

Press Release: Empowered Community Safety Day Brings Communities and Services Together at Borris House



A fantastic turnout was seen at the highly successful Empowered: Community Safety Day, which took place at Borris House, County Carlow, bringing together community organisations, emergency services, educators, local representatives and residents to discuss and strengthen community safety across the county.



Hosted by the Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), the event highlighted the importance of community safety and the strong collaboration between communities, voluntary groups, statutory agencies and national organisations in creating safer and more connected communities.



The Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership, formally established in December 2025, brings together 27 members representing a wide range of organisations and expertise across County Carlow. The event showcased the many supports and services that partnership members provide in promoting and strengthening community safety throughout the county.



A key highlight of the day was a panel discussion hosted by LCSP Chairperson Cllr. Michael Doran, with contributions from organisations involved in community safety and wellbeing, including:

- Superintendent Anthony Farrell, An Garda Síochána
- Caroline Dargan, Carlow First Responders, PPN Representative
- Eddie O'Hara, Carlow Fire Service
- Gillian Ryan, Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB)
- Rosie Palmer, Muintir na Tíre

Speakers shared valuable insights into the vital work taking place across emergency services, education and community organisations to support prevention, wellbeing and safety in communities throughout the county.

The day also featured a range of engaging workshops and activities. Amber Women's Refuge CLG introduced participants to the One Million Stars Project, while Active Carlow hosted an Activator Poles Walk around the grounds of Borris House. In addition, LCSP Chairperson Cllr. Michael Doran funded a complimentary guided tour of Borris House, delivered by a local tour guide.



The event also welcomed a number of local community groups who play an important role in strengthening social connection and wellbeing, including the Borris ICA, Borris Lace Makers, Men's Sheds, and The Krafty Crew Borris, highlighting the important contribution community-led initiatives make in building safer and more vibrant communities.

Participants also took part in the public consultation process, engaging with the Local Community Safety Partnership team and providing valuable insights into what makes people feel safe in their communities, the challenges currently faced, and ideas for improving safety and wellbeing locally. These discussions will directly inform the development of the Carlow Local Community Safety Plan.

Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Cllr. Ken Murnane, welcomed the initiative, stating:

“Events like Empowered Community Safety Day highlight the strength of collaboration across Carlow. By bringing together agencies, organisations and residents, we are creating opportunities to listen, learn and work collectively to improve safety and wellbeing for everyone in our communities.”

Speaking at the event, LCSP Chairperson Cllr. Michael Doran said:

“Community safety can only be achieved through strong partnerships and active participation from our communities. Today's event demonstrates the commitment across County Carlow — from emergency services to community groups — to work together in building safer, more connected communities. The voices and experiences shared here today will play an important role in shaping the Local Community Safety Plan for the county.”

Chief Executive of Carlow County Council, Coilín O'Reilly, emphasised the importance of community engagement in shaping future policy:

“The Local Community Safety Partnership provides a structured way for agencies and communities to work together to identify local safety priorities and develop coordinated responses. Community consultation is central to this process, and the contributions made today will help ensure that the Local Community Safety Plan reflects the real experiences and needs of people across County Carlow.”

As part of the consultation process, the Carlow LCSP Community Safety Survey is now open to the public and will remain available until 26th March. Residents, community groups and organisations are encouraged to participate and share their views to help shape the future of community safety in the county.



Further information and access to the survey are available at www.carlow.ie.