

South Tipperary Safety and Security Partnership
Meeting Report, 9th of March, 2004
County Hall, Clonmel.

Present: John Murphy Probation and Welfare Service (chair), Jim Lynch, Garda Siochana, Anne Galvin, South Eastern Health Board, Anita O'Brien, Housing Section, South Tipperary County Council, Sinead Tynan, Citizens Information, Mary Barron, FAS, Jean Nelson, RAPID Community Rep. Tipperary town, Cllr. Sylvia Cooney-Sheehan, Carrick-on-Suir T. C., Denis Holland, SEE, Planning Section, South Tipperary County Council, Johnny Casey, Substance Abuse Service, SEHB, Martin Fennessy, RAPID Community Rep, Clonmel, Pat. Holland, Community and Enterprise, Stephan Duclos, Planning Section, South Tipperary County Council,

1) **Introductions and minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting were adopted (proposed Denis Holland, seconded Sinead Tynan)

2) **Draft Estate Design Policy** (outlined by Stephan Duclos as per attached report)

Additional Comments

- a) The draft design policy would be subject to formal Council approval
- b) There were differing approaches to housing density eg private housing vers social housing
- c) The layout of some estates was confusing
- d) Placenames were an important issue, for emergency services for example and a multiplicity of similar names must be avoided
- e) Open spaces were also a problem with different groups wanting different standards eg small kids needing enclosed playgrounds, teenagers needing football areas and adults wanting garden-like approach.
- f) There was a need for places for teenagers to gather in a positive way
- g) Open spaces should be divided up around an estate to give ownership to them
- h) It was agreed that the members would consider the document and consult on it and that it would be further discussed at the next meeting.

3) **Issues from RAPID areas**

- a) Tipperary town (see report circulated with agenda) additional points
- b) Tipperary Town Council was considering the policy on vacant houses
- c) The Council was also considering its policy on tenants associated with anti-social behaviour
- d) A new planning application for a fast food outlet raised the possibility of more antisocial behaviour in a previously quiet part of town.
- e) Carrick-on-Suir: the issues were very similar here
- f) Clonmel (Elm Park)
- g) There had been several positive developments lately with a trip to the Zoo planned for April, success in sports (boxing, soccer) and education (standard of the school and several students attending third level colleges)
- h) However on the negative side, there was continuous anti-social behaviour with a major incident last week (fire), problems associated with vacant houses and continued abuse of drugs/drink.
- i) Discussion points arising
- j) Vacant houses were a major issue and it was noted that Carrick-on-Suir Town Council had now agreed to take tenants from the 'two bedroom house' list if there were none available from the 'three bedroom' list so as to keep houses occupied.
- k) Regular meetings between the community and the local Guards were essential
- l) There was a potential problem of a two-tier Clonmel emerging with RAPID areas getting priority but other equally needy areas being left behind.
- m) High density housing areas bring a high density of problems and should be avoided.
- n) Amenities must be provided along with housing
- o) The apparent rule that a liaison guard can only be appointed to a Neighbourhood Watch (though an alternate way has been found in Tipperary town) hinders safety in estates since the estates that need a liaison guard are those where residents are least likely to set up a Neighbourhood Watch.
- p) To lobby for legislation on nuisance crimes and anti-social behaviour (it was noted that such legislation exists).

- 4) **Report from Crime Prevention Awareness Group**(as circulated):This report was considered and several recommendations made (see general list below).
- 5) The following drug and alcohol issues were also noted:
 - a) Availability of alcohol to underage drinkers and controls on same
 - b) Supply of alcohol by adult third parties should be controlled
 - c) The need to work towards close integration between the Gardai and the community to ensure that policing is undertaken by the Guards only.
 - d) The dangers created by high density housing
 - e) The need for facilities with appropriate trained staff and volunteers
 - f) The need to widen the area taken within the RAPID designation in Clonmel was noted again.
 - g) Non-filling of a sanctioned drug counsellor post in Tipperary town.

- 6) **Actions/Recommendations arising from discussions: The Safety and Security Partnership would seek to have**
 - a) The rule re: a link between liaison Gardai and Neighbourhood Watch revised
 - b) Representatives from Clonmel, Tipperary and Carrick-on-Suir Garda stations at meetings
 - c) The other local authorities adopt the measure agreed by Carrick-on-Suir Town Council whereby houses are offered to those on other lists so as to prevent them becoming vacant
 - d) Damaged vacant houses repaired as a matter of urgency so as to prevent costly vandalism and anti-social behaviour
 - e) To invite Chambers of Commerce (Business Watch), Neighbourhood Watch and community alert groups to give submissions to main group on activities/progress to date. The basis of the submissions could be around a questionnaire.
 - f) To request Co. Council to implement basic safety/security measures in established housing for the elderly – even though grants are available e.g. security lighting, mortise locks front and back, safety chains, peep holes, window locks.
 - g) To request relevant sections in Co Council to ensure basic measures for safety are included in all new houses.
 - h) To request Co Council to lobby for legislation to ensure that all contractors comply with safety and security standards as recommended in “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Programme” of An Garda Siochana. There must be an incentive for the contractor e.g. recommend a percentage rebate on builders’ levy for those who comply.
 - i) To request Co Council to lobby the Insurance Federation of Ireland to promote discounts for community group ordering of alarm systems.
 - j) To promote the dissemination, through a variety of outlets, a checklist for home and personal security. This should be literacy friendly i.e. in cartoon format. This will require some funding.
 - k) To ask Co Council for establishment of estate management and support for community alert groups. These need to be integrated with youth projects and other projects in the community.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th May, 2004, 10.00 – 12.30 in Clonmel, County Museum Education Room.