

# **An Overview of Community Safety in Blanchardstown RAPID Areas**

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# Foreword

The research report An Overview of Community Safety in Blanchardstown RAPID areas represents one of the most in depth local studies of its kind in Ireland.

The methodological framework used and academic rigour applied, was purposeful and no less than was required for a report of this nature. The experience of Louise McCullough from the Local Drugs Task Force and Emma Murphy, Social Inclusion Unit, Fingal County Council was invaluable. Stephen Beasley's contribution through data entry and applied theory brought much to the study. In the early stages Stephen Rourke conducted the training for community researchers, facilitated focus groups & produced an initial draft, his expertise in the field of community related research brought much experience to the study. Lastly the community researchers and residents themselves were the glue that held the research together and made this piece of work so worthwhile.

Section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and the attendant guidelines for the operation of local policing forums contain eleven functions including:

1. Identify issues of concern in relation to policing, anti social behaviour and estate management;
2. Work together to find solutions to the issues raised;
3. Provide feedback on progress and hold agencies accountable;

An overview of Community Safety in Blanchardstown RAPID fulfils a key legislative requirement for information. Guidelines for forums set out six primary partners; local residents, elected representatives, Local Drugs Task Force, An Garda Síochána , Fingal County and RAPID. In the first instance improved confidence, clearer, defined roles, understanding and greater trust between primary partners is of critical importance.

The onus and responsibility on us all to problem solve and find solutions to the issues raised in this report, is paramount and pressing. In short the implementation of the ten recommendations contained in the report will go some way to addressing confidence gaps in authorities, reducing fear of crime, improving feelings of safety and ultimately preventing and reducing crime and anti social behaviour in our neighbourhoods.

Breffni O'Rourke  
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# PART ONE:

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Research Objective and Aims

The objective of the research was:

- To consult with people who live in the local authority estates in the Blanchardstown RAPID area on issues relating to Community Safety. To collate, analyse and compile a report based on residents responses.

The aims were to:

- To identify commonalities and differences which effect community safety for people living across the geographic RAPID area
- To provide information that will inform partners how resources might be deployed & prioritised more effectively in targeted key areas of concern and/or particular estates with particular concerns.
- To provide evidence based research that will inform policy and strategies in relation to policing/anti social behaviour/drugs & alcohol & other community safety matters
- To consider ways in which community safety in the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown can be enhanced and improved over the short/medium term.

## 1.2 Background

There are 46 RAPID areas (Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development) across the state. RAPID designation recognises some geographical areas need additional support, interventions and resources. The Fingal County Council administrative area has one designated RAPID area in Blanchardstown (Appendix A). RAPID Blanchardstown is made up largely of local authority housing estates. These are commonly broken into four areas Corduff, Mulhuddart, Blakestown & Mountview, for the purposes of this report the latter two areas are merged. The RAPID areas are distributed across the Electoral Divisions (DEDs) of Tyrrelstown, Mulhuddart & Coolmine (Appendix B).

RAPID works with agencies, services, residents and development groups to implement identified priorities by residents from Education to Family support, Health to Community Safety. These might be additional facilities; improvements in the way services are delivered, designing new approaches to service delivery and improving accountability, efficiencies and responsiveness to priorities identified by local residents.

The local community policing forum hitherto referred to as Safer Blanchardstown was set up in 2007 to work in Local Drugs Task Force areas (LDTF) as part of the provisions of An Garda Síochána Act 2005.

In Blanchardstown the LDTF area 'core' area form approximately 80% of the Blanchardstown RAPID area. Safer Blanchardstown reports and makes recommendations as set out in sections 35 – 37 of the 2005 Act to the Fingal Joint Policing committee, the forum has a separate board made up of community representatives, elected members, LDTF, An Garda Síochána, RAPID and Fingal County council who are responsible for the work plan and priorities of the forum.

Two of the key aims of Safer Blanchardstown are:

- To increase communication, confidence, trust and appropriate information exchange between local residents and relevant authorities.
- To ensure that all residents have an opportunity to participate in determining policing priorities in order to help tackle the issue of drugs, crime and anti social behaviour in their communities.

RAPID seeks to work with agencies to improve and if necessary help integrate service delivery to meet community priorities. Part of the role of Safer Blanchardstown is to help identify trends and underlying causes of crime and anti social behaviour as set out in legislation. The research objectives and its aims set out to meet these combined requirements.

### 1.3 Rationale

Anti Social Behaviour, crime and community safety related issues rank amongst those issues of most importance to residents in the Blanchardstown RAPID area (RAPID Needs Analysis 2002). Fingal County Council commissioned Research Solutions to undertake a satisfaction survey amongst its residents the results of which were published in July 2005. Increasing concerns about vandalism/crime among all residents but particularly those in Mulhuddart were highlighted as a key concern.

### 1.4 Report Outline

Part Two of the research report sets out to describe the methodology including the survey, focus groups, sampling strategy, weighting, profile data analysis and use of community researchers.

**Parts three, four, five and six** of the main body of the report appear as follows:

Part Three – Fear of Crime & Safety

Part Four – Physical Environment

Part Five – Crime & Anti Social Behaviour

Part Six – Community Relationships

Each part is divided into 3 sections: Introduction, results, discussion & conclusions

Part Seven – Recommendations



# PART 2:

# METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Introduction

This section outlines the strategies and methods used, and issues considered during the course of this study. The study utilised two main research methods to collect data, survey and focus groups. Other community safety studies were reviewed when choosing these methods. This chapter outlines the key methodological issues involved such as the data collection and analysis processes and the use of community researchers.

## 2.2 Research Methods

The primary research method used for collecting data in this study was a survey. Data was collected from local residents regarding satisfaction with physical appearance in estates, occurrence of crimes and relationships with neighbours. The second method used, focus groups, was used to provide supplementary and more in depth information on the above topics.

### 2.2.1 Survey

Survey research is a universally recognised method for obtaining substantial amounts of current, quantitative data types (Denscombe, 2003) this study facilitated a wide and inclusive coverage of respondents concerns. Questions with pre-coded answers assisted in the elimination of personal factors that the researchers may bring to the study. Pre-coded questions also facilitated quick analysis of the data (Denscombe, 2003). Due to the fear and sensitivity of crime and disorder issues, the survey method also ensured anonymity for persons interviewed (Sarantakos, 1998).

With this method there were also disadvantages to consider. The accuracy and honesty of respondents' data can become a factor in the survey's wide and inclusive coverage (Denscombe, 2003). For this reason, this study used community researchers whom completed the questionnaire with respondents. While pre coded questions can assist the researchers in providing quick and easy analysis of results, they can be frustrating for respondents (Denscombe, 2003). Questionnaires do not facilitate the collection of any additional information that a respondent may have. In light of this, the research included some open ended questions and three focus groups were used to enrich the questionnaire data (Appendix C)

## 2.2.2 Focus Groups

Focus groups were the secondary method of data collection employed in this study. The strategy for their usage was designed to induce a more qualitative understanding of the community safety concerns that arose from the questionnaires'. Focus groups were chosen as opposed to individual in-depth interviews to generate similar amounts of qualitative data whilst adhering to the project's scope, finances and timeframe. (see also 2.5.1 & 2.5.2). It is also important to recognise the influence that a moderator can impose (Sarantakos, 1998).

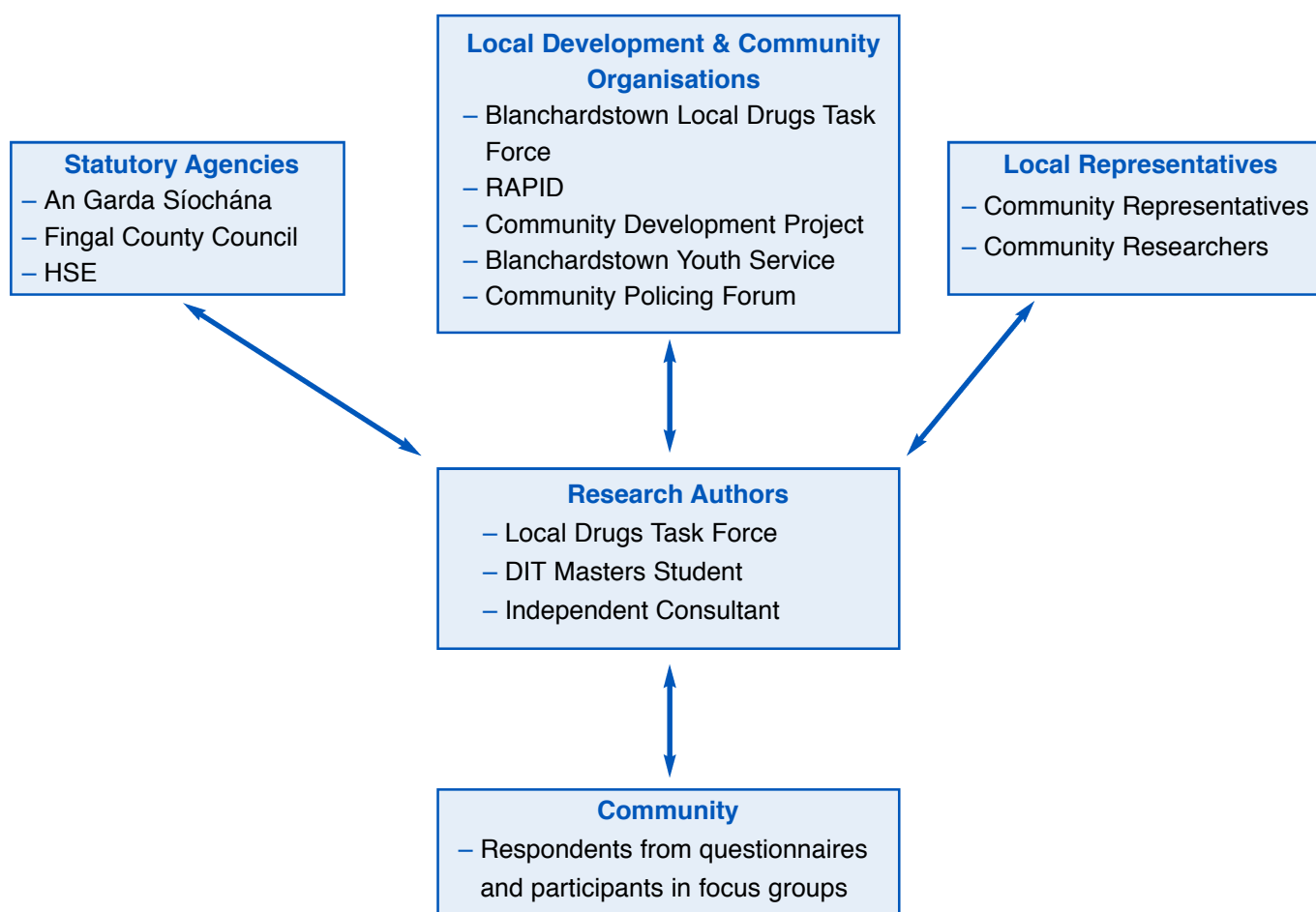
## 2.3 Overview of research structure

Two of the key aims of Safer Blanchardstown are:

- To increase communication, confidence, trust and appropriate information exchange between local residents and relevant authorities.
- To ensure that all residents have an opportunity to participate in determining policing priorities in order to help tackle the issue of drugs, crime and anti social behaviour in their communities.

These two aims underpinned the ethos of our research. It was vital that the research allowed the local community to participate. In addition it was essential that a participatory process was followed that encouraged better relationships between the community and local agencies. The people involved in the research reflected representatives from statutory, community and local agencies and community representatives. It is important that they were given the opportunity to be involved in the development of the process and included in the dissemination of the results (see figure 2.1).

