

Submission from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Neighbourhood Watch Lower Bancroft, Tallaght  
Dublin 24

***What we are about:***

We founded our group because we value our community and therefore we built our own Neighbourhood Watch through the help of our Community Gardaí. This helps in building closer ties in our own community, which is the corner stone to helping in crime prevention.

***Community Centres, Clubs etc:***

More resources need to be made available to help Community Gardaí engage with the community. This will help build trust between the community and the Gardaí. Community Gardaí should work closely with Youth Groups in the area to build a long lasting positive relationship.

***Ombudsman Governance:***

The current arrangement (GSOC) is very under resourced and needs more independence. Policing needs to be isolated from political interference and an Independent Policing Authority free from the interference of Senior Gardaí and politicians, is a must.

***Improvements needed in Technology and Communication:***

- A reporting site, like the South Dublin County Council “*Fix Your Street*” in helping to report incidences, observations and concerns. This would enable trends in crime and anti-social behaviour to be more focused. If this type of platform was adopted, the existing site, which has local authority concerns, could be expanded and improved to include issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour because there is always some overlap between different authorities (poorly maintained parks will attract criminality and anti-social behaviour). This type of platform would help local authorities and Gardaí to work more closely together on common issues.

- Other ways of improving communication would be that every Garda have a work mobile phone for their use only and have the right Apps on their phone. If this means an especially designed App for community policing purposes, we feel that it would be a modern approach to keeping up two-way communications with your designated Community Garda.
- Bodycams for Gardaí are a must because this form of technology will both protect them and the public from spurious claims and counter claims.

***Other Items to Consider:***

- Better support for Neighbourhood Watch Groups. Training on how to set up a group and maintain it, would be beneficial.
- Gardaí should be trained to handle members of the public that have Mental Health issues and have resources to protect people in a situation where they may need to be held for a short term in their custody.
- Speaking as residences of Tallaght (*M Division*) it is about time that a suitable Garda Station is provided. Taking into consideration the large population and the changing nature of our demographics, a modern station that is fit for purpose, not congested and with the right facilities for all, is long overdue. A modern facility would help Garda moral and a greater Esprit de Corps. It would also be a place where members of the public can feel at ease in bringing problems, concerns and complaints to the attention of the Gardaí.