

KILLASSER COMMUNITY ALERT

AN GARDA SIOCHANA
094 92 51115

MUINTIR NA TIRE

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Killasser Community Alert is now almost 12 years in existence having been set up on the 13th December 1994. The whole idea of Community Alert is to help and assist the elderly and vulnerable people in our community and those at most risk to attacks, robberies, thefts and fraudsters. As our community is remote and vulnerable to attack from travelling criminals, the onus is on us to be alert and on the lookout for strange persons and vehicles calling to our community.

To assist the elderly citizen and those most prone to attack, the Community Alert have certain items which can assist people to protect themselves and their homes and alleviate the fear of attack and loneliness.

We can provide monitor phones and pendants for daily use where the person can wear the pendant and press the red button when assistance is required. Security lights, locks, door chain, door viewers, can also be provided and are all grant aided through the scheme. The individual pays a very small annual fee for the phone/pendant to the monitoring station.

Many lives have been saved over the years throughout the Country by elderly people wearing and using these pendants. They may fall and be injured as a result, and by pressing the red button, urgent assistance is on hand in a very short time. It gives people concerned and families' peace of mind when they know their elderly parents/relations/neighbours wear these items on a daily basis. Without doubt, this pendant, when worn and used in time of need, is as good as having a person living with you.

Smoke Alarms can also be supplied and fitted and are 90% grant aided; therefore, they cost you very little. Without doubt smoke alarms are beneficial in any home and have saved numerous lives down the years. If there is a fire, and the smoke is detected at an early stage, if fitted in the proper location, and when the alarm goes off, it gives the occupant of the house time to escape the fire. You cannot put a cost on such an important item in any house. There has been much publicity in the media of late to the increasing numbers of incidents, both accidental and criminal, where loss of life has resulted as a

result of fire in the home.

To keep the scheme running requires finance. Certain grants can be obtained but this does not pay for the day to day running of the scheme, which is overseen by volunteers from your community who give their spare time for the greater good of the people most in need.

The Garda Siochana and Muintin Na Tire provide assistance and advice to these volunteers who run the scheme.

The following advice/suggestions are for the elderly and vulnerable:-

- Don't keep large sums of money in the house. Use Banks, Building Societies, and Credit Union.
- Keep doors, windows securely locked (even in daytime). Don't leave keys under mats, flower pots and buckets. If an elderly person lives Alone, it's a good idea to leave a key with a trusted neighbour or Friend in case of illness or emergency or loss of keys
- Do not open door until the person outside is safely identified. Check And satisfy yourself with their identity by using door viewer and chain.
- Always check for I.D. Card and Driving Licence. False cards are very common, so careful checks should be made.
- Discourage purchases from strangers or from making large cash payments.
- Discourage employing strangers for repairs to gutters, painting or laying tarmac. Before getting any work done, get two or more written estimates clearly outlining the work to be done and the cost. Always obtain a receipt on payment.

DO NOT DEAL WITH ANY PERSON WHOSE ONLY CONTACT IS A MOBILE PHONE.

Try to encourage regular contact with neighbours either by phone or in person.

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR LOCAL GARDA STATION CAN BE CONTACTED IF YOU ARE WARY OF ANY PERSON CALLING TO YOUR AREA OR WORKING FOR YOU.

Your liaison Gardai for Killasser are:-

Garda Brendan Walsh and Garda Josephine Canavan, Swinford Garda Station.

*** Remember: If we all work together then our Community becomes a safer and better place for our elderly and those living alone.**