**Figure 2.1 Members of Research Steering Group & Research Authors**



## 2.4 Research Design – Questionnaire

### 2.4.1 Sampling

Three areas in the designated RAPID area were divided to form sample groups –

**Area 1 Mulhuddart** - 723 households (27.1% of the sample)

*Dromheath, Parslickstown & Wellview*

**Area 2 Blakestown/Mountview** - 1316 households (49.3% of the sample)

*Whitestown, Sheepmoor, Fortlawn & Whitechapel*

**Area 3 Corduff** - 629 households (23.6% of the sample)

*Corduff Pk/Grove, Sheephill, Corduff Cresc/av/pk,/close*

The number of households in each area and interviews completed were broken down as follows:

**Table 2.1 Sampling Strategy**

Rapid area	Estate	Number of Houses	% of houses	Numbers interviewed	% of sample
<b>Area 1: Mulhuddart</b>	Dromheath	254		26	10.2
	Parslickstown	268		25	9.3
	Wellview	201		22	10.9
<b>Area 1 Total</b>		<b>723</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>10.1</b>
<b>Area 2: Blakestown/ Mountview</b>	Fortlawn	369		39	10.6
	Sheepmoor	249		26	10.4
	Whitechapel	137		13	9.5
	Whitestown	561		77	13.7
<b>Area 2 Total</b>		<b>1316</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>11.8</b>
<b>Area 3: Corduff</b>	Corduff Close Green Crescent	216		25	11.6
	Corduff Grove, park	222		25	11.3
	Sheephill	191		21	11.0
<b>Area 3 Total</b>		<b>629</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>11.3</b>
<b>All Areas Total</b>		<b>2668</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>11.2</b>

*At least 10% of the households in each area participated in the study with nearly 12% in area 2.*

To determine how representative our sample is we need to look at what the confidence intervals of our data are. A confidence interval “*is a range of values around a point estimate that expresses the probability that the interval contains the population parameter between the upper and lower limits of the interval*”.

Using a confidence interval calculator by Survey system we have determined that to give us a confidence ratio of 95%, given our sample size and population of households that we have a confidence interval of 5.3%. Therefore we can be 95% sure that all of our results are accurate (+/-) 5.3%.

For the purposes of choosing the households to administer the questionnaire, systematic sampling was used. This involves systematically choosing the participants for the study. In our case, as we wanted to

interview approximately 10% of the population it was decided to call at every 10<sup>th</sup> house in particular estates. If a householder was absent the researcher would move to the right to the next available house. According to Felson & Clarke (1998) crime opportunities are concentrated in time and space and therefore even in high crime areas, a particular road may be more susceptible to the occurrence of crimes than another road. We wanted to ensure that all roads in particular estates had at least one household interviewed. Systematic sampling helped us to ensure that our results achieved non biased results as the respondents were spread equally across the estates.

#### 2.4.2 Profile of sample

One third of men and two thirds women completed the questionnaire. With regards to age, over 70% of respondents were aged between 26 and 55. Finally nearly three quarters of the participants have lived in the area for 10+ years. It is important to note this fact as these households may have more established support systems than people who are new to the area. Therefore we may have generated different results if new households were targeted.

**Table 2.2 Sample profile**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	26	36.6	42	27.1	24	33.8	92	31.0
Female	45	63.4	113	72.9	47	66.2	205	69.0
<b>Age group</b>								
18-25	6	8.5	14	9.2	13	18.3	33	11.2
26-35	21	29.6	37	24.3	12	16.9	70	23.8
36-45	22	31.0	28	18.4	23	32.4	73	24.8
46-55	13	18.3	38	25.0	9	12.7	60	20.4
56-65	6	8.5	28	18.4	13	18.3	47	16.0
66+	3	4.2	7	4.6	1	1.4	11	3.7
<b>How long lived in estate</b>								
Under 1 year	4	5.5	2	1.3	1	1.4	7	2.3
1-2 years	3	4.1	7	4.5	5	7.0	15	5.0
3-5 years	8	11.0	13	8.4	3	4.2	24	8.0
6-9 years	14	19.2	13	8.4	5	7.0	32	10.7
10+ years	44	60.3	120	77.4	57	80.3	221	73.9

#### 2.4.3 The Questionnaire Design and Development

##### *Step 1: Topic clarification*

Developing the questionnaire, its content, design and layout, was a process that spanned from approximately February-June 2009. The initial steps were guided following examination of a number of previous community safety surveys in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain (see Shepard, 2008; Cahill *et al*, 2008). These early stages of the development process considered the specific topics that we wanted to gather information on in relation to community safety. What followed were a series of consultation group meetings with the partners involved. Questionnaire's content was necessarily streamlined for matters

more specific to crime and disorder, by implementing what Sarantakos (1998, p.228) cites as: “the golden rule with respect to questionnaire size is that one should include as many questions as necessary and as few as possible”. This was a crucial process of prioritisation that provided the survey more focus, and allowed the researchers to anticipate and plan the data inputting and analyses stage accordingly.

### *Step 2: Questionnaire Structure*

From the process above four key areas were identified that we required information from respondents on. These were (1) appearance of estates (2) safety/fear of crime (3) crime and anti social behaviour (4) relationships

In terms of the general structure of the questionnaire, a number of things were considered:

**Layout:** Considering the sensitive or personal nature of some of the questions concerning crime and victimisation, the order in which the questions were presented required thought and planning. An ‘X-format’ questionnaire criterion was adopted whereby sensitive questions were pinpointed or isolated and then ‘sandwiched’ between more normative sections of the questionnaire so as not to surprise, corner, or upset the respondent (Sarantakos, 1998).

**Content:** We reviewed questions to ensure that they were not leading and were easy to read and not double barrelled. The language used was simple and clear and presumptuous questions were omitted. We mainly used closed answer questions so the data inputting and analysis stage could be pragmatically planned.

**Format:** Text only appeared on one side of the page for a more attractive layout. In addition, we reviewed question answers with the wider group to ensure we had adequate responses and that questions were not biased or unethical.

**Cover sheet:** We included a cover sheet on all questionnaires so the researchers were clear of issues that they needed to mention to respondents.. The information we included on this was 1)background information, 2) purpose of the study, 3) what happens if I take part, 4) what will happen to the results of the study, 4) confidentiality and 5) voluntary participation.

### **2.4.4 Pilot study and Implications of Design**

*“Researchers never begin a study unless they are confident that the chosen methods are suitable, valid, reliable and effective and free from problems or errors, or at least that they have taken all precautions to avoid any problems and/or distortions in the preparatory stages of the research”*  
(Sarantakos, 1998, p. 291).

The aims of the pilot study were to test the suitability, validity and timing of delivering the questionnaire. Initially, the questionnaire had been scrutinised by the research team and then formally tested on the eight community researchers in April 2009. The results of the pilot were evaluated and the questionnaire was refined accordingly. These refinements included; grammar and linguistic adjustments (to increase coherency), re-phrasing and re-structuring of design layout (to address leading questions and increase efficiency respectively), and deleting questions that were deemed not relevant due to ethical or other reasons. This also allowed the community researchers to highlight any particular concerns they had with the questionnaire design.

### **2.4.5 Data Management and Analysis**

A codebook was developed which consisted of a copy of the questionnaire with the numerical codes alongside each response choice and was then entered into a SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social

Sciences) database. Not only does this increase the efficiency of data entry, it also reduces the number of possible errors on the database

A coding framework was completed the 297 questionnaires were then inputted, labelled and catalogued for reference. Once inputted, 30 questionnaires (10%) was subsequently audited to check for errors. In addition, any particular questions or surveys that had a large proportion of missing answers or ambiguities were checked with the community researchers. This was important as missing or incomplete answers can skew the data outcomes, increasing risk and decreasing confidence for the researchers that the results were representative (Bryman, 2001).

**Sample Weighting** variables were calculated to take into account the differential in population size across the areas that were sampled from. The variables were weighted to ensure the analysis was more representative of the population. As there were 155 questionnaires completed in the Blakestown/Mountview area with 71 in Corduff and 71 in Mulhuddart. The weighting ensured that the analysis did not over represent Blakestown or under represent the other two areas.

SPSS was used to check for statistical significance between variables. Statistical significance tests allow us to determine the confidence with which we can assume that the data collected could be generalised to the population from which the sample was selected (Bryman, 2001). Phase I of the data analysis was conducted using SPSS V15 in August 2009 including detailed breakdown of estate by estate information. Phase II was run in February 2010 and included more specific queries, weighting and numerical data.

## **2.5 Research Design – Focus Groups**

### **2.5.1 Sampling**

Mason (2002) highlights that sampling for qualitative research is not usually as structured as for quantitative research. Twenty people attended three separate focus groups in each of the sample size areas. There were between six and eight participants per meeting, a commonly accepted focus group size (Denscombe, 2003). The group were moderated by an independent consultant and the participants advertised for through the local Community Development Projects (CDPs)

### **2.5.2 Conducting the Focus Groups**

The three focus group meetings took place in June-July 2009. The locations for their facilitation were the community centres of each area.

- A topic guide was utilised to underpin the three meetings. These were agreed upon for the purpose of enriching the survey's primary quantitative data, and are as follows:
- How safe is the area in which you live?
- Are there particular parts of your area/estate which are hotspots for trouble (i.e. where a lot of criminal or anti-social activity has taken place)?
- What do you think needs to happen to make your area a safer place in which to live?
- What safety concerns would you have for the future of your community?
- Whose responsibility is it to improve safety in your area?
- Are there particular reasons why you or your neighbours/friends would not get involved in tackling crime or reporting criminal acts to the appropriate authorities?

The language was consciously kept simple and open to interpretation so as to encourage participation and interaction within the meetings' respective environments. The moderators utilised these 'discussion-

generating questions' to generate 'goal-directed discussions' and implement all round structured control in each of the three meetings (Sarantakos, 1998).

### **2.5.3 Data Analysis**

Detailed notes were taken by the moderator and an assistant facilitator at each of the focus groups. Thematic analysis was then undertaken on these notes.

## **2.6 The Use of Community Researchers**

Loughran & McCann (2006) stated that "the task undertaken in (their) study was not researching a community but researching with a community" and this was assisted by utilising community researchers. There are a number of steps that need to be followed when utilising community researchers. These are outlined below:

### **2.6.1 Training and Support**

An independent researcher was employed to provide training to the community researchers with the assistance of the core research team. This was a key component in preparing for the data collection stage of the research. All the researchers had already completed the pilot so were some way familiar with the questionnaire. The session involved looking in detail at the questions and discussing appropriate ways of conducting research, for example, how to ask particular questions, where prompts may be required, the importance of confidentiality etc. It was particularly important to make the community researchers fully aware of the sensitive and confidential nature of the questionnaire, above all the questions relating to personal experiences of crime and antisocial behaviour. Information was also provided about the sampling structure and how houses were to be picked.

The community researchers were facilitated and offered further support if any problems arose, personal or otherwise, during the data collection process. However, only minor difficulties were encountered in some cases, such as slight delays in the completion of collection quotas.

### **2.6.2 Feedback Sessions**

The importance of community researchers feedback was highlighted by the research team from the beginning. Feedback sessions were accommodated after the data collection stage to obtain the views of the community researchers and address early indications of trends in the data outcomes. It also outlined any concerns that arose during the process of data collection. The preliminary findings were presented and the community researchers were given the opportunity to confirm or challenge the interpretations developed by the research team. Thus, the goal of the feedback meetings was not to gather new data but to draw on the participants' understanding of the issues to validate the findings of the study (Loughran and McCann, 2006).

