

South Tipperary Safety and Security Partnership
Meeting Report, 3rd of December, 2003
County Hall, Clonmel

Present: John Murphy Probation and Welfare Service (chair), Mary FitzGerald, Garda Siochana, Ann Ryan, Community and Enterprise, Michael FitzGerald, South Tipperary County Council, Sinead Tynan, Citizens Information, Tess Collins, Housing Section, South Tipperary County Council, 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.

Introductions and points raised:

- ❑ AR outlined the roles of the County Strategy, the Social Inclusion Group and of this group as an off-shoot of the SIM. Crime prevention issues had been reviewed by the SIM and the action agreed was to set up a Safety and Security group. A submission had been made re a crime prevention strategy and an application had been made for local crime partnership. This group could act as a 'shadow partnership' until approval for a full one was received and focus on a few realistic issues such as the re-integration of ex-prisoners and the environmental design of estates to prevent crime.
- ❑ Crime and crime prevention was a role for us all not just the Garda Siochana
- ❑ We needed to focus on problem clients in estates, the allocation of houses and the design of estates
- ❑ The Citizens Information service sees the results of crime in its customers
- ❑ The G.S had recently inspected local authority estates in Tipperary to point out features which could be designed-out to reduce crime. Community Guards were needed.
- ❑ Carrick-on-Suir was examining ways in which under-18's could be given a place to go including a non-alcoholic pub.
- ❑ The design of estates was a prime concern for the Planning Section as well as features such as speed ramps, shutters, lighting, opening hours of chippers etc but the planning process could not define or control the moral and social behaviour of the public only perhaps influence it.
- ❑ The RAPID process had worked well in Clonmel with great support from Kathleen Prendergast and the Gardai. Early intervention with children was vital.
- ❑ Adults are the best resource we have to deal with teenagers but adults are under lots of pressures and are afraid of teenagers and their superficial hardness. Sports with an equal adult/teenager involvement were important.
- ❑ Facilities for youth and family in estates were crucial. Lots of good work was being done by residents groups etc. Community houses were being provided but rural areas have huge issues also.

Issues to be followed up

1. **Communication/Data.** A baseline of information was required. Unreported crime could be quite high but in national terms South Tipperary was low in crime figure ranking. Data was needed to argue the case for more resources. Communication was needed between the agencies and their customers. The recent agreement on the fence at Elm Park had been an example of inter-agency co-operation within the RAPID process.
2. **Facilities** for youth and sport must be a priority
3. **Local Authorities:** Facilities for communities and the design of estates were important. The letting of houses: vacant houses and their backs were the venue for drug activity often by the very young. The need to have houses occupied often meant that they were filled with tenants regarded as unsuitable by others in the estate. The intimidation of local residents required CCTV to provide proof for legal proceedings.

Actions Agreed :

1. the group would concentrate on a few specific and realistic themes
2. it would be called the South Tipperary Safety and Security Partnership.
3. its roles would be to
 - ❑ *have a watching brief on crime and security issues over the next year with a view to feeding up policy issues to the CDB and National Crime Council,*

examination of gaps identified in programmes and how these gap could be filled by developing workable solutions around law enforcement, crime prevention and reintegration of prisoners such as

- *consider proposals to ensure environmental design does not contribute to crime but acts as a crime prevention measure*
 - *make a bid to be one of the Pilot National Crime Prevention Models with a view to developing a crime prevention plan. (Submission made to Minister in September 2003 – using data collected by Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM) as part of their Safety, Security & Crime Prevention Focus, copy of submission to go to each member)*
4. the Dept of Social, Community and Family Affairs would be involved in actions if required
 5. Data re crime and a log of issues (from Community Reps) to be provided to PH for next meeting
 6. Copies of local authority letting policies would be provided for members (MfG)
 7. John Murphy and Johnnie Casey would meet to put together a picture of what is happening generally including positive moves
 8. Sinead Tynan to follow up Mol an Oige project in Thurles etc
 9. Denis Holland to provide Draft Policy on Estate Design for next meeting

Date of Next Meeting: 9th March, 2004, 10.00 – 12.30 in Clonmel, venue to be arranged