



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, 19th October 2020 at 11.00am via Zoom

Chairperson: Cllr. N. McNelis, Chairperson of the Committee

Members Present: Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. E Hoare, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. T. O' Flaherty, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. N. Larkin, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Senator Pauline O'Reilly, Senator Sean Kyne, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Mr. John Cleary, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Mr. Cameron Keighron, Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe, Mr. B. McGrath Chief Executive, Mr. B. Barrett, A/ Director of Services

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mr. Gary McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Secretary to Committee
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Staff Officer
Ms. Máire Mortimer, Clerical Officer

Cllr. N. McNelis reminded all on the protocols with regard to Zoom meetings as previously circulated.

Cllr. N. McNelis welcomed the members of the public and members of the media who were joining today's meeting via zoom.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 22nd June 2020

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 22nd June 2020 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed. The Chairperson invited Matters of Accuracy and Matters Arising.

In terms of Matters Arising the following points / queries were raised:

- Cllr. F. Fahy asked when the Control of Horses Act was to be brought before the JPC.

- In relation to of Go Safe vans, Cllr. F. Fahy queried whether the RSA had been written to regarding their locations.
- Cllr. F. Fahy asked if a full time profiler had been appointed by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB).
- Cllr. F. Fahy queried whether there had been an influx of heroin users from other parts of the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In relation to CCTV, Cllr. O. Hanley asked if more information could be given such as conclusions and follow up if required.
- Cllr. O. Hanley queried what the purpose of the community based CCTV scheme audit report and asked when it is utilised.
- Cllr. M. Cubbard queried what the policy was on speed ramps in housing estates.

In response Mr. B. Barrett advised on the following:

- In response to Cllr. O. Hanley's queries about CCTV, he would contact other local authorities and see if they have had success using the audit report and would revert back to the JPC.
- The Control of Horses Act is being brought to the Housing SPC in November 2020 and will hopefully be brought to the JPC at the next meeting in December 2020.

In response Mr. B. McGrath advised on the following:

- Speed ramps have to be located near street lights.
- A reduction in speed limit to 30km/h has been rolled out in to 123 estates and it is hoped it would be approved in the remaining estates at the next Ordinary Council meeting.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

Chief Superintendent T. Curley presented the Garda Report dated 19th October 2020 and the Fraud Incidents Report, as circulated noting that the reports were for the period from January 2020 up to the end of September 2020. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Chief Superintendent T. Curley responded as follows:

- Doughiska have been allocated one more additional community garda, bringing their total to 2.
- There are 2 community gardaí in Sliabh Bán housing estate.
- If people are under pressure due to drugs debt, they should contact An Garda Síochána. A specific unit deals with these types of issues and a number of complaints have been investigated and all complaints which are brought to Gardaí are treated in the strictest of confidence.
- If Go-Safe vans are parked illegally, people should take pictures and report these to An Garda Síochána. Go-Safe vans are under the remit of RSA.
- Patrols to combat "boy racers" in shopping centre car parks will be sent out to areas where this is prevalent but An Garda Síochána also rely on people to report these people in the act.
- An Garda Síochána have no authority to shut down house parties and encourage people to report these also.
- There were 278 drinking in public offences since the start of 2020.
- Gardaí do not need additional training in relation to the policies on domestic violence.

- If a victim of domestic violence refuses to make a statement and there is no evidence, Gardaí cannot make a prosecution. In the event of reports at recurring addresses, the Super Intendent will make an evaluation.
- The North Western region will be the first to receive a dog unit in the upcoming national roll out and Galway are currently waiting on Garda HQ to advertise the positions.
- It is national policy to use the value of drugs as opposed to the weight as the price does not change on a week to week basis. Value is used in court proceedings.

Cllr. O. Hanley requested the heading “Rape of male and female” be changed to just rape.