## **2.7 Mapping Community Safety Concerns**

Mapping and its associate technology Geographical Information Systems (GIS) formed the basis and methodology for a larger study a correlated examination of permeability and community safety issues in the Blanchardstown area (Beasley 2009) and a minor part but important part of this research study. Community researchers in the Mulhuddart Study Area (Drumheath, Parslickstown & Wellview) after completing the survey asked respondents to consider a map of their estate and point to a location if (a) they had either witnessed or experienced a crime or anti social activity in the previous twelve months (b) If there were any particular areas in which they may feel unsafe at times. (Appendix D & E).



# PART THREE:

## FEAR OF CRIME & SAFETY

### 3.1 Introduction

Although Individuals have been concerned about crime for centuries, 'fear of crime' is a relatively recent concept (see Emsley 1987, Lee, 2007). In order to gain a fuller understanding of the full range of issues affecting local communities it is important to find out how people feel about their area in respect to feelings of safety and fear of crime. There are many factors which are believed to contribute to a fear of crime (see Ferraro, 1995; Hale, 1996; Lee, 2007). These include personal attributes, prior experience of victimisation, characteristics of the environment and wider social influences such as media.

Some researchers have stated the wording of these questions can invoke an atmosphere of foreboding which can lead respondents to presume they should be afraid (Farrall & Gadd 2003). Other researchers have questioned the ability of surveys to capture the wide array of personal experiences and feelings relating to crime (Fattah 1993; Hale 1996). Despite these criticisms surveys which examine feelings of safety and fear of crime remain an important source of information as they allow for comparisons, trends and increases and decreases in reported fear of crime in different locations to be identified. The CSO's Crime & Victimisation Survey and the Garda Public attitudes survey both have questions relating to attitudes and experiences, fear of crime and the criminal Justice system in general. For service providers, these types of surveys and their results can provide an effective way of collating firsthand evidence to aid the development of appropriate interventions.

### 3.2 Results

Question 15 asked residents...*what do you think is a safe community?*

Seven key themes emerged ranked in frequency below:

#### 1. Less or no crime and anti-social behaviour

One respondent stated '*a safe community to me and my family is one free of crime and antisocial behaviour*'. The most commonly reported issues recorded as effecting residents feelings of safety and effecting fear of crime were: drug dealing, using drugs and alcohol in public places, speeding cars, joyriding and burnt out cars, gangs, intimidation and personal attacks, theft of home or personal belongings and muggings and vandalism

#### 2. No fear for self or children

Participants spoke about '*not being afraid*', '*not living in fear*', '*not feeling harassed and afraid*'. A number of respondents also mentioned about having a fear for their children, '*we shouldn't be afraid to walk around our estate at night or worry for our kids*'. It was also important that '*kids could play outside safely*'.



### **3. A sense of community spirit and good relationships with neighbours**

The importance of community spirit, good neighbours and looking out for each other was mentioned and recorded in the survey a number of times. One respondent reminisced about *'people looking out for one another like they did years ago when I was growing up'*, another person suggested that a safe community was *'everyone having community spirit and looking out for one another'*.

### **4. More policing**

More foot patrols and visible Garda presence to feel *'Garda protected'*

### **5. People taking responsibility for their actions and parents taking responsibility for their children**

Some participants felt that a safe community was *'people taking responsibility for their actions and those of their children'*

### **6. Feeling more involved and listened to.**

*'A place where there is structure, a managed environment and active listening by people in authority from people in the community'* was described as a safe community by one person. Knowing what's happening and who to contact, and having your voice heard was mentioned as important characteristics of a safe community by a number of residents.

Q.16 asked... *what do you think would make your estate a safer place to live?* Respondents suggested a number of interventions/themes; these are grouped and ranked in order of frequency below:

#### **a) More police presence**

Particularly more Community Gardaí on foot, not in cars patrolling, greater visibility at night time and weekends. Some respondents said that they would like a quicker response from Gardaí. The importance of Gardaí working with community was mentioned and the necessity for more events to build this relationship.

#### **b) Mechanisms to slow cars**

Speeding cars were a particular concern across all areas. Respondents stated that they would like more ramps, traffic lights, and speed limit signs and police enforcement of speed limits to address this.

#### **c) Increased parental responsibility**

This was linked strongly with youth loitering and public drinking, many residents in the survey and focus groups stated more parental responsibility was required. Linked with this were suggestions that parents should be financially responsible for their actions and curfews introduced/enforced.

#### **d) Developing more community spirit and better relationships with neighbours and local agencies**

This was seen as an important part of creating a safer community. A number of participants expressed a wish to be more involved in issues affecting their community, particularly regarding relationships with the Gardaí and the County Council. One resident said that it was important to get *'people talking to one another more and making voices heard'*.

#### **e) Neighbourhood watch**

It was suggested these schemes should be reinvigorated many felt they had been quite successful in the past.

#### **f) A crackdown on drug dealing and using drugs (including alcohol) in public**

This issue was highlighted for many residents across the areas.

#### **g) More facilities and activities for teenagers**

Also that youth get involved in improving/tidying up the estates.

**Feeling of Safety/Fear of Crime**  
**Table 3.1 Feeling of Safety in Estate for respondents (Q.17)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
<b>Feeling of safety during day**</b>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Safe or very safe	31	44.9	123	80.9	46	65.7	200	68.7
Neither safe nor unsafe	23	33.3	21	13.8	12	17.1	56	19.2
Unsafe or very unsafe	15	21.7	8	5.3	12	17.1	35	12.1
<b>Feeling of safety after dark**</b>								
Safe or very safe	10	15.4	68	44.4	10	14.5	88	30.7
Neither safe nor unsafe	14	21.5	36	23.5	18	26.1	68	23.7
Unsafe or very unsafe	41	63.1	49	32.0	41	59.4	131	45.6

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

**Table 3.1** illustrates that residents in Mulhuddart appeared to feel the most unsafe closely followed by the Corduff areas. The general Blakestown/Mountview area had substantially higher levels of feelings of safety in daytime and at night.

Within Mulhuddart, the Parslickstown area displayed a relatively high number of respondents who felt safe during the day at (58.3%,  $n=14$ ) while Dromheath experienced the opposite with only 33.3% ( $n=8$ ) feeling safe during the day. In the Blakestown/Mountview area, there was 92.3% ( $n=12$ ) respondents from Whitechapel who reported that they felt safe during the day showing a higher than average response for the area. At night time, Whitestown residents also appeared to feel safer than the norm whereas less than one in three residents from Fortlawn and Sheepmoor felt safe at night.

**Table 3.2 Feeling of Safety in Estate for Children (Q.18)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
<b>Feeling of safety during day**</b>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Safe or very safe	19	27.2	81	54.0	29	40.8	129	44.3
Neither safe nor unsafe	26	37.1	31	20.7	20	28.2	77	26.5
Unsafe or very unsafe	25	35.7	38	25.3	22	31.0	85	29.2
<b>Feeling of safety after dark**</b>								
Safe or very safe	3	4.3	38	25.7	3	4.3	44	15.3
Neither safe nor unsafe	5	7.1	26	17.6	13	18.8	44	15.3
Unsafe or very unsafe	62	88.6	84	56.8	53	76.8	199	69.4

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

Half of all respondents who were parents in Blakestown/Mountview felt that their children were safe in their estates during the day compared to just under half in Corduff and only one in four parents in Mulhuddart. One in four parents in Blakestown/Mountview feel their children are safe after dark compared to a relatively low ratio of one in twenty parents in Corduff and Mulhuddart.

**Table 3.3 Feel involved in making decisions that affect estate's well-being (Q.20)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Yes feel involved*	27	42.2	29	22.3	16	29.1	72	28.9
No don't feel involved*	37	57.8	101	77.7	39	70.9	177	71.1

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

In **Table 3.3** we can see that nearly double the sample group in Mulhuddart felt they had the opportunity for involvement in making decisions that effect the local estates wellbeing compared to the Blakestown/Mountview area ( $p < 0.05$ ) and Corduff. When comparing individual estates, there is some variance for instance the Mulhuddart study area with 30% ( $n=6$ ) residents in Wellview feeling involved compared to 52.6% ( $n=10$ ) in Dromheath while Parslickstown was in the middle. There were large differences in the Blakestown/Mountview area as well with no respondents in Whitechapel feeling involved compared to approximately one in five respondents in Fortlawn, one in four in Whitestown and one in three in Sheepmoor. There was very little variance experienced across estates in Corduff.

### 3.3 Discussion & Conclusions

Considerable variations in feelings of safety/fear of crime exist across the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown. The survey recorded that participants in Blakestown/Mountview area feel a lot safer than those residing in the Mulhuddart and Corduff areas. A total of 80.9% respondents in Blakestown/Mountview felt safe in their estate/area during the day whilst the corresponding figures for Mulhuddart and Corduff were 44.9% and 65.7% respectively. After dark an average of 30% of all survey respondents felt 'safe' or 'very safe' in their estates, dropping to 15.4% in Mulhuddart and 14.5% in Corduff. These results compare with approximately 75% stating they feel 'safe' or 'very safe' in their neighbourhood after dark in the CSO's (2007b) Crime & Victimisation Survey.

Of all the RAPID areas respondents from Mulhuddart recorded the lowest percentages in terms of feeling 'unsafe' or very unsafe'. An average of 45% of respondents from the survey answered they feel unsafe or very unsafe in their estates after dark, this figure rose to 63% in Mulhuddart and 59.4% in Corduff. Correspondingly figures from the Garda Public Attitudes Surveys for 2002 – 2007 show that when respondents were asked how safe they felt walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark this varied between 24 - 30% feeling 'unsafe' or very 'unsafe' (see Garda Research Unit 2002; Kennedy & Browne, 2006, 2007 ).

At this juncture it is worth noting that across all the RAPID surveyed areas an average of nearly 70% felt either safe or very safe in their local estates during the day. According to a major study conducted by the DJELR (2009) *Fear of Crime in Ireland and its impact on Quality of Life* "individuals residing in high crime areas appeared to be less likely to fear crime" further it goes on to state "that it is important that resources

are targeted at high crime areas due to the need to reduce victimisation & provide services to those that have been victimised, are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged” (DJELR (2009)

In respect to making a safer community a number of survey respondents and people who participated in the focus group meetings, commented on gangs and groups of youth congregating together, taking a lot of alcohol and behaving in an aggressive and rowdy manner.

*‘The age for anti-social behaviour is getting younger and younger with older people a constant target for intimidation’*

*‘A lot of off licences sell alcohol to underage people and also deliver to underage people in their own homes’*

Other participants however, felt that there is nothing wrong or abnormal about young people wanting to be with each other and that the main reason why young people hang around together in prominent places in local areas relates to the lack of youth facilities and services for young people.

A number of respondents talked about a safe community being one where you *are not living in fear*.

*‘People are very worried about the levels of violence and anti-social activity which are taking place both day and night’*

*‘Gangs of youths should not be allowed to gather on corners in order to get as drunk as they can’*

*‘There should be more Gardaí on the beat to enforce the laws on public drinking’*

An Garda Síochána and particularly visibility was mentioned by a large number of respondents in the survey and in focus groups as being associated with a safe community and fear of crime. The research recorded a number of participants whom felt Gardaí do not respond quickly enough to call-outs from local people, responsiveness, or lack of it was linked in some way to where the respondent lived.

*‘Gardaí just drive or cycle into the estate and they go straight back out again’*

*‘Gardaí don’t respond quickly enough when I ring them and the Council don’t do anything either’*

*‘Young people have no respect from the Gardaí as they treat young people disgracefully’*

**Community Involvement** When residents were asked what they felt made a safe community and what would make your estate a safer place to live, community spirit, good relationships (see part six) feeling more involved and listened to and parental responsibility were mentioned in the survey and in focus groups.

