



## Community Policing

*The Civic Guard will not succeed by force of arms or numbers but on their moral authority as servants of the people.*

(Michael Staines, first Commissioner of An Garda Síochána).

Commissioner O'Duffy (second Commissioner of An Garda Síochána) later saw sport as a method of integration of the new force into the communities in which they were to serve. He also emphasised the use of flexibility and discretion in their duties without recourse to prosecution for every trivial offence. This pragmatism, along with the fact that the Gardaí lived among their communities, differed from the methods of their predecessors, the RIC, and helped Gardaí to win public acceptance. The relationship that then developed between the communities and the Gardaí, which is the envy of many other police forces, could be seen as the basis of the formal Community Policing models that followed.

While it could be argued that all Gardaí in past times were Community Policemen, in order to meet the needs of the 21st-century community, An Garda Síochána had to change as an organisation. Traditional policing responses are under continuous pressure from 21st-century challenges and our service delivery must change accordingly.

The Community Policing Framework Strategy emphasises that the definition of community is broad and that communities are made up of individuals with diverse needs. A one-size-fits-all approach is no longer acceptable. A community/customer policing approach, adopting modern processes and procedures to manage relationships with communities and individuals, and to better understand their needs, is now part of the work and values of all members.

There are currently 2 Sergeants and 22 Gardaí employed on full-time Community Policing throughout Galway City and County.

Despite the changes in society and within the Garda organisation, it is interesting to note that the key word in regard to An Garda Síochána and their communities remains "relationship".



Garda Aidan Heneghan and Garda John Flanagan, Ballinasloe Garda Station, policing the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in the 1980s. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

An Garda Aidan Heneghan agus an Garda John Flanagan, Stáisiún Gardai Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, i mbun póilíneachta ag Aonach Capall Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe sna 1980idí. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.



Garda Mounted Unit, in Loughrea. Photo courtesy of Denis Callaghy. Marc-Aonad an Gharda Síochána i mBaile Locha Riach. Grianghraf le caoinchead Denis Callaghy.



Galway Blue Challenge charity event. Courtesy of Inspector Senan Wall. Imeacht Carthanais Dhúshlán Gorm na Gaillimhe. Le caoinchead an Chigire Senan Wall.

## Póilíneacht Phobail

*The Civic Guard will not succeed by force of arms or numbers but on their moral authority as servants of the people.*

(Michael Staines, céad Choimisinéir an Gharda Síochána).

Bhí Coimisinéir O'Duffy (an dara Coimisinéir den Gharda Síochána) den tuairim go bhféadfaí leas a bhaint as spórt mar mhodh imeasctha an fhórsa nua leis na pobail a raibh siad le freastal a dhéanamh orthu. Mhol sé úsáid solúbthachta agus breithiúnais chomh maith le linn do chomhaltaí a bheith ag comhlíonadh a ndualgas, gan dul i muinín ionchúisimh i gcás gach aon chiona fhánaigh. Níorbh ionann an pragmatachas seo ná an chaoi a raibh na Gardaí seo ag cur fúthu i measc a bpobail agus modhanna an dreama a bhí ann rompu, an RIC. Chabhraigh na difríochtaí sin leis na Gardaí tacaíocht an phobail a fháil. D'fhéadfaí breathnú ar an gcaidreamh a d'fhás idir na pobail agus na Gardaí, ar caidreamh é a bhfuil go leor Fórsaí Póilíneachta eile in éad air, mar eiseamláir do na múnlaí foirmiúla Póilíneachta Pobail a tháinig ina dhiaidh sin.

Cé go bhféadfaí a rá gurbh Phóilíní Pobail iad na Gardaí uile san am atá caite, bhí athrú ag teastáil ar an nGarda Síochána mar eagraíocht d'fhonn a bheith in ann freastal ar riachtanais an phobail sa 21ú haois. Bíonn brú leanúnach ar fhreagairtí agus ar mhéadrachtaí traidisiúnta póilíneachta ó dhúshlán an 21ú haois agus ní mór athrú a chur ar sheachadadh seirbhísí an Gharda Síochána dá réir. Áitítear sa Chreatstraitéis maidir le Póilíneacht Phobail gur leathan an sainmhíniú atá ar phobal, agus go mbíonn gach aon phobal comhdhéanta de dhaoine a bhfuil riachtanais ilchineálacha acu. Ní féidir glacadh le cur chuige uilechoiteann a thuilleadh. Áirítear anois ar obair agus ar luachanna gach comhalta cur chuige póilíneachta pobail/custaiméara a ghlacadh, próisis agus nósanna oibre nua-aimseartha a ghlacadh chun caidrimh le pobail agus le daoine aonair a bhainistiú d'fhonn tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar riachtanais.

Tá 2 Sáirsint agus 22 Gardaí fostaithe i láthair na huairé chun Póilíneacht Phobail a dhéanamh go lánaimseartha ar fud chathair agus Chontae na Gaillimhe.

In ainneoin na n-athruithe ar an tsochaí, agus ar eagraíocht an Gharda Síochána go deimhin, tá sé spéisiúil a thabhairt faoi deara gurb é an focal "caidreamh" an focal is mó tábhachtacha i gcónaí maidir leis an nGarda Síochána agus na pobail a bhfreastalaíonn sé orthu.

