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More mountain bikes for Fingal – Kennedy

Some seven local Gardaí will be getting on their bikes this summer, with the expansion of the Garda Mountain Bike Units (MBU) programme, according to new figures obtained by Fianna Fail TD Deputy Michael Kennedy.

Deputy Kennedy said: “The Garda Mountain Bike Unit is a community policing initiative aimed at providing visible, efficient and accessible policing. The Unit was increased this week by 130 bicycles, with seven bikes being allocated to various stations across North Dublin.”

“Swords and Malahide both receive two new Garda mountain bikes, whilst two new units are being set up Dublin Airport and Lusk Garda Station, each with two mountain bikes. This is the second time this year that Fingal has benefited from the expanded scheme.”

“In addition to bringing officers into close contact with communities, MBUs also provide a fast method of patrolling local communities. We are lucky to now have 18 such officers in our county, all of whom are providing an effective and responsive service to the community.”

“MBU officers are mobile and approachable and seen “actively” involving themselves in their community. Studies have shown that members of the public are more likely to approach a bike patrol Garda than any other officer on the beat.”

“The service the officers provide is an effective tool for responding to emergency situations. Bike units are more able to use all their senses in the pursuit of a criminal - sight, smell and hearing – than those in a car. Patrolling officers have unrestricted access to areas susceptible to antisocial behaviour, thus proving perfect for patrolling park-land and open spaces.”

“With the development of better Garda services in Dublin North, I will continue campaigning for more of these innovative methods of patrolling to be pursued,” concluded Deputy Kennedy.