Parental responsibility in particular was a constant theme with the viewpoint that parents should assume more responsibility for their children – both for younger children who should not be out late at night, and for teenagers and young adults who might be involved in criminal and anti-social activities within the area in which they live.

*‘Kids have no respect or fear of repercussions and the parents are not being held responsible for*

*their kids. It is vital that kids are controlled from an early age'*

*'Children should be in by a reasonable time – boundaries need to be set'*

Interestingly, in relation to the question asking respondents whether they felt involved in making decisions that affect their estate's wellbeing, 42.2% of the Mulhuddart sample felt they did have some involvement. This figure is relatively high when you take into account respondents from Blakestown/Mountview and Corduff which averaged 22.3% and 29.1% respectively. Collectively, these figures (28.9% total average) would suggest community participation in creating safer communities for these areas is quite low. This is despite a general response across all the areas that helping build a safer community is felt to be a shared responsibility involving themselves, their neighbours, relevant statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and community based groups.

In considering this discussion three fundamental questions begin to emerge – 1. Why do residents in local authority estates feel so much less safe than the average rate from respondents across the state? 2. Why do Blakestown/Mountview residents feel safer in their estates than those in Mulhuddart and Corduff? and finally 3. Why do Mulhuddart residents feel so unsafe in their estates?

In the case of Blakestown/Mountview there may be a causal link between the fact that these areas are the most settled of the RAPID areas surveyed, this can be seen to be supported by respondent's average age. In respect to Mulhuddart the mapping exercise carried out in this area (Appendix D & E) gives us a valuable insight into the type of incidents and areas where fear of crime is prevalent, it restricts and areas where people feel able to walk. Significantly Corduff also has large green spaces and park areas in common with Mulhuddart, Blakestown/Mountview less so.

# PART FOUR:

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

### 4.1 Introduction

Research has found certain neighbourhoods to be more susceptible to higher concentrations of crime than others. There is evidence to suggest that this susceptibility is linked with their physical surroundings (Boba, 2005; Paynich and Hill, 2009).

Successive research has highlighted the importance of a community's experience of crime and victimisation and how it can be related back to its physical environment. Perhaps the most influential and groundbreaking of these was James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling's (1982) 'Broken Windows' theory, which suggests physical maintenance and management can create a sense of ownership and control for both local residents and potential offenders.

It is hypothesised that the presence of neighbourhood deterioration and decay provides a catalyst for progressive criminal behaviour (Gaines and Miller, 2008; Oc and Tiesdell, 1997). Accordingly, for local communities minor signs of decay or 'quality of life' crimes such as graffiti tagging, littering, loitering and public drinking *etc.* become more significant (Gaines and Miller, 2008).

### 4.2 Results

In relation to importance of physical appearance of estate, 91.2% (n=271) of all respondents said that this was an important issue for them. Satisfaction rates with the physical appearance showed that approximately one third of all residents were dissatisfied with the physical appearance of their estate. The rates in Mulhuddart are of particular concern where 40.3% (n=39) were dissatisfied.

**Table 4.2 (a) Number of residents who would like to change physical issues in their estates**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/Mountview		Corduff		Total	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Graffiti **	49	70.0	108	70.1	33	47.8	190	64.8
Boarded up houses **	41	56.9	108	70.1	35	50.7	184	62.2
Litter/Waste *	67	95.7	122	78.7	66	95.7	255	86.7
Abandoned/Burnt out cars **	50	70.4	72	46.8	17	25.0	139	47.4
Damaged railings, fences or walls	42	60.0	88	56.8	35	45.5	165	56.5
Lack of parks or green areas **	25	37.3	50	32.7	10	14.9	85	29.6
Lack of litterbins **	55	77.5	115	74.7	64	91.4	234	79.3
Abandoned shopping trolleys **	18	26.5	115	74.2	13	19.4	146	50.3

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$  \*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas



**Graffiti:** 70% of respondents in Mulhuddart (n=49) and 70% in Blakestown/Mountview (n=108) state that this was an issue compared to 47.8% in Corduff (n=33). When looking at particular estates, Whitestown showed an above average problem as 87% of respondents stated that there was a problem with graffiti. In addition the Corduff area showed that Corduff Grove/Park and Sheephill Park/Ave/Green had comparatively low rates with 33.3% and 36.8% of respondents reported an issue compared to 79.2% of respondents from Corduff Cres/Ave/Gds/Way/Place/Close/Green.

**Boarded up Houses:** Approximately 70% of respondents in Blakestown/Mountview mentioned boarded up houses was an issue in their estate. This compared to 56.9% in Mulhuddart and 50.7% in Corduff. Within the Blakestown/Mountview area the largest reported problem with boarded up houses was concentrated in the Fortlawn and Whitestown estates with 90% and 89.5% stating there was an issue. In the Mulhuddart area, the problem appears to be mostly concentrated in the Wellview estate where 90.5% reported a problem and in Corduff the main problem appears to be located in Corduff Grove/Park where 77.3% highlighted this as an issue.

**Litter/Waste:** The results from the survey indicate that litter/waste is the most prevalent concern of residents surveyed. A total of 86.7% respondents said that the situation concerning litter/waste needs to be improved and this was the highest rated concern in all three RAPID areas. 95.7% of respondents in Mulhuddart and Corduff stated that it was an issue compared to a lower figure of 78.7% in Blakestown/Mountview.

**Abandoned/Burnt out cars:** This was a particular issue in the Mulhuddart area, 70.4% identified it as a problem compared to 25% in Corduff and 46.8% in Blakestown/Mountview. The concentration of the problem in Mulhuddart is focused in the Wellview and Dromheath estates where 95.2% and 85.7% of participants reported it as an issue. In Blakestown/Mountview, the issue was not evenly spread, 72.5% of participants in Whitestown and 61.3% in Fortlawn expressed the majority of the problem with abandoned and burnt out cars.

**Damaged railings, fences or walls:** Across the RAPID areas, 56.5% (n=165) of all respondents expressed a concern regarding damaged railings, fences or walls. There were a number of estates which had a noticeable deviation from this figure. In particular, 95.5% residents in the Dromheath estate and 83.7% in the Whitestown estate expressed concerns showing a much higher concern than the average. In the Whitechapel estate, a much lower level of concern was reported where 30.8% of respondents stated there was an issue.

**Lack of parks or green areas:** Respondents from the Corduff area expressed a lower concern about the lack of parks in their area with 14.9% of respondents suggesting there was an issue compared to 37.3% in Mulhuddart and 32.7% in Blakestown/Mountview. A positive sign is that no respondents from the Whitechapel estate said that this was an issue for them suggested that they are happy with the parks and green areas surrounding them.

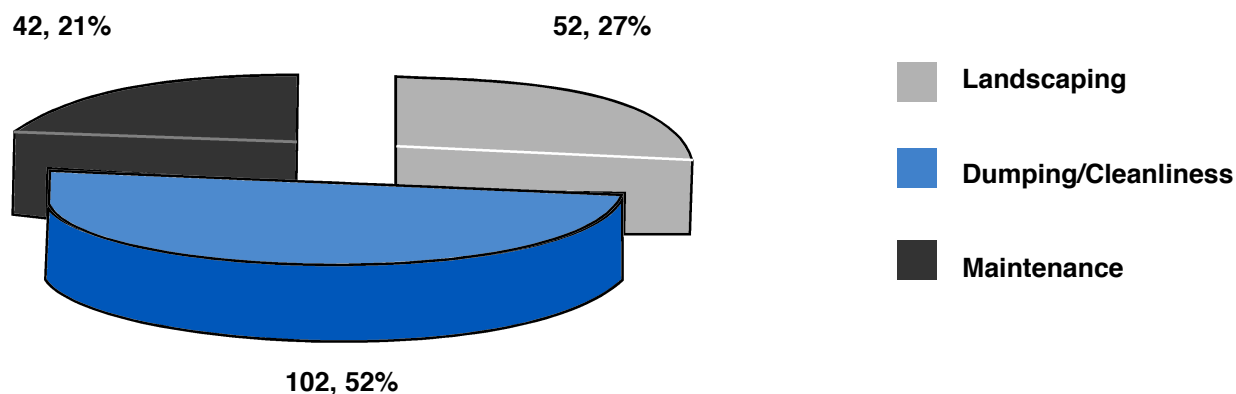
**Lack of litterbins:** All RAPID areas expressed a concern with the lack of litterbins the most concern was in the Corduff area (91.4%) compared to Mulhuddart (77.5%) and Blakestown/Mountview (74.7%). The Whitechapel estate in Blakestown/Mountview had a low number of people expressing a concern (30.8%) compared to other estates and areas.

**Abandoned shopping trolleys:** The Blakestown/Mountview area has significantly more abandoned shopping trolleys in their area than any of the other RAPID areas with 74.2% of people stating there is an issue compared to 26.5% in Mulhuddart and 19.4% in Corduff. In the Blakestown/Mountview area, the estates that appear to experience the highest incidents are Sheephill and Whitestown.

### 4.2.1. Other Issues – Results

Participants were asked to specify any reasons why they were unsatisfied with the physical appearance of their estate and to mention any other issues that were not covered above. Issues were grouped together and can be seen in the figure below:

**Figure 4.1. Other Physical Appearance Issues experienced by residents (Q.10)**



**Dumping/Cleanliness:** Over half of these respondents mentioned dumping/cleanliness was a concern for them. The highest percentage of residents with concerns in this category was Dromheath where 73% of residents who answered this part of the question stated this was an issue. The key issues related to illegal dumping including the burning of bulky waste items, broken glass around the estate and dumping in peoples gardens which was viewed as a safety concern and litter in general. In all areas of Corduff residents expressed a particular concern about litter. There was also an issue with the current bin collection as “*after bin days the estate is filthy*”. It was also felt that the shops in Corduff were particularly run down and needed a clean up with the amount of litter around them. Finally a number of residents from the Wellview estate reported burnt out cars were left around for long periods of time, needles around green areas and rubbish being dumped.

**Landscaping:** the highest percentage of respondents with concerns in this category were the estates of Parslickstown with 32% of residents, followed by Dromheath, 31%, Whitestown with 21% and Sheepmoor 19%. The most common issue in the Parslickstown estate mentioned was the need for green areas to be kept better and residents would also like more trees, shrubbery and flowers. In Dromheath the key concern was with the maintenance of grass verges. In Whitestown the key issues were grass in the green area and verges to be cut more. In the Sheepmoor estate, all comments related to the need for the grass verges to be cut more regularly. Other issues mentioned included burnt trees, overgrown shrubs, grass not being collected after cutting, fires on green area, and a lack of flowers and trees.

**Maintenance:** Corduff Grove/Park had the largest number of respondents who reported a particular concern with this issue. The main concern that arose was around uneven and broken footpaths. In the Whitestown and Sheepmoor estate, a number of residents mentioned that the houses and walls need to be painted as they make the place very feel dirty. Other issues mentioned included broken walls, broken pavements, and holes in the road with green tarmac and road signs that are dated.

### 4.3 Discussion & Conclusion

A total of 91.2% of survey respondents said that the physical appearance of their estate is either important to them or very important to them. 29.5% of the sample surveyed said that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the way that their estate looks – in Corduff this figure decreased to just 17.2% of local households.



