

**The Chairperson and Members
South Central Joint Policing Committee**

Parks Health & Safety Sub Committee.

At the Dublin South Central JPC meeting in November 2015 the members agreed to set up a Parks Security Sub-Committee to deal with issues in parks in the South Central area, in particular the use/misuse of quad bikes/scramblers. This is a pilot scheme to be reviewed after one year.

The first meeting was held in January 2016 and renamed the "Parks Health & Safety Sub Committee". Meetings have been held in February, May, June and July with a further meeting planned later in September. The Committee originally comprised of four Members of the South Central Area Committee, Councillors Ray McHugh, Paul Hand, Greg Kelly and Hazel de Nortuin, the Parks Superintendent, An Garda Síochána and the Area Manager. The Committee membership was subsequently expanded to include representatives from local Parks Safety Committees. Consequently, Liam Fitzgerald Drimnagh Residents Association, Henry Harding Markiewicz Park / Le Fanu Park and Martin Murray Crumlin / Walkinstown Forum joined the committee. The Dail Deputies have been requested to nominate a Dáil Deputy to the committee.

General issues under discussion are:-

- Control of the use of quad bikes/scramblers
- Education/training
- Parental accountability
- Possibility of setting up a club
- Securing a site for safe and secure use for quad bikes/scramblers
- Negative effect to DCC parks as well as financial cost

The Sub Committee has had three meetings since the last Area JPC. I have listed below a brief summary of actions, issues and ideas discussed for your information.

1. Patrick Teehan worked with the committee, Familiabase and local youths to put together a programme of activities for youths with an interest in quad bikes and scramblers. The purpose of the programme is to develop skills and provide education on the safety aspects of bikes. The programme of activities was subsequently approved by the South Central Area Committee and included in the 2016 discretionary fund.
2. An Garda Síochána have a difficulty establishing ownership of quad and scrambler bikes. There is no registration process on shipment into the country and at the point of purchase. It is therefore difficult to identify and prove ownership when taking enforcement measures. Improved regulation at a national level is required to support the enforcement role of An Garda Síochána
3. Wandering horses: Mr. Mark Meloitte, Equine Centre Manager made a presentation to the Committee explaining the role and function of centre. Mr. Mark Meloitte explained that there are horse owners that they are unable to reach. The centre is open to working with others to remedy this situation. The City Council and the Equine Centre are to meet and explore options.
4. Alcohol Use in Parks and Open Spaces. An Garda Síochána informed the committee of Operation Irene which took place from June to September. This operation saw additional patrols in Parks using mountain bikes and calls to retail outlets selling alcohol.

5. Provision of Litter Bins in Parks: Parks and Landscape Services to meet with Waste Management Services to discuss the installation of bins on streets at the entrance to Parks

Bruce Phillips
Senior Executive Officer