3. Up-date on JPC Strategic Plan 2017- 2020

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis referred to the current Strategic Plan 2017- 2020 which was circulated to the Committee, noting the 4 strategic goals with a number of actions identified to be delivered through the work of the various JPC Subcommittees. He advised that the JPC Subcommittees have been meeting in relation to the above and asked the Chairperson of each of the 4 Subcommittees to give an update of their strategic goals.

- Subcommittee No.1 - To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City: Mr. J. Rabbitte outlined the 3 priorities, with the main objective to encourage people to use alternative modes of transport to cars, with an emphasis on the provision of bicycle lanes in Galway City and the Park and Stride initiative.
- Subcommittee No.2 - To Enhance Community Safety Responses with a view to crime prevention: Cllr. M. Cubbard advised that the subcommittee had discussed cybercrimes, with An Garda Síochána engaging with both colleges in relation to this. They also discussed domestic violence and Cllr. M. Cubbard proposed a motion to sanction a certain percentage of bus shelters be used as advertisement of domestic violence, which was seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.
- Subcommittee No.3 - To Reduce and Prevent anti-social behaviour in Galway City: Cllr. N. McNelis advised that this subcommittee have agreed to set up sub groups for three areas with high incidences of anti-social behaviour and each group would work with members of their designated area to identify problems and solutions in their areas. He asked all members of the JPC to get involved with the subgroups
- Subcommittee No. 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City: Mr. T. Flaherty advised the group have updated Galway City Council’s website with past JPC Agendas and Minutes. He advised the COVID-19 pandemic is making it difficult for communities to meet and An Garda Síochána are still in contact with older people since the start of the pandemic.

4. Update on the COVID-19 Galway City Community Response Forum

Ms. C. Morgan gave an update on the Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum, co-ordinated and led out by Galway City Council as required. She also updated on the work ongoing through the Community Call Helpline, the Community Response Map, the COVID-19 Emergency Funding, COVID-19 Health Communications Stakeholder Support and some other initiatives which were ongoing. She acknowledged the ongoing co-operation and support of

Forum members which included An Garda Síochána, Galway City Community Network, Galway City Council and many others.

Ms. C. Morgan advised of a new grant, established Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Fund Small Grants Scheme 2020 which is an online application. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 6th November 2020.

- Mr. C. Keighron queried if young person or a member of a youth organisation sat as a member on the Community response forum.
- In response Ms. C. Morgan advised that a representative of Comhairle na nÓg could be considered to sit on the Community Response Forum. Galway City Comhairle na nÓg is the official youth council of Galway City, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies.
- Cllr. N. McNelis thanked members of the Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum for their work.

6. Discussion on specific topics

In response to questions raised by Cllr. N. Murphy, Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised that An Garda Síochána work closely with Galway Traveller Movement and Pavee Point and mediation has been used on a number of occasions in dealing with issues.

In response to questions raised by Cllr. O. Hanley, Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised that An Garda Síochána together with Galway Fire and Rescue Services have circulated Halloween Safety posters in the run up to Halloween to highlight the dangers of bonfires and fireworks. He encouraged people to report bonfires to An Garda Síochána if they are seen.

7. Any Other Business

- Cllr. F. Fahy asked why there are calls going unanswered at Mill St. Garda station.
- In response, Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised there is a very large volume of calls coming in to Mill St. Garda station, from the data he has received from the past 9 months there was 68,000 telephone calls made in this period. He has spoken with the inspector in charge of telecommunications and are awaiting the go ahead to purchase additional equipment. He advised if there is a serious issue, please call 999 or 112.
- Ms. C. Morgan informed members of an upcoming webinar called Moving Beyond Blame: Understanding Alcohol & Sexual Consent taking place on Friday November 6th 2020.
- Mr. T. Flaherty queried whether another public meeting will take place this year.
- Ms. C. Morgan advised that this is up to the JPC members and should be discussed at the next meeting.
- Cllr. O. Hanley asked that more notice be given to members of the public to register their attendance for future meetings.
- The date for the next meeting of Galway City JPC was noted for Monday 7th December 2020 at 11.00am.

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis thanked all members for their participation and the meeting concluded.