Breaking down the results further and addressing the concerns residents had with the physical appearance of their estate in the focus groups and surveys, litter/waste is the most prevalent physical environment issue across the RAPID area. A massive 86.7% of survey respondents said the situation concerning litter/waste needs to be improved (This correlates with the 79.3% recorded for lack of litterbins) Graffiti 64.8% and boarded up houses 62.2% were the next foremost concerns for local residents respectively. If we are to apply Wilson and Kelling's (1982) Broken Windows theory, it is possible these signs of decay are contributing to the local patterns of crime and antisocial behaviour in the RAPID areas. Whilst this study has no physical evidence to suggest this is so, research at an estate level could potentially reveal related patterns such as; the presence of crime or antisocial behaviour in and around boarded up houses for example.

More encouraging is that local residents appear to be satisfied with the amount of parks and green areas in and around their estates, 29.6% expressed dissatisfaction at the amount of green space/parks. Residents involved in the research commented upon ways in which the parks and green spaces within their area have been developed and enhanced over the last 10-15 year period and the fact that the ranges of services in their locality have increased significantly between the time they first moved in to the area and the present day.

*'In Corduff we have been very impressed with the improvements carried out in the park, with the Sports Centre and with the playground'*

However, the physical surroundings of the parks and green areas in some cases appear to be hotspots for criminal and anti-social behavioural acts. If we refer to Appendix D & E we can see the local authority estates in Mulhuddart: Dromheath, Parslickstown and Wellview were mapped using survey respondents and the Mulhuddart focus group. Of the Community Safety Issues (CSIs) recorded, 144 out of total 247 related to open spaces. The suggestion here is the risk of being seen in these open areas, being reported or apprehended does not outweigh the opportunity to offend (Felson & Clark, 1998).

In respect to the physical environment, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) or 'designing out crime' as it is more commonly referred to is implemented using enlightened architecture and site design principles (Cozens, 2008; Demkin, 2007). For example, not being able to see what is ahead because of corners, walls, landscaping, bushes and other topographical features, is a serious impediment to feeling and being safe.<sup>1</sup> These same features provide concealment or opportunities for criminal acts. Natural surveillance can be maximised to eliminate the possibilities of blind spots, increase safety and reduce opportunities for crime occurrences (Crowe, 2000; Hopper, 2007; Oc and Tiesdell, 1997). Footpaths, landscaping, property lines, gates and low fences, signs, porches *etc.* are used to make targets look riskier and help signify to potential offenders that a property or space belongs to someone.

*'I don't like it when there are fires on the green areas and bulky waste being burned'*

Personal responsibility with regards to the physical appearance of estates came up on a number of occasions; there was concern that people do not take personal pride and responsibility in their properties. It was also suggested that more assistance is required to encourage people to take a sense of personal responsibility and pride in their properties:

*"Many people take pride in their homes and gardens and the council should help us to keep this"*

There was an indication that respondents felt that the community as a whole should take more responsibility:

*"A cleanup is needed, everyone could clean up"*

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1. Available at: University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, Master Plan, Site Controls, <http://www.usc.edu.au/University/AbouttheUniversity/Governance/Policies/MasterPlan/SectionC/SiteControls.htm> [23 September 2009].

# PART FIVE:

## CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

### 5.1 Introduction

In the last two centuries criminal justice systems via police, courts, prisons *etc.* had assumed a controlling role in crime prevention (Hughes *et al*, 2002). This uniform model persisted in large part until at least the mid-twentieth century (Gilling, 2005; Hughes *et al*, 2002). In recent times crime prevention has devolved into more community-focused policing initiatives to better address broader criminal acts including antisocial behaviour and disorder (Carrabine *et al*, 2004; Hughes *et al*, 2002; Newburn, 2007). The Garda Síochána Act 2005 sections 36 – 39 made provisions for the setting up of Joint policing committees and Local policing fora the legislation recognised the necessity to deal with crime and anti social behaviour and its underlying effects in a more joined up, partnership orientated manner.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is defined in section 1 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 sections (a) & (b) the most pertinent part of which states section (a) deals with drugs exclusively section (b) ‘*any behaviour which causes or is likely to cause any significant or persistent danger, damage, or fear to any person .....*’ it goes on to include *violence, threats, intimidation, harassment, or serious obstruction*. This second part of the Housing Miscellaneous Act has recently been amended (2009) to include *alarm* in the provisions. It goes on to define *Behaviour which causes any significant or persistent impairment of a person’s use or enjoyment of his or her home or Damage to or defacement by writing or other marks of any property, including a persons home*.

### 5.2 Results

**TABLE 5.1: VICTIM OF CRIME or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months (Q.21)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
<i>Crimes/ anti social behaviour</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Theft from a house/home**	9	14.3	12	8.3	2	3.1	23	8.4
Theft of/ from a vehicle	14	21.9	18	12.5	9	13.6	41	15.0
Theft from a person (mugging)	5	7.9	3	2.1	4	6.2	12	4.4
Harassment/ Intimidation**	35	52.2	20	13.5	13	20.0	68	24.3
Physical assault**	11	17.7	8	5.5	2	3.1	21	7.7
Vandalism**	32	47.1	19	13.1	17	25.4	68	24.3
Arson	5	8.2	4	2.8	3	4.8	12	4.5

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

**Table 5.1** records the types of crime and anti social behaviour experienced by respondents in the last twelve months. Harassment/intimidation and vandalism were the most common categories recorded, followed by theft from or of a vehicle. Mulhuddart residents appeared to experience a higher proportion of crimes than other areas. This was statistically significant for theft from a house/home; harassment/intimidation; physical assault and vandalism.

Differences between individual estate areas exist. In relation to theft from a house/home, within Mulhuddart, 20.8% (n=5) of residents in Parslickstown and 15.8% (n=3) in Wellview were victims of this crime compared to only 5.0% (n=1) in Dromheath. In addition, within Blakestown/Mountview, 15.5% (n=11) of residents in Whitestown compared to 3.8% (n=1) in Sheepmoor and no respondents in Whitechapel and Fortlawn were victims of this crime.

In respect to theft of/from a vehicle differences were apparent across areas and estates for example in the Corduff area the majority of reports came from the Sheephill area (26.3%) compared to approximately 10% or less in other parts of Corduff. Within Mountview/Blakestown, reports of this crime were most prevalent in Whitestown with 22.2% (n=16) of respondents being victims.

Reporting of harassment/intimidation incidents was different across estates. Mulhuddart had the highest proportion of incidents, most of which were concentrated in Parslickstown (62.5%) followed by Dromheath (50.0%) and Wellview (42.9%). Incidents within Blakestown/Mountview were clustered in Fortlawn and Whitestown where just under one fifth of the sample group had an experience, while no reports were made from Sheepmoor or Whitechapel. In the Corduff area approximately one third of respondents from Corduff Grove/Park reported an incident had occurred compared to approximately one fifth of respondents from the other areas.

Differences in reports of physical assaults were apparent in the Mulhuddart area, 34.8% (n=8) in Parslickstown reported incidents compared to approximately 10% in the other areas in Mulhuddart. With regards to vandalism, in Parslickstown almost double the respondents reported experiencing this behaviour compared to other areas in Mulhuddart. In Mountview/Blakestown, the majority of respondents who experienced this were located in Fortlawn and Whitestown.

**Table 5.2 Crimes or anti-social behaviour witnessed by respondents in the last 12 months (Q.22)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
<i>Crimes/ anti social behaviour</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Theft (of any kind)*	32	50.0	37	31.4	30	46.2	99	40.1
Harassment/ Intimidation**	57	82.6	39	32.8	35	54.7	131	52.0
Vandalism**	60	84.5	55	45.1	44	66.7	159	60.9
Arson**	40	60.6	22	19.1	14	22.2	76	31.1
Drug Dealing**	47	69.1	50	41.3	41	64.1	138	54.5
Drug Use	31	50.0	58	47.9	43	65.2	132	53.0
Drinking in Public	65	90.3	128	88.3	64	91.4	257	89.5
Loitering	66	94.3	113	85.0	62	89.9	241	88.6
Joyriding/Speeding*	67	95.7	120	80.0	57	81.4	244	84.1
Gang Violence/Brawls**	47	68.1	48	39.7	47	69.1	142	55.0
Loose animals*	58	87.9	97	70.8	48	70.6	203	74.9

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

The results of **Table 5.2** show significant differences across the RAPID areas and there estates in relation to those whom had witnessed incidences of theft; harassment/intimidation; vandalism; arson; drug dealing; joyriding/speeding; gang violence/brawls and loose animals occurring in there local area.

Key results include arson where Dromheath in Mulhuddart had nearly twice the number of reports by respondents than in any other of the areas surveyed. In the Mountview/Blakestown cohort, Fortlawne had the highest concentration of residents who reported Arson (29.4%) while no residents in Whitechapel witnessed or heard about any arson attacks.

Differences were also found in the Mulhuddart area in relation to drug dealing. 83.3% (n=20) residents from Dromheath reported witnessing or hearing about drug dealing in their estate compared to 65.2% (n=15) in Parslickstown and 57.1% (n=12) in Wellview. A similar pattern was also found in relation to gang violence or brawls where the majority were reported by residents as occurring in Dromheath, followed by Wellview & Parslickstown. In the Corduff area four fifths of residents knew about incidents that occurred in Sheephill compared to approximately two thirds of residents mentioning an incident in other parts of Corduff.

**Table 5.3 Respondents satisfaction when a crime anti social behaviour was reported (Q.23)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Did not report crime	27	40.9	91	62.8	38	60.3	156	56.9
Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied	25	37.9	28	19.3	14	22.2	67	24.5
Neither satisfied/dissatisfied	5	7.6	7	4.8	7	11.1	19	6.9
Satisfied/very satisfied	9	13.6	19	13.1	4	6.3	32	11.7

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

We can see in **Table 5.3** that a majority (57%) of respondents across all areas did not report crimes/anti social behaviour. Of those who did report Crime/ASB the majority were not satisfied with the response.

Participants in the study across all areas spoke about the fear of reprisals as the main reason why they would not report a crime, the use of scanners was also a fear *‘Sometimes I would be wary as I would worry the person in question would know who I am’*

It was also felt that power didn’t exist to prevent reprisals *‘Gardaí are largely powerless to prevent antisocial behaviour and reprisal attacks’*

The other main reason why crimes were not reported was due to a perceived lack of response and interest from authorities. One resident said that *‘nobody listens’*.

It was also suggested that *“sometimes when reporting it gets passed from department to department. No one wants to take responsibility for issues that are reported.”*

Based on responses a lack of trust in some circumstances was apparent between residents and authorities this seemed to be rooted in fears over confidentiality and led some residents to feel that they felt they could report a crime or incident of anti social behaviour. *“they don’t care if I report that I am in danger”*

A poor response previously also increased the likelihood of crimes remaining unreported. Some people saw it as a 'waste of time'; 'pointless' or that there was 'no point' – 'I was not satisfied with the reply I got on the phone so it put me off ringing'

It was also viewed that crimes/ASB of a minor nature were not worth reporting as nothing would happen. As these residents describe 'I have no problem reporting a crime but antisocial behaviour I feel is just ignored when reported'

And 'In general there are minor crimes or antisocial behaviour and I feel reporting them will only be a waste of my time'

Finally, reluctance existed amongst some residents to report crimes unless it affected respondent personally. As this resident states 'Unless it affects me I don't want to interfere'

### 5. 3 Discussion and Conclusions

The survey results show nearly a quarter of residents who were surveyed had been a victim of harassment and intimidation (23.4%). If you isolate the figure for the three local authority estates in Mulhuddart this figure jumps to 52%. When some of the findings are put in the context of national findings ([http 1](http://1)) the survey results for the RAPID areas show some contrasting findings. For example, the survey showed 8.0% of local residents in the RAPID areas had been the victim of physical assault in contrast to the national figure of 1.1%. Similarly, 2.5% of people at the national level had experienced theft without violence whilst 7.9% of residents in the RAPID areas had been victims of theft from a house and 14.2% had been victims of theft from a vehicle or of a vehicle (CSO 2007)

There were numerous references in the completed questionnaires and at the focus groups were from respondents in the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown feel threatened, intimidated and sometimes frightened by the criminal and anti-social activity that is taking place in the community in which they live.

