



RATHCORMAC & DRUMCLIFFE

# COMMUNITY ALERT UPDATE

APRIL 2013

## Your Community Alert Group Update...

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Rathcormac and Drumcliffe Community Alert Group.

### 1. Committee:

The Group have now established a committee of four persons: Chairperson, Secretary and two Joint Treasurers.

### 2. Area Coordinators:

Together with this committee the group has Area Coordinators covering each district in the parish area. Names of area coordinators are listed on the second page of this newsletter. The list of Area Coordinators is not yet finalised. Should your district not be covered please contact our secretary Eddie Sheehan.

### 3. Aims:

Our main aims initially are as follows.

(i) The replacing of existing community alert signs where necessary and erecting new signs where needed. Should you consider need for a new sign in your area please contact your local coordinator or a committee member.



One of the new Community Alert signs

(ii) The establishment of BE "ALERT SMS" (short message service). This is a quick and simple way to communicate short messages via mobile phone. Its popularity is mainly due to its convenience and cost effectiveness. BE ALERT SMS is the group texting service for community alerts in conjunction with the Garda. Details of how BE ALERT SMS works will be outlined in the next issue of this Newsletter.

### 4. Personal Alarms:

Having completed the signage replacement programme and having signed up to the Text Alert System, we will now undertake to promote the personal pendant alarm system in our area with a view to exploring grant options for same.

### 5. Muintir na Tire & An Gardaí:

The organization Muintir na Tire in conjunction with the local Gardaí have been very helpful in establishing our community alert group. Muintir na Tire have been very helpful in keeping us informed of up to date information in regard to home and self protection and we look forward to their future support. In this regard we would like to thank Vanessa Clarke of Muintir na Tire for all her help and also Sgt. John Conlon and Garda Tom McMullen.



### 6. Communicating with You:

Our main source of communication with you will be via the Oxfield Community Newsletter and our area coordinators will deliver newsletters to you in due course. Our thanks to the Oxfield Committee for this facility.

### 7. Donations:

In order to offset costs which will be incurred due to signage and membership of "BE ALERT SMS" system, together with other future costs, it was agreed at our last meeting to request a donation of €5 per house. Our area coordinators have agreed to collect same and they intend to collect during the week starting Monday April 22nd. All expenditure by the Group will be published in newsletters.

### 8. Meetings:

Full meetings will be held when necessary e.g. an information session where suppliers will be invited to display the up to date aids and protective devices available on the market, etc.

## Your Committee...

Chairperson: Austin O'Callaghan  
T: 0861925211 / 071 9143880

Secretary: Eddie Sheehan  
T: 086 3083178 / 071 9142644

Joint Treasurers:  
Mary Hopper / Elizabeth Brennan

## Area Coordinators

### Current Area Covered:

Cashelgarron South East to Lisnalurg and North and South of this Line.

### List of Area Coordinators:

**Cashelgarron / Urlar / Cooladrummon:**  
Brian McNulty  
Des McTiernan

### **Castletown/ Ballinagalliagh:**

John Gilmartin  
Pat McDonagh  
Declan Carroll  
Michael Carr  
Mary Mahon  
Ian Flanagan

### **Carney / Coolbeg / Oxfield / Drumcliffe:**

Damien Kerrigan  
Mary Drury  
John Hession  
Eamon Bellew  
Phillip Gallagher

### **Cloonderry / Drum:**

Cathal Hopper  
Michael Broaders

### **Cloonmull:**

Stephen Kivlehan  
Jimmy Stenson

### **Clooneen / Cloonderry / Collinsford:**

Martin Cullen  
David McDonald  
Margaret Mary Harte  
Ann Feehily

### **Castlegal / Colga / Kinsellagh:**

Maeve Prunty  
Vinnie Duggan  
Maura Garvey

### **Drum Road:**

Gene O'Carroll  
Geoffrey Percy  
Denis Regan  
John Clancy

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## Glencar / Gortagrelly:

Michael Clancy  
Carol Gallagher

## Kintogher:

Patsy Gallagher

## Kiltycooley / Carncash:

Tom Logan  
Richard Patterson

## Keelty / Barnaribbon:

Patricia Dunleavy  
Noreen Keane

## Lislahelly:

John McCaffrey  
Sean Gilroy

## Rathcormac / Clooneen:

Jimmy Doherty  
Eddie Sheahan  
Mick Gaughan

## Tully Hill / Rahaberna:

Seamus Quinn  
Sean O'Hara  
Vera Denning  
Michael Reynolds  
Karl Kelly

## N15 (Urlar / Drumcliffe South / Kintogher / Teesan / Lisnalurg):

Kevin McMorro Jnr  
Michael Kilcoyne  
Patricia Meehan  
Paul Currid  
Niall McEvoy  
Ken Henry

## 'Be Alert SMS' - How it Works...

Here's a brief description of how the Be Alert SMS scheme works:

- (i) Each person in the scheme gives their mobile phone number to their Area Coordinator. No name is necessary just the phone number (mobile).
- (ii) The Committee then submits the list of numbers to a group text provider (in our case Grapevine Communications based in Bishopstown Co Cork).
- (iii) The provider then sets the numbers up on a database.
- (iv) If a person notices something unusual or suspicious to them in his or her area, they dial the local Garda station 915700.
- (v) The Garda then investigates and checks out the information.
- (vi) if the Garda then considers it necessary Grapevine Communications are contacted.

(vii) By a password procedure the relevant information is then communicated by text message to all registered mobile numbers in our area.

Sample text message: "A green Ford Mondeo was stolen in XXX area last night, Reg No XXXX, please report any sightings to your local Gardaí".

It is important to remember that Grapevine Communications adhere to all Data Protection Legislation. They never store recipients' names, only their numbers. They also guarantee that they never pass any numbers to third parties.

It is essential to remember that all inquiries must be conducted only by the Gardaí.

## Home Security Tips...

- ✓ Fit a door viewer. This will allow you to safely see who is outside prior to opening the door.
- ✓ Fit a door chain / limiter. This will allow you to open the door partly while still allowing you some control over security.
- ✓ Front and rear doors should be kept locked day and night. Windows should also be locked.
- ✓ Keep a list of emergency numbers that you can refer to in an emergency situation e.g. family, relations, neighbours, Gardaí, doctor, district nurse etc.
- ✓ If you have a mobile phone, ensure that you have emergency contact numbers recorded under the ICE (In Case of Emergency) system.
- ✓ Keep a Personal Information Pack in your fridge (see Age Action Ireland website for further information).
- ✓ Number your house clearly so that Gardaí and emergency services can find you quickly when necessary

## What is Distraction Burglary?

Some burglars will try to trick their way into your home. A distraction burglary is where a bogus caller to your home gains entry on a pretext / lie or creates a diversion so that an accomplice can sneak in separately.

Bogus callers will say anything to get into your home -

- "There's been an accident, can I call an ambulance?"
- "I've broken down, can I use your phone?"
- "I've had a fall, could I have a glass of water"
- "I'm from the council, there's a burst main, I need to turn off your supply" etc.

Some will keep you talking at the front door while their accomplice sneaks in the back door. In all cases you need to be wary of strangers calling to your home. Take precautions -

- ✓ Do not open the door to anyone before you've checked who it is and what they want. Use your door viewer and chain / limiter.
- ✓ Check identification, where appropriate.
- ✓ Do not leave strangers unattended at your doorstep.
- ✓ Ensure your back door is locked when you answer a call at the front door.
- ✓ Remember - **if in doubt, keep them out**

## Suggestions...

Please note that any ideas or suggestions you might like to make regarding the improvement your and your neighbour's security will be much appreciated. Please let your Coordinator know or committee member know.

## Useful Contacts and Links...

Sligo Garda Station	071 9157000
Sligo Regional Hospital	071 9171111
D'cliffe Family Practice	071 9163192
Sligo Fire Brigade	071 9144999

An Garda Síochána  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

Age Action Ireland  
[www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie)

National Council on Aging & Older People  
[www.ncaop.ie](http://www.ncaop.ie)

PLEASE KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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