



JPC-Sub Committee 3- Reduce and Prevent Anti- Social Behaviour in Galway City.

Meeting Held November 10th 2021

Present: Chair: Cllr Niall McNelis, Ms. Maria Ward Administrative Officer, Mr Edward Conlon HELO,

Cllr. Terry O Flaherty, Sgt. Michael Walsh, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Sgt. Darragh Browne, Student Union president NUIG : Róisín Nic Lochlainn, Nichola Tierney, Galway City Community Network

Apologies Student Union President GMIT, John Cleary, Galway City Community Network

Guest: Cllr Owen Hanley

Minutes for the meeting of 13th October 2021 were proposed by Cllr Terry O'Flaherty and seconded by Edward Conlon.

Item Discussed	Agreed Actions	BY Who
Survey - Sgt. Michael Walsh had put a survey together pre Covid. Society has changed in the past 18 months. There may be questions that need to be re-phrased. He recommended it be looked at with fresh eyes, in case anything needs to be changed.	Cllr Niall McNelis agreed to circulate the survey	Cllr Niall McNelis.
Cllr Niall McNelis discussed a recent Planning SPC where Air B&Bs and short term lets were discussed. Emma Silke in Planning is putting together a proposal for the Department that Air B&Bs be dealt with by Revenue rather than Planning, as Planning law is not very effective.	Cllr Niall McNelis will keep JPC sub group updated.	
Cllr Niall McNelis and - Sgt. Michael Walsh mentioned that it is very remiss that there is no input from the Crime Prevention Officer in regard to Planning Applications. Gardai should be included for comment or reference. Emmet Humphries and - Sgt. Michael Walsh met and discussed the concept of Designing Out Crime. Sgt. Michael Walsh had given a talk on this in Bolton Street recently to undergraduate Architects. Currently anybody wishing to inspect a Planning Application must pay a fee of €20.		Cllr Niall McNelis



<p>Sgt. Michael Walsh explained why Planners should Design out Crime. There is a cost factor to investigating crime, it takes 40 hours to investigate a burglary. If one burglary is stopped- then there is the resource of one Garda for a week saved.</p> <p>There is also the cost of fear- victims live in fear they will be repeat victims of crime.</p>		
<p>Emmett Humphries has agreed that the Planning process needs to be streamlined and the Gardai become a recognised body for commentary on planning submissions. David Minton the Western Regional Authority is in favour of a drive to bring Gardai into this loop as well.</p>		
<p>Spiking of Drink- Róisín said one student had reported this during the week to the Gardai. Sgt. Michael Walsh said the Gardai in Dublin had one reported case. He was not aware of the Galway case. Sgt. Michael Walsh circulated information on this topic and said it was important to retain the drink for analysis.</p> <p>Róisín had asked if bags could be searched going into pubs and clubs. : Cllr Niall McNelis said pubs and clubs would not want to go down this route it had negative connotations. All Vitners had to have a PSA licence, it was a regulated industry. Róisín commented that syringe carrying carried a hefty fine. Sgt. Michael Walsh said Bouncers had to be careful as the syringe may be for medical reasons. Róisín said she could reach out to Bouncers herself if necessary.</p>	<p>Cllr Niall McNelis agreed to circulate the information provided by , Sgt. Michael Walsh</p>	
<p>Ask for Angela campaign- posters now finalised, posters to be put in toilets of bars. 90% of bars are more than happy to participate. The idea originated in the UK and Waterford City Council were the first LA to participate. If a person feels threatened on a night out or date they can approach bar staff and “ask for Angela”. The Bar staff will call them a taxi or get them a discreet way home.</p>		
<p>Cllr Owen Hanley said Bush Shelter Posters would be a good idea every 2 weeks a % of Bus Shelters advertising spaces can be used for Community use. Caitriona Morgan may be able to help with this. Sgt. Michael</p>	<p>Cllr Niall McNelis agreed to bring this up at the JPC meeting in December.</p>	



Walsh said the disused phone boxes in the City owned by Eir can be used for electronic signage.		
Róisín said COPE Galway was providing talks in December every Wednesday in NUIG on the topic of Domestic Abuse.		
Purple Flag- Cllr Niall McNelis asked Maria to update the JPC subcommittee on this at the next meeting	Maria Ward to check with Caitriona Morgan	
Sgt. Darragh Browne said that on November 24th there would be live broadcasting on the Garda YouTube Channel on domestic abuse, road safety etc.		
Regarding Eyre Square- Sgt. Michael Walsh suggested meeting with the stakeholders. Who are they- regarding designing out crime. The Christmas Market should enhance Eyre Square for the next few weeks. There was a seminar on 7 attributes of safe places, safe streets, and safe buildings. Planners/Developers/Builders all attended.	Sgt. Michael Walsh will circulate this document to us	We will distribute to tenants
Cllr Niall McNelis commented on the negative publicity on crime in Galway, this will stop people visiting. Cllr. Terry O Flaherty has never exposed a particular area as this will impact on the people living in the Estate. She would like to see more Gardaí on the beat in Ballybane. 72 assaults in Galway in 2020. Things have not got much worse over the years but Social Media has enhanced our perception.		
Cllr Niall McNelis said the 6 Area Cllrs in the West Ward meet Community Gardaí 4 times a year.		
Cllr. Terry O Flaherty had a query on dogs for Edward, Edward confirmed tenants have permission to have one dog only, the Dog Warden does check on this, where necessary, and barking dogs are dealt with by the Complainant via the District Court process.		
Cllr Owen Hanley established a working group – Business/Residents/Council/Environment Section to include himself, Martina O'Connor and Niall McNelis. What is the experience of Eyre Square for these stakeholders? • What is Eyre Square supposed to be used for?		



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kiosk- Community Groups should be able to use this. A survey has been produced to see what we can do in this space. • Safety- how do businesses /people feel at day, at night , • Litter, lighting , accessibility in Eyre Square <p>Some business are not aware of who they should contact in the Gardaí. Create ownership of the space, confront people who litter, contest activity.</p>		
Sgt. Darragh Browne mentioned the cameras in Eyre Square are in the process of being updated.		
Sgt. Michael Walsh suggested leasing out the Kiosk as a business unit. “Capable Guardianship” the commercial unit has guardianship of the area. There was a tender to lease this unit out before Covid but this fell through. There is a need for extra Wardens to look after Eyre Square if there is money in the budget.		
Begging in Eyre Square- Martin O’Connor is to put together a report, Martin feels it is not organised begging but others disagree. The Roma in Galway are moved on if they have no connection with the City by COPE. Business Watch alleges that they arrive in a Merc at night to beg and sleep rough. Cllr Terry Flaherty said 20 Roma slept in front of the County Council until they got Security to move them on.		
It was suggested that beggars should be mapped by location and time of begging to see if there is a pattern.		
<p>Update of the Cold Weather Response for the next meeting.</p> <p>Sgt. Darragh Browne said couples don’t want to be separated, don’t want to use Glen Oaks. Nichola said rough sleepers often refuse beds, if they have drugs/alcohol issues they make this choice.</p>	Maria	
Noel Larkin said was it true the grass in Sliabh Rua was not cut this year? Edward said he was told stones and objects were put on the green to stop the tractors mowing the grass. Edward said certain families were spoken to and the objects removed, the grass was subsequently cut.		
Cllr Niall McNelis referred to anti-social behaviour by students in estates in Renmore and Newcastle which is		



unacceptable, Get this message out through the Students Union.		
--	--	--

The JPC meets 4 times a year. Next Meeting November 30th @10am