*Fear and intimidation is keenly felt in the estates of Corduff Grove and Park, and in Sheephill'*

*'In reporting a crime I would be afraid of harassment, gangs attacking my children and my home and having my property vandalised'*

In more particular terms, a broad cross section of local residents do not feel comfortable or safe about bringing information to the relevant authorities about criminal acts which are taking place in their area. They have a strong sense that their role in providing the information will be found out (e.g. through the use of scanners and other devices to listen into phone calls being made to Gardai stations). There is also a fear that if they report certain incidents or events, local people will be called as witnesses in court cases if criminal charges are pressed against alleged criminals. There is a real fear that there could be severe repercussions in this type of scenario and many local people said that they feel safer and more comfortable if they decide not to report crimes within their areas.

*'I would not report because it comes back on you, you can be killed over it'*

*'If I said anything I would be afraid of my home being broke up'*

A high proportion of crimes and ASB committed in the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown are not reported. Out of a total of the 297 local residents who completed the survey questionnaire, 156 (56.9%) stated they

would not report a crime or anti-social activity in which they were affected and/or had witnessed. Fear and intimidation is a significant factor:

*'People will not report a crime even if they have seen it take place for fear that it will come back on them'*

*'Scanners have been bought and used to identify people who report incidents to the gardaí'*

It is also evident, however, that there are other reasons for not reporting crime. Some survey respondents felt it would be a waste of time to report crime (especially minor, non-violent crime) since in their opinion there was little chance of the crime being solved or of perpetrators being convicted. The perception by respondents that crime in their area was pursued less vigorously than incidents in more affluent areas was recorded in the survey and focus groups.

*'We have a feeling of being treated like second class citizens by the gardaí. There is a poor response rate by the gardaí to incidents that take place in our area'*

*'There is a lack of faith in the authorities and a fear of repercussions'*

In relation to the number of local respondents who had witnessed criminal and anti-social activities in their estates, the three most prevalent issues were public drinking (86.8% of respondents), joyriding/speeding (82.4%) and loitering (82.0%). Drug dealing & drug use were outside the top three concerns of respondents noted in the survey, however in the focus groups and in the crime mapping exercise concern about drugs and drug dealing was a constant feature. The survey recorded over half 54% (n138) of residents across the RAPID areas had witnessed drug dealing. The crime mapping of community Safety Incidents (CSIs) in the three Mulhuddart estates (Appendix D & E) corroborates the prevalence of these types of activity.

*'There should be more gardaí on the beat to enforce the laws on public drinking'*

*'There should be more Garda patrols to disperse gangs who drink in open/public spaces'*

Another notable outcome of this particular section of the survey is that 11.7% of local residents were satisfied with the responses by An Garda Síochána and/or Fingal County Council when a crime or anti social behaviour were reported, in Corduff this figure decreases to just 6.3% of the local households sampled. In respect to dealing with the community a feature of the focus groups and to a lesser extent questionnaires was the perceived strain in relations between the Gardaí and young people with on the one hand the Gardaí being too heavy-handed in dealing with young people and on the other that many young people do not have any respect for the Gardaí.

*'If community police were seen to be patrolling in the area more often it would make a great difference'*

*'Gardaí often cause more problems by going over to youths that are not involved in any trouble and then blowing things out of all proportion'*

Respondents in the survey and focus groups felt that Fingal County Council could be doing more with local residents associations and community groups to identify ways in which the safety and security of local residents might be improved. In particular efforts to target hotspots for criminal and antisocial behaviour (e.g. cul-de-sacs, alleyways, outside of local shops, boarded up houses) and to decide whether changes to the physical infrastructure and layout of estates might lead to improvements in community safety and in some cases the allocation policies and vetting procedures.



*‘Fingal County Council should clamp down on antisocial behaviour and not use our area as a dumping ground for difficult tenants.*

*‘People who are given houses in the community should be given a charter contract of loyalty and responsibility to their neighbours and to the community in which they live’*

*‘People involved in serious criminal and antisocial activity should be evicted from the estate regardless of the fact that they are renting or buying their houses, the gardaí and the Council know who they are’*

In conclusion it is evident from the survey results that residents in Mulhuddart, Blakestown/Mountview and Corduff are more likely to have witnessed and/or been a victim of crime and/or anti social behaviour than the wider population as surveyed by the CSO. A concern exists with regards low level of reporting and satisfaction levels when incidents are reported, further the relatively high levels of Intimidation and harassment experienced by respondents. The broad results echo the rationale for contemporary crime prevention policies and community policing initiatives that seek to develop innovative solutions for intractable local problems (Carrabine *et al*, 2004; Hughes *et al*, 2002; Newburn, 2007).

# PART SIX:

## COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

### 6.1 Introduction

It is hypothesised that links exist between possession of social capital and safer communities. Social capital refers to cohesion and the accumulated sum of social networks and connections in a given neighbourhood (Pierson, 2002). Robert Putnam (2000) has recently popularised the term and revitalised debates on its conceptualisation (Russell *et al*, 2005). Putnam believes social capital is a collective good that refers to “connections among individuals – social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them” (Putnam, 2000: 19). Sampson (2001) elaborates further defining social capital largely by its functions, created when the structure of relations among persons facilitates action. It is these qualities, functions and the collective solidarity and action which may arise that this section considers community relationships in respect to community safety and security matters.

Putnam (2000) shows how social structures have disintegrated due to suburbanisation, changes in work patterns and a general disconnection from one another etc. At a local level these structures, such as residents associations, neighbourhood watch or estate management schemes, can help build safer communities. Russell *et al*. (2005) and (Wellman & Wortley, 1990) believe the strength of a community’s social capital can be measured by its ability to mobilise collective action and create community support. The importance of social capital in thinking about collective ways to approach social problems, problems referring to community safety and security here.

### 6.2 Results

**Table 6.1 How well participants get on with their neighbours (Q.25)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Unwell/very unwell	2	2.7	1	0.6	5	7.2	8	2.7
Neither well/unwell	7	9.6	6	3.9	8	11.6	21	7.1
Well/very well	64	87.7	148	95.5	56	81.2	268	90.2

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas



With regards to the relationships that participants have with their neighbours we can see from Table 6 in general these were generally good or very good across the three separate areas surveyed. Little difference existed across individual estates of note.

**Table 6.2 How helpful are people in the participants area at looking out for other people (Q.26)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Unhelpful/very unhelpful**	16	22.5	9	5.8	17	24.3	42	14.3
Neither helpful/unhelpful**	32	45.1	36	23.4	20	28.6	88	29.8
Helpful/Very helpful**	23	32.4	109	70.8	33	47.1	165	55.9

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

**Table 6.2** highlights how helpful respondents thought people in their local area were at looking out for other people. A significant difference was found across the areas and in individual estates ( $p < 0.01$ ).

The largest difference appears to be in the Blakestown Mountview area where 70.8% ( $n=109$ ) of respondents felt that people were helpful or very helpful. However, in comparison only 32.4% ( $n=23$ ) in Mulhuddart and 47.1% ( $n=33$ ) in Corduff felt the same. When looking at particular estates we can see that in the Blakestown Mountview area the Whitestown estate scored particularly high with 80.5% ( $n=62$ ) reporting this, while in Fortlawn only 55.3% ( $n=21$ ) stated that people were helpful or very helpful. In Mulhuddart, the distribution was evenly spread, in Corduff and the Sheephill estate, only 40% ( $n=8$ ) of respondents stated they felt people were helpful.

**Table 6.3 Importance of feeling a sense of community with other people in the area (Q.27)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Unimportant/Very Unimportant *	7	9.7	4	2.6	5	7.0	16	5.4
Neither important/ unimportant *	8	11.1	11	7.2	11	15.5	30	10.1
Important/Very Important *	57	79.2	138	90.2	55	77.5	250	84.5

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

We can see from **Table 6.3** that feeling a sense of community was important or very important for the majority of respondents from all RAPID areas in Blanchardstown with 84.5% ( $n=250$ ) stating this. Differences were found to exist across the areas ( $p < 0.05$ ).

90.2% ( $n=138$ ) of the Blakestown Mountview area respondents highlighted the importance of this compared to 79.2% ( $n=57$ ) in Mulhuddart and 77.5% ( $n=55$ ) in Corduff. In Corduff, only 61.9% ( $n=13$ ) from the Sheephill estate stated that this was important while 88% ( $n=22$ ) from Corduff Cres/Ave/Gds/Way/Place/Close/Green declared this. In the Blakestown/Mountview area there were only slight variations likewise Mulhuddart where they were largely evenly spread.

**Table 6.4 Extent to which a sense of community is felt with other people in the area (Q.28)**

	Mulhuddart		Blakestown/ Mountview		Corduff		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Weak/Very Weak**	21	28.8	12	7.9	14	19.7	47	15.9
Neither Weak or Strong**	25	34.2	36	23.5	22	31.0	83	27.9
Strong/Very Strong**	27	37.0	105	68.6	35	49.3	167	56.2

\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.05$

\*\* Indicates significant difference from other areas of  $p \leq 0.01$

Significance was calculated incorporating a weighting tool to account for different sizes of areas

**Table 6.4** highlights the extent to which respondents feel a sense of community with other people in their area. There is a sharp contrast across the different areas and statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.01$ ) were found. Blakestown/Mountview taken together appears to have the strongest sense of community with 68.6% ( $n=105$ ) of respondents feeling that strong or very strong links exist in the Whitestown estate 79.2% ( $n=61$ ) respondents reported this whilst in Fortlawn it was lower at 54.1% ( $n=20$ ). In Mulhuddart almost half as many people felt strong links with only 37% ( $n=27$ ) reporting this evenly across sample areas. Finally 49.3% ( $n=25$ ) reported strong links in the Corduff area. Within Corduff, Corduff Grove/Park appear to have the strongest links with 60% ( $n=15$ ) compared to only 33.3% ( $n=7$ ) from Sheephill.

### 6.3 Discussions and Conclusions

The survey revealed a large proportion of respondents feel it is important to have good community relationships within the areas in which they live. A total of 84.5% of survey respondents said that it is important to have a sense of community with fellow residents. Likewise it is encouraging to note that 90.2% ( $n=268$ ) of all survey respondents across the local authority housing estate areas said that they get on well with their neighbours. These survey outcomes appear to indicate positive levels of social capital within the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown and that positive relationships within the estates are significant for local residents.

Survey results suggest community relations and feelings of neighbourliness within the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown could be improved. 55.9% of all residents said that people are helpful in looking out for others in their area. Mulhuddart recorded a particularly low figure here of just 32.4%. Furthermore just over half (56.2%) of all survey respondents said that there is a strong sense of community within the area in which they live. Once again Mulhuddart registered the lowest percentage with just 37.0%.

Survey respondents and participants at the focus group meetings said that there is a clear need to create a stronger sense of community cohesion and solidarity within the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown. Whilst local residents identify the benefits of neighbours getting on well with each other there is a view that neighbours often do not stand together or are united at times of significant threats to their community e.g. when there are high levels of anti-social and criminal behaviour and/or when the appearance of their estate/area is very poor. Many people believe that local residents do not come together regularly enough to tackle issues of common interest and concern.

