

**DONNYBROOK**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**ENGAGEMENT AREA**  
**COMMUNITY POLICING**  
**UPDATE**

**Date: Christmas 2020**



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA  
KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE



**Message from Superintendent Burke:**

As 2020 draws to an end, it is a year in which none of us will forget. It has been a year of significant uncertainty and worry for all. Covid 19 has been very challenging for everyone, including An Garda Síochána, however the community response to the pandemic has been immense and your collective role in that effort is acknowledged.

Thank you also for your continued service to the community and for your cooperation and support to An Garda Síochána, which I greatly appreciate. A key cornerstone of Community Policing is its relationship with its community and I am pleased that our relationship is vibrant in the Donnybrook and Irishtown areas.

As the nights lengthen, some take advantage of crime opportunities, I urge you all to spread the crime prevention message to ensure that our properties and property remain safe and secure. There are some helpful tips below, and on [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie), that will ensure that you and your families have a happy and safe Christmas.

I hope you will all get the opportunity to spend some time with your families and loved ones over the Christmas period and I look forward to meeting you all again in the New Year.

Superintendent Timothy Burke



## **Donnybrook Community Engagement Area Community Policing Christmas Initiative:**

This year we will be focusing our attention on our most vulnerable. We are in the process of asking local primary school children to write a personal letter / card to each individual in a nursing home, those in assisted living or those living alone with no support to let them know that they are being thought of.

We are also setting up a donation box in both Irishtown and Donnybrook Garda Stations from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> December. We are asking anyone who can to donate a suitable **unwrapped** gift please do so (we will then sanitise the gift and wrap it). Suitable gifts would include Chocolates, Toiletry sets, perfumes, soaps, socks, scarfs, blankets, books, Arts and Crafts, Stationary, knitting supplies, puzzles, jigsaws, Magazines, hair brushes etc.

I would be very grateful if you could help us advertise this initiative by posting something on your Social Media pages etc. Irishtown Garda Station is open 24 hours and Donnybrook Garda Station is open to the public from 7am to 9pm if people wish to drop in gifts.

We will endeavour to give everyone living on their own a gift and to give each nursing home and assisted living development a care package to share out.



### **Home Security Tips:**

- Keep windows and doors shut and locked even when you are at home. In some cases entry is through an unsecured door or window.
- Use your alarm, if you have one, even if you are leaving your home for a short period of time or when you are in for the night
- Never leave valuables such as wallets, keys etc. in view of windows and doors
- If you are expecting a parcel, make sure someone is there when it is delivered or ask a neighbour to take it in. Please avoid having it left on the door step
- Only put presents under the Christmas tree on Christmas morning
- Once you have opened all your gifts don't leave the empty boxes outside on view to advertise your good fortune to criminals!

### **Tips if you are leaving your home over the Festive Season?**

- Make your home look like someone is living in it ,e.g. timer lights, leaving a radio on
- Cancel any newspapers or milk deliveries
- Trusted neighbours may be able to help you by collecting your post, opening and closing curtains, turning off lights and changing which ones you leave on each day and they could park their car in your driveway.
- Leave any important documents and valuable items with other family members
- If you normally leave valuable bicycles or similar items in your shed consider putting them in your house
- Lock all external doors and windows and put on your alarm



### **Staying Safe while out shopping:**

- Always put shopping and parcels in the boot of your car when driving
- Don't return to your car to leave purchases in the boot before continuing with your shopping as thieves may watch car parks
- Don't leave valuables on the seat of your car
- Keep the car doors locked even when you are moving
- Don't leave your house keys in your car
- Secure your Sat Nav – hide it when not in use and don't pre-set your exact home address into it
- Take extra care when using a cash point or chip and pin. Be wary of anyone standing too close to you. Try and use a bank machine inside a branch first. These are less likely to be targeted for scams
- Don't leave your handbag in the shopping trolley
- Stay alert when using your mobile phone. It is very easy for someone to snatch it out of your hand



### **On line shopping:**

- With the increase in shopping online shoppers should be aware that behind some flashy websites criminals are looking to cash in on the Christmas spending. Previous reports suggest the following products are the top 5 to feature in online shopping fraud:
  1. Smart Phones
  2. Digital Cameras
  3. Designer goods including jewellery and branded handbags and boots
  4. Laptops
  5. Video game systems
- Use secure websites that you trust. Do your research before making a purchase and check online forums for feedback
- Do they have a real world presence? Is there an address and phone number to verify who they are?
- Check the browser address changes from 'http' to 'https' to indicate you have a secure connection and look for a padlock or an unbroken key symbol on your web browser

### **Drink Driving:**

- As always if you enjoying a few drinks over the Christmas period please never ever drink and drive.



### **Message from Community Policing Sergeant:**

Thank you for your support through the year. I hope you have found the bulletins helpful and I look forward to the day when we can have face to face meetings.

Darragh Lynch, Community Policing Sergeant

### **Community Policing Personnel:**

Community Policing Members will be working over the Christmas Period.

**Irishtown:** Sergeant Darragh Lynch, Garda Valerie Farrell, Garda Anthony Kelly and Garda Derek Dempsey;

**Donnybrook:** Garda Niall Burke, Garda Darragh O Brien, Garda Deidre Gately and Garda Barry Duffy Finn.

### **Need Assistance:**

Should you need assistance, the Gardaí at Donnybrook and Irishtown stations may be contacted at the following numbers:

**Donnybrook:** 01 666 9200 (Mainline) 01 666 9220 (Office)

**Irishtown:** 01 666 9600 (Mainline) 01 666 9620 (Office)

Yours sincerely,

**Community Policing Unit,  
Donnybrook Community Engagement Area  
Donnybrook.Community@garda.ie**

**Phone: Donnybrook: 01 666 9200**

**Irishtown: 01 666 9600**