Soccer Community Development Officer had been invited to the meeting to participate in the discussion as it is focusing on ‘new ways of dealing with issue of Bonfires’.

The members discussed the key issues re last Halloween, what worked well and actions going forward.

Key Issues

- Fires Starting in September – long lead in time to Halloween
- Anti social behaviour around fires such as drinking
- Availability of material, rubbish coming from estates and householders using Halloween as way to get rid of hoarded rubbish
- Abuse to Guards, emergency services, fire prevention staff and other residents
- Blocking off of entrances to estates
- Recession and cost of getting rid of rubbish is going to increase the supply of waste as many householders are cancelling waste collection service with enforcement officers seeing a large increase in illegal dumping.
- Kids very innovative and keep moving the stashes of waste to avoid it being taken

- Fire works still an issue in some areas however availability of fire works seems to be greatly reduced due to adequate legislation and garda enforcement
- People drinking and moving from one estate to another – (e.g. overflow from Elm Park to Biancony Drive)
- Lack of parental supervision
- Unclear message from community – some parents wanting bon fires and encouraging them
- Young people want bon fires – banning bon fires might cause more problems – can they be organised bon fires where unsafe material is got rid of
- Not enough feedback to enforcement officers from community as to where waste is stored – people do not have to give name to leave feedback
- Enforcement officers need to know well in advance where waste is stored as it too late on Halloween evening when all trucks are out etc
- Can organise lost of activities for younger kids but its very hard to target older kids
- National approach to bon fires needed – present legislation is limited – enforcement officers need broader powers
- Cultural change needed but this can be difficult

What worked well?

- Council clearing rubbish collected and thus cutting down supplies for bon fires
- Organised event in Clerihan where kids were involved in organising event – parental supervision organised – were some difficulties but group in place to try and make event better this year
- Agencies working well together with community/residence groups and getting stuff collected before fires – e.g. no call out of fire brigade in Tipp Town on Halloween night
- Increased garda presence
- Local tyre companies visited before Halloween and informed of their obligations - much less supply of tyres in most areas – still a difficulty in Carrick on Suir
- Networking tea break
- Community gardas visits to schools in September to get point across about danger etc
- Local Authority tenants visited about hoarding rubbish – 26 fines issued to households hoarding rubbish
- Community gardas have made a big difference – gardas going into schools has been very effective

Actions going forward

- What worked well as outlined above to be continued
- Clonmel pilot – Environmental Awareness Officer working with Residence groups to increase awareness of how householders can get rid of rubbish for free in the months prior to Halloween
- Awareness officer going to visit schools in Carrick on Suir as a pilot
- Environment Section can help and support community groups to organise collection of rubbish by providing bags, gloves and pickers and by arranging for collection of bags. It is important that the proper yellow Council bags are used for community clean ups to ensure they are collected. Environment section needs at least a weeks notice on these clean ups. Environment Section can arrange access to Wallors Lot and Donohill for any community doing a clean up provided it is separated for recycling or disposal. Notice is also required on this. Environment section would not be able to pay for skips. Awareness officer and tenant liaison officer to work on promoting this to communities.
- Skips organised by groups themselves need to be monitored as kids have been seen to take stuff out etc.
- Marie Grant to investigate the possibility of a free week at Wallors Lot – although she pointed out that a lot of the items can be disposed of free of charge anyway.

- Awareness campaign being organised – campaign to outline how people can get rid of rubbish and negative impacts of bon fires, importance of reporting where waste is being collected, importance of and how to report hoarding of rubbish etc
- Soccer Development Officer to try and organise Soccer activities for kids on evenings around Halloween
- Events such as treasure hunts, Ghost trails, ghost stories with libraries opening late (e.g. Clonmel library had 150 kids attend storytelling last Halloween). Marie Boland and Labhaoise Mckenna to ask cultural providers to consider organising evening events for Halloween and to seek funding from rural development fund to cover costs of events.
- Sports Partnership to include piece in their newsletter to clubs to encourage them to organise events in their clubs over Halloween
- Ann Ryan to encourage youth organisations to organise events around Halloween
- Tess to encourage community houses to organise events and to work with cultural providers
- Matt Peters to investigate if enforcement officers around the country can make a national submission re changes to legislation which allows for prosecution of people who leave material on bon fires
- Each Town Clerk to be encourage to establish local group to develop action plan re bon fires in their own town – group should include residents, council staff, environment staff, RAPID reps and perhaps cultural providers in the town. Ann to contact Town Clerks in relation to this.
- Clonmel Borough Council investigating by laws banning bon fires - info on this to be brought back to members to see if its relevant for other areas .

It was agreed that the next meeting would have an agenda point on this issue to review progress.

3. Teenspace Strategy

Ann circulated presentation on Teenspace Strategy and briefly gave an outline of the strategy and asked members to read it in their own time as it gave a good outline of the services provided for teens by the Local Authority and also included details of youth service providers around the county.

The next meeting of the South Tipperary Safety & Security Partnership will take place in the Council Chamber, County Hall on Wed 17th June at 10.30 – 12.30.

Agenda

1. Introduction & Minutes
2. Main Theme – Community Alert and Neighborhood Watch, Progress & Issues
3. Update on bonfire actions