*‘There is a mindset that it is somebody else’s responsibility for dealing with local issues in my community’*

*‘People don’t want to hear what you have to say’*

Local residents who participated in the research project did give examples of collective community action and solidarity proving itself to be effective and capable of producing positive results. In some instances the collective impact of residents coming together did influence families who were creating a lot of noise late at night to moderate and improve behaviour. In other cases families who were making a mess of the area (e.g. by piling up wrecked cars outside their houses) were either reported to the appropriate authorities or confronted by other local residents. Whilst care and common sense are obviously required in relation to the issues/problems to be tackled, there is evidence that collective community action can be effective in tackling anti-social and criminal behaviour.

*‘Community action is required. We need strong committed individuals with a strong sense of civic responsibility’*

If according to Russell *et al.* (2005) and Wellman & Wortley’s (1990), argument that social capital creates collective action and community support, then strong community relations should be integral to building and sustaining safer communities. Wellman & Wortley (1990) also argue the fundamental importance of the ties and links that form complex networks, facilitating social connectedness for communities through social support. This last point is important given contemporary crime prevention policies are geared increasingly toward devolved, community policing, facilitating local residents so they can participate in determining policing priorities for their neighbourhoods (Connolly, 2004; Gilling, 2005). For residents in RAPID areas this requires the development of ‘linking’ social capital in order to better associate with the appropriate authorities in creating safer communities (Russell *et al.*, 2005).

Local communities need to be supported in their organisation and development. Some of the issues around which support and guidance might be required, based on the completed questionnaires and focus group discussions, include the following: establishing priorities and key focuses for the work of local groups, advice on issues concerning advocacy and effecting positive change e.g. what do we need to do to alert relevant agencies to the fact that we have problems in our area? how do we put forward a strong case for positive interventions and additional resources?.

Some of the challenges facing people who live in the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown are serious and very significant. In this context it is often both difficult and courageous for local residents to stand up to the anti-social and criminal behaviour which is taking place within their estates. When residents do decide to get involved, organise attend and participate in initiatives designed to address anti social behaviour and crime in their areas, it is important they are encouraged and supported – supported within the community in which they live, supported by local development and community development agencies and supported by relevant statutory agencies, most importantly, An Garda Síochána and Fingal County Council.

Many survey respondents and participants in the focus groups identified the clear need to have a strong community response in relation to issues concerning crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety. Whilst it is recognised that there is an obvious role for agencies like An Garda Síochána and Fingal County Council, the results from the survey of local residents and the focus group meetings clearly demonstrate the fact that local residents feel that community safety is a shared responsibility involving themselves, local community groups, statutory agencies and other relevant bodies. Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour is a collective responsibility rather than the responsibility of any one agency or organisation.

This is a important finding from the research and identifies residents in the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown have a clear understanding of the personal role they might potentially play in improving their own quality of life/community safety in partnership with statutory/voluntary agencies. The

communities understanding that they are equal partners to those voluntary and statutory agencies directly responsible for improving community safety is one that needs to be nurtured and developed in any future strategies/initiatives for tackling the perennial problems of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

Residents involvement in identifying ways in which estates could be made safer and alerting authorities to issues which need to be addressed (e.g. off licences delivering alcohol to minors, locations where young people might congregate in an intimidating or threatening manner, boarded up houses) . Crucially residents highlighted the fact that when they were asked to meetings or reported issues that they feel like they are being listened, consulted and informed about progress.

*'There is a need to collaborate with each other in addressing the problems which exist within our estates. We need to be working together more closely'*

*'Decisions are made without consulting tenants'*

*'I would like to help and to get more involved but I don't know where to start'*

Considering Putnam's (2000) theorisation of disintegrated social structures, linking social capital should be seen as key in the development of safer communities. This means the co-development and maintenance of programmes and initiatives between local residents and authorities.

The development of An Garda Síochána Act 2005 and the introduction of Joint Policing Committees and Local Policing Foras - *Safer Blanchardstown* are a practical example of where legislation recognises the challenges and difficulties which exist in Local Drugs Task Force/RAPID areas with respect to confidence, exchange of information and engagement. The facilitation by local policing fora of public meetings, many of which have taken place in RAPID areas, between residents the Gardaí and Local authority members can play an important role in informing, communicating and building trust and confidence. Likewise ongoing development and liaison with local residents associations and estate management groups.

The development of Joint Policing Committees the membership of which recognise the partnership orientated approach required to help deal with crime, anti social behaviour and its underlying causes will become increasingly central and important in closing these gaps.

Finally Neighbourhood watch schemes were mentioned by a number of respondents in respect to safety and neighbours 'looking out for each other' it was felt when organised properly the introduction or reintroduction of Neighbourhood Watch schemes within the RAPID areas of Blanchardstown could have a positive effect

*'We should go back to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme which worked for years'*

*'Community spirit and involvement is the way forward to make the community a better place for all'*

In conclusion while possession of social capital cannot be directly linked to local experiences of crime and anti social behaviour, further assessment in the local authority estates, which form the significant majority of the Blanchardstown RAPID area, could help identify ways to improve community safety for residents.

# PART SEVEN:

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1. **Prioritisation**

A senior, time limited, task group formed the purpose of which will be to address the specific evidence based research findings in Mulhuddart

## 2. **Communication**

Increase accessibility; provide greater reassurance and create more awareness of ways residents can report crime, drugs and anti social behaviour in a secure, confidential and if necessary anonymous manner.

## 3. **Prioritisation**

A community safety survey/audit is completed on all parks and open spaces in/or at the periphery of RAPID areas with a view to making improvements which enhance safety and reduce or prevent crime and anti social behaviour.

## 4. **Communication**

Communications strategy developed aimed at addressing issues specific to the evidence based research findings for RAPID, specifically but not exclusively public confidence issues, under reporting of incidents and harassment & Intimidation.

## 5. **Enforcement**

Consistent and rigorous enforcement of laws and bye- laws particularly dealing with the sale of alcohol, drinking in public places, litter, graffiti, noise nuisance, dumping etc.

## 6. **Community Involvement**

In partnership with residents develop policy and promote initiatives which seek to promote greater citizen involvement, civic/resident/parental/guardian responsibility which contributes towards making communities safer.

## 7. **Prioritisation**

Road safety audit completed in RAPID area with a view to making improvements that reduce speeding and promote road safety.

## 8. **Communication**

Develop specific materials and '*spend time with*' checklist for Community Gardaí/Sergeants as part of induction/assigned duties when in RAPID area.

## 9. **Prioritisation**

Increase awareness amongst staff and strengthen strategic and operational commitments from agencies, statutory and non statutory, development & community who deliver services in RAPID areas to take all necessary steps and consideration in performing their duties to help prevent and reduce crime and anti social behaviour.

## 10. **Community Involvement**

In partnership with residents develop policy and promote initiatives which seek to provide greater support, incentive & reward for citizens who involve themselves in activities which contribute towards making

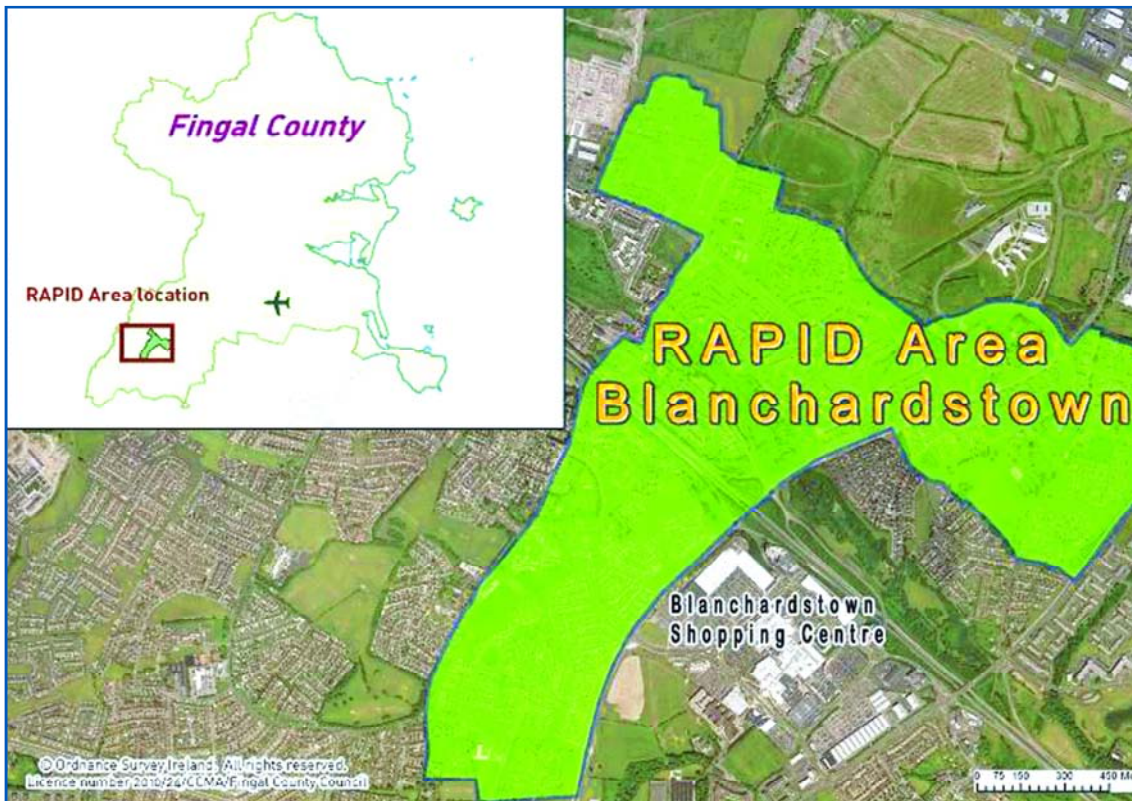


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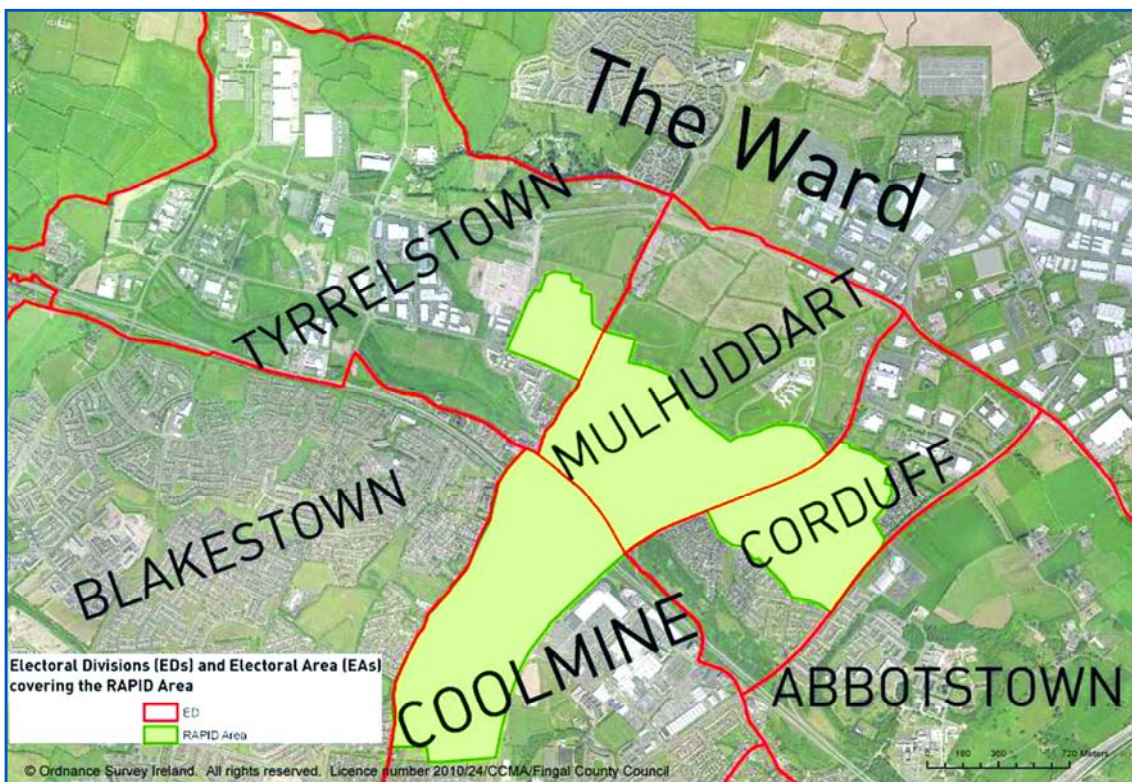
## Appendix A

