

CRIME CULTURE LEAVES FIVE INJURED

SHOOTINGS and a savage beating in Southside suburbs left five people injured last week as crime once again left local communities in shock.

Within a week, there have been two serious shooting incidents and at least one savage beating incident in which two youths were badly injured.

The shootings, in Drimnagh and Kimmage, are believed to be linked to separate gangland feuds.

One took place in daylight last Monday when a

by GERALDINE COMISKEY

pillion passenger on a moped shot two men in a driveway on Knocknarea Road, Drimnagh.

Both men are said to be in a serious condition at St James's Hospital according to gardai, who are appealing for witnesses.

Anyone who noticed two men on a moped wearing

black-out helmets in the Drimnagh area between 4.50-6pm on Monday, August 8, should contact Sundrive Garda Station on 6666600.

An earlier shooting took place the previous day at St Martin's Park, Kimmage, on Sunday night.

A 25-year-old man received gunshot wounds while sitting in his car.

Gardai say there's no evidence to suggest the two incidents were related.

Meanwhile, a Glashule youth was left in a coma after he and his friend were savagely beaten and kicked at the Forty Foot the same weekend.

The youth has since recovered and his family are anxious not to be identified for fear of attracting more attention from the thugs.

A family friend whose daughter was a witness told *Southside People* that the thugs, who were in their 30s, responded to a remark made by one of the teenage boys.

"There had been words between this guy and the thugs outside the Forty Foot," the friend said. "The guys [attackers] went away and came back, and attacked the two young guys. Both were kicked in the head. One of the guys was in a coma for a matter of hours. He's making a recovery now."

Residents and business people in Dun Laoghaire said such attacks were becoming more common and many are blaming Ireland's drinking culture.

"It's as if their whole character changes when they drink," said one local business man.

"It's dangerous on the town at night when they're



Three men were shot in two separate incidents in Drimnagh and Kimmage last week

all coming out of night-clubs and pubs."

The problem is apparently worse in the south inner city. A recent report stated that most of the inmates in Mountjoy came

from the Dolphin's Barn area.

Many Southsiders, out as far as Ballybrack and Shankill, believe gardai are unable to keep up with what is anecdotally per-

ceived to be an escalation in street violence on the Southside.

Gardai confirmed to *Southside People* that they had no up-to-date figures for the level of crime

committed on the Southside – or, indeed, anywhere.

The most recent official report available is dated 2003, a spokeswoman confirmed.

COUNCIL DENY DALKEY STINKY SHORES CLAIM

DUN Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has denied that Dalkey's Main Street is suffering from "stinky shores".

The local authority was responding to allegations that the gullies on the town's premier street are foul-smelling and badly maintained.

They were reacting to a claim by a local shop assistant who contacted *Southside People* to say she is sick of holding her nose as she walks down the main street every day.

Fran O'Brien, who works in a pharmacy in the town, said the foul stench came from the gullies on Castle Street.

"The shores are stinking," she said.

"They were worse in the recent dry weather. There are weeds growing in them."

She said the stinkiest stretch of street is between the church and a pub at the main junction.

And she said she was disappointed in Dalkey, which, she pointed out, was "supposed to be a heritage town."

Fran, who lives in Dun Laoghaire, is relieved she only has to put up with the smell during her working day.

However, Ian Smith, of the Roads Control Unit at Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, told us there was no stink.

"I have had a roads inspector check these gullies," he said.

"He informs me that the gullies were cleaned out last February. At present they are in a satisfactory condition with only a very small amount of weeds growing alongside some gullies and a minimal amount of leaves, etc, in the gullies."

ODOUR STILL CAUSING A STINK

GETTING rid of the odour at Ringsend won't eliminate the stink surrounding the issue.

eliminate the odour.

"We need an independent investigation to establish how this problem developed and why it has been allowed to continue for so long," said Deputy Gormley.

"The very fact that the plant is still in its commissioning phase is surely indicative of serious problems at the plant. Why is it that Minister Roche and this Government have not been prepared to carry

That's according to Green Party TD John Gormley, who says Environment Minister Dick Roche should carry out an investigation into the planning and operation of the Ringsend sewage treatment plant.

He made the statement following reports that Dublin City Council would begin works next month to



Deputy Gormley is calling for an investigation

out a full investigation into this plant?"

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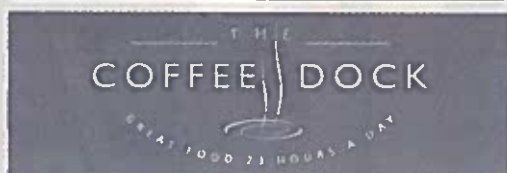


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