



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** Monday, 18th October 2021 at 11.00am via MS Teams
- Chairperson:** Cllr. Níall McNelis, Chairperson of the Committee
- Members Present:** Cllr. Níall McNelis, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, Cllr. Owen Hanley, Cllr. Michael J. Crowe, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Cllr. Niall Murphy, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Inspector Brian Ryan, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe, Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive; Mr. Brian Barrett, A/Director of Service; Mr. Gary McMahon; A/Senior Executive Officer
- Apologies:** Deputy Eamon O'Cúiv, TD
- In Attendance:** Ms. Ailish Rohan, A/Secretary to Committee
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Administrative Officer
Ms. Emma Johnston, Clerical Officer

Cllr. N. McNelis reminded all on the protocols with regard to MS Teams meetings as previously circulated and welcomed members of the media who were joining the meeting via MS Teams.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 22nd March 2021

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 21st June 2021 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. D Lyons, seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and agreed by all. There were no matters of accuracy of matters arising raised.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

Chief Superintendent T. Curley presented the Garda Report and the Fraud Incidents Report, as circulated noting that the reports were for a 9 month period January to end of September 2021 with comparison figures included for the same period in 2020. Overall it was noted that there were reductions in figures across a number of headings which was welcomed. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Chief Superintendent T. Curley responded to same:

- Queries in relation to increased statistics on seizures of drugs;

- In relation to e-scouters he advised that legislation is currently being drafted;
- In relation to a query for statistics by type on report he advised that the report is laid out as per national guidelines;
- In relation to burglaries he noted that that crime prevention is key and advised personal responsibility regarding their personal property and not to leave money and valuables on site or in their cars;
- In relation to drug debt he encouraged people to come forward and report the matter;
- In relation to fireworks he stated more resources have been assigned for the week of Halloween. He noted Operation TOMBOLA is in operation for this period. Gardaí are continually engaging with the Councils and the Community;
- In relation to increased assault figures in Eyre Square he noted that there are ongoing active investigations in place. He stated that increase lighting and CCTV would be beneficial;
- In relation to Garda presence he noted that resources are for both City and County, he made reference to the additional Gardaí coming next year announced by the Government and that it is hoped that the Galway division will get an allocation of resources;
- In relation to parking of speed vans he noted that they are not given permission to park on footpaths and that any breach of same should be reported immediately to Gardaí;
- In relation to begging he outlined that resources will be patrolling the city leading up to Christmas. He noted that begging is illegal if there is an aggressive element associated with it;
- He noted the increase in domestic violence figures advising that all matters are being investigated;
- In relation to the driver feedback signage, Mr. Brian Barret commented that the Transport & Infrastructure department are engaging with the suppliers regarding what data can be obtained. He added that there is an audit of speed limits and byelaws underway.

3. Up-date on JPC Workplan 2021

Cllr. N. McNelis referred to the above, inviting each of the 4 Subcommittee chairs to give a verbal update to the JPC on their strategic goals for 2021, following recent meetings at JPC Subcommittee level.

- *Subcommittee No.1 - To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City:* Mr. J. Rabbitte gave an update on the strategic objectives, which included that an audit has been carried out on the driver feedback signs with some problems identified, inspections will commence in the coming weeks. An audit and review of speed limit signage in line with the relevant byelaws is also underway noting the process has commenced with speed limit signage being reviewed and corrected where required. He stated that a number of cycle network projects are under development, noting that Galway City Council (GCC) has commenced a public consultation under a Section 38 process for the progression of the Eglinton Canal Active Travel Scheme and the Doughiska Road South Cycle Network Scheme. The School Streets pilot project which was up for review was approved at the Council meeting in September. GCC in collaboration with the NTA are commencing an 18 month trial for the provision of Bike Repair and Maintenance stands in the City. A number of road safety campaigns / press

releases / radio adverts and guidelines were launched by the RSA for Road Safety Week which took place on 4th – 10th October.

- Subcommittee No.2 - To Enhance Community Safety Responses with a view to crime prevention: Sgt. M. Walsh stated that European Cybersecurity Month is taking place in October with a number and range of events / initiatives taking place in order to inform the public of the dangers of cybercrime. Cybercrime and fraud awareness continues to be delivered through local media, leaflets and talks. A presentation and update from CYPSC on their Domestic Abuse resource pack is scheduled for the next Subcommittee meeting. He noted that they continue to highlight the matter of community and water safety to students through the Campus Watch Programme. Galway Safe App and information kiosks being explored to use a sharing platform going forward.
- Subcommittee No.3 - To Reduce and Prevent anti-social behaviour in Galway City: Cllr. N. McNelis noted that a crime campaign is currently being designed. He stated that work will be carried out with student unions on the 'Ask for Angela' Campaign for persons who feel unsafe on a date. He made reference to issues regarding short term lettings and Air BnB's.
- Subcommittee No. 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City: Mr. T. Flaherty outlined the strategic objectives and updated on the proposed actions following a couple of meetings held, including welcoming back the community and to inform them that we are here, place is open and encourage them to leave their house and start meeting people and groups. He also noted that it was agreed that as a subcommittee to meet every 6 months in each area to hear concerns and issues.

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 which she circulated previously, which highlights that the Community Response Forums final meeting will take place in mid-October. She made reference to the third level student COVID-19 vaccination clinics, in addition to the number and range of HSE supports and programmes that are taking place during October 2021. She stated that Positive Ageing Week had a local exhibition on display in the Eyre Square Shopping Centre. She noted that the flu vaccine and COVID-19 Booster vaccine are currently being rolled out. She also made reference to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme, Sports Partnership 'Let's get Back', the Volunteer Centre, Fire Safety Week, The Annual Policing Authority meeting and cybercrime. She highlighted GCC Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme 2021 and the DAF Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021. She acknowledged the ongoing co-operation and support of members which included An Garda Síochána, Galway City Community Network, Galway City Council and many others.

5. Discussion on specific topics

Ms. Ailish Rohan advised that 7 questions were submitted in advance of the meeting and a written response had issued, as circulated. A few queries were raised by members and Chief Superintendent T. Curley responded as follows:

- In relation to illegal parking of cars at matches at Eamonn Deacy Park he stated that Gardaí will be present at the next match and will issue tickets to cars parked illegally.
- In relation to getting through to Millstreet and Salthill Garda Station via telephone he referred to a proposed civilisation process for front office duties. He also added that if ever there is an issue contacting any Garda station that 999 should be called in case of an emergency.

6. Update from the 6th Annual Policing Authority meeting

Cllr. N. McNelis gave an update on the 6th Annual Policing Authority meeting presentation, which circulated previously highlighting the agenda item on draft guidelines noting any feedback to be sent onto Ms. A. Rohan by Monday 25th so it can be finalised by the end of the year for implementation next year, 2022.

7. Any other Business

It was noted that GCC will address any reports they receive and arrange for the removal of bonfires and stock piling leading up to Halloween and it was noted that Operation TOMBOLA is in place to monitor and manage same.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan made reference to the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force (WRDTF) Bursaries 2021 which she circulated information on previously.

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis thanked all members for their participation, noting that the next meeting of Galway City JPC was scheduled to take place on Monday 6th December 2021 at 11.00am.