Map showing Blanchardstown RAPID area



## Appendix B

Map showing RAPID area and the electoral division's boundary spans



**Note:** Study area 1 Mulhuddart: Wellview located in Tyrellstown, Dromheath, Parslickstown, Mulhuddart ED  
Study area 2 Blakestown/Mountview: all estates (Whitechapel, Fortlawn, Whitestown & sheepmoor) located in Coolmine ED  
Study area 3 Corduff: all estates in study area located in Corduff ED



## Appendix C

### 1. Background Information

#### 1. Gender

☐

Male

☐

Female

#### 2. Age group

☐

18-25

☐

46-55

☐

26-35

☐

56-65

☐

36-45

☐

66+

#### 3. What is your nationality?

#### 4. In what country were you born?

#### 5. What estate do you live in?

#### 6. How long have you lived in this estate?

☐

Under 1 year

☐

6-9 years

☐

1-2 years

☐

10+ years

☐

3-5 years

#### 7. How many people live in your household including yourself?

Adults

Children

### 2. Physical Appearance of Estate

#### 8. How important is the physical appearance of your estate to you on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is not important and 5 is very important?

☐

1 (Not Important)

☐

2

☐

3

☐

4

☐

5 (Very Important)

#### 9. How satisfied are you with the physical appearance of your estate on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is not satisfied and 5 is very satisfied?

☐

1 (Not satisfied)

☐

2

☐

3

☐

4

☐

5 (Very satisfied)

Please specify why



## Appendix C

### 10. Would you like to change any of the following physical issues that may affect your estate?

	Yes	Not an issue in my estate
Graffiti	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boarded-up houses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Litter/Waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abandoned/Burnt out cars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Damaged railings, fencing or walls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of Parks or green areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of Park furniture(e.g. benches)/street furniture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of litterbins	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abandoned shopping Trolleys	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify other

### 11. Are you aware of a recycling centre in your area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (If NO go to Q13)

### 12. Have you used the recycling centre?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If NO, why?

### 13. Are you aware of a bulky waste collection in your area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (if NO go to Q15)

### 14. Have you used the bulky waste collection service?

- ☐ Yes (If YES go to Q15) ☐ No

If NO, why?

## 3. Community Safety

## Appendix C

**15. What do you think is a safe community?**

**16. What do you think would make your estate a safer place to live?**

**17. How safe do you feel in your estate on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is very unsafe and 5 is very safe?**

	1 (Very unsafe)	2	3	4	5 (Very safe)
During the day?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
After dark?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**18. How safe do you think children are in your estate on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is very unsafe and 5 is very safe?**

	1 (Very unsafe)	2	3	4	5 (Very safe)
During the day?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
After dark?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**19. Do you think the following should be involved in creating a Safe Community for you to live in?**

	Yes	NO
Myself	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My Neighbours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Organisations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gardai	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safer Blanchardstown Forum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighbourhood Watch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CDP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fingal County Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HSE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify others

**20. Do you feel you have involvement in making decisions that affect your estates' wellbeing?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

if NO, why?

### 4. Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

Please feel assured that your answers to the following questions will remain confidential.

## Appendix C

### 21. Have you have been a victim of any of the following crimes or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months?

	Yes	No
Theft from a house/home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theft of a vehicle or theft from a vehicle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theft from person (mugging)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harassment/Intimidation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical assault	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vandalism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify Other

### 22. Have you witnessed any of the following crimes or anti-social behaviour in your estate in the last 12 months?

	Yes	No
Theft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug Dealing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking in Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loitering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joyriding/Speeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gang violence/Brawls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harrassment/Intimidation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loose Animals (Horses/Dogs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify other

## Appendix C

**23. In general, if you have reported a crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months, please state if you were satisfied with the service received on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is unsatisfied and 5 is very satisfied.**

- ☐ 1 (Unsatisfied)
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5 (Very satisfied)
- ☐ Did Not Report Crime

**24. Are there any reasons why you would not report a crime or anti-social behaviour?**

### 5. Relationships

**25. How well do you get on with your neighbours on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is not well and 5 is very well.**

- ☐ 1 (Not well)      ☐ 2      ☐ 3      ☐ 4      ☐ 5 (Very well)

**26. In general, how helpful do you think people in your area are at looking out for one another? Please rate on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is Do Their Own Thing and 5 is Look out For Others.**

- ☐ 1 (Do their own thing)      ☐ 2      ☐ 3      ☐ 4      ☐ 5 (Look out for others)

**27. How important is it for you to feel a sense of community with other people in your area on a scale of 1-5, 1 being Not Important and 5 being Very Important.**

- ☐ 1 (Not important)      ☐ 2      ☐ 3      ☐ 4      ☐ 5 (Very important)

**28. To what extent do you feel a sense of community with other people in your area on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is very little and 5 is very strong?**

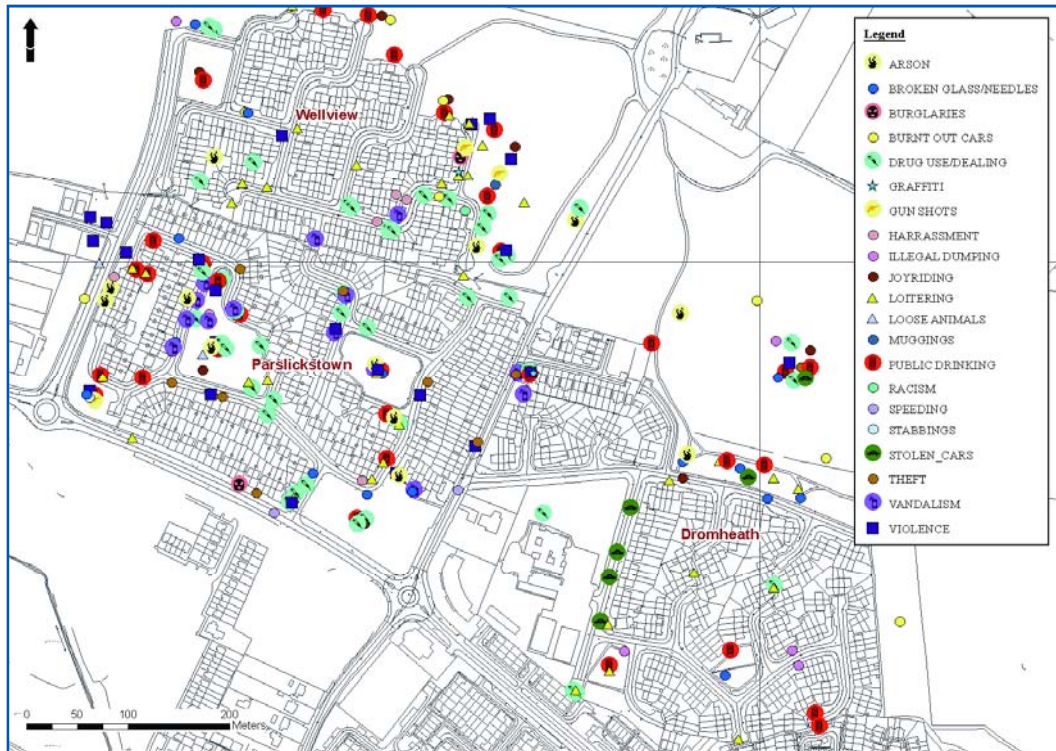
- ☐ 1 Very Little      ☐ 2      ☐ 3      ☐ 4      ☐ 5 Very Strong

**29. Any other comments**



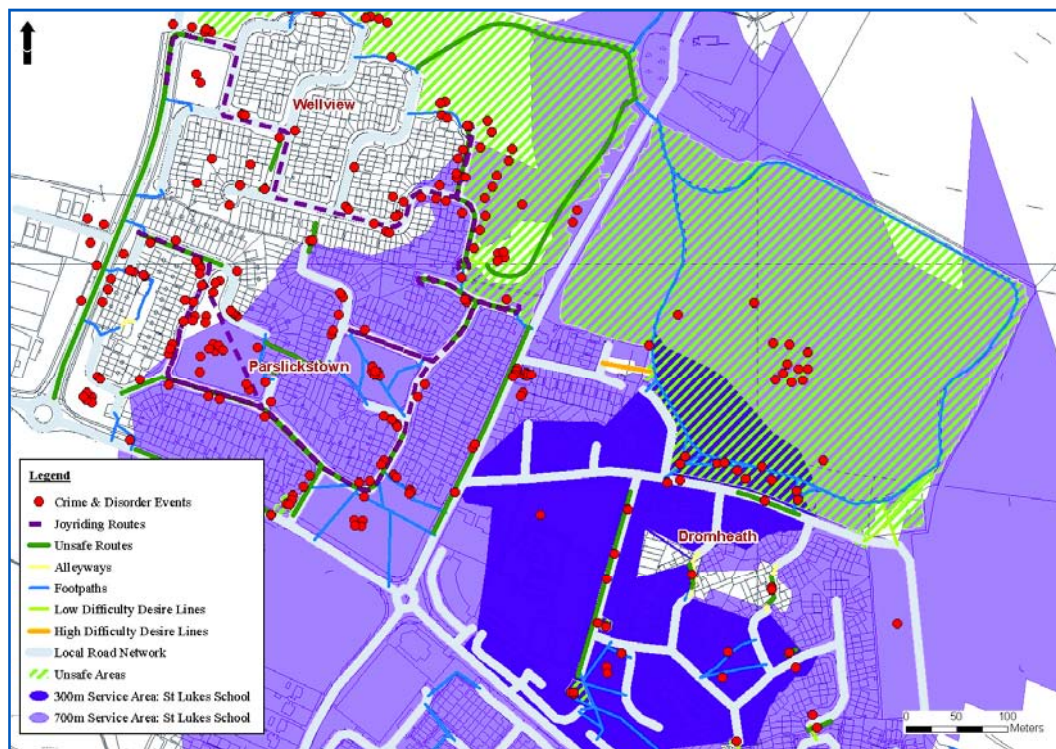
## Appendix D

Map showing where respondents reported to community researcher incidences of crime & disorder, anti social incidents



## Appendix E

Map showing where respondents identified to researcher/s (a) unsafe areas/routes (b) crime & disorder, ASB incidences



## Appendix F

Percentage of persons in 2006 who have experienced crime classified by urban/rural location.

Offence	Urban	Rural	All persons
Theft with violence	1.5%	0.7%	1.2%
Theft without violence	2.8%	2.2%	2.5%
Physical Assault	1.5%	0.5%	1.1%
Victim of any crime	5.4%	3.3%	4.6%

[http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/crime\\_justice/current/crimevictimisation\\_qnhs2006.pdf](http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/crime_justice/current/crimevictimisation_qnhs2006.pdf)

April 2007 Central statistics Office, Republic of Ireland