



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** Monday, 21st March 2022 at 11.00am via Zoom.
- Chairperson:** Cllr. Níall McNelis, Chairperson of the Committee
- Members Present:** Cllr. Níall McNelis, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, Cllr. Owen Hanley, Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Cllr. Niall Murphy, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Senator Pauline O' Reilly, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. John Cleary, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Inspector Adrian O' Neill, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe, Mr. Brendan McGrath; Chief Executive, Ms. Ruth McNally; Director of Service
- Apologies:** Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Deputy Eamon O'Cuiv TD, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Mr. Cameron Keighron
- In Attendance:** Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Secretary to Committee
Ms. Sheelagh Murray, Staff Officer
Ms. Emma Johnston, Clerical Officer
Carol Baumann, COPE Galway
Roisin Nic Lochlainn, NUIG SU President

Cllr. N. McNelis reminded all on the protocols with regard to online meetings as previously circulated and welcomed members of the media who were joining the meeting via Zoom. The apologies were noted as per above.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 6th December 2021

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 6th December 2021 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed by all. Cllr. O. Hanley raised a query under matters arising in relation to the progress on CAMHS / mental health reconvening and Superintendent D. Flanagan stated that it has not yet started as we are still coming out of Covid-19 noting that it is planned and an update on same will follow once details are known.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

Superintendent D. Flanagan presented the Garda Report and the Fraud Incidents Report, as circulated noting that the reports were for a 2 month period January to end of February 2022

with comparison figures included for the same period in 2021. 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 Superintendent D. Flanagan responded to same:

- In relation to theft and MPV inquiries, he explained that this is due to people still leaving their cars unlocked at night and businesses reopening to the public. It was also noted that theft from shops tends to be detected almost immediate so detection in that area is very high.
- In relation to drink/drug driving trends, he noted that there are more people out and more checkpoints taking place.
- In relation to enforcing road owners to maintain lights, he noted that if asked for advice, they will assist in same.
- In relation to assaults, he noted that the increase is due to more cases being reported. He stated that the protective services unit is active on this.
- In relation to hate crimes, he noted that if it meets the definition, it is investigated.
- In relation to the Ukrainian refugees, he noted that they have no direct role but supporting in any way they can through community policing and recently reconvened Community Response Forum.
- In relation to the decrease in sale and supply of drugs, he noted that this is due to the lengthy investigation involved and that it can take longer.
- In relation to Eyre Square, he noted that there is now a full-time presence 24/7.
- In relation to the Go Safe speed van collision/accident prone locations, he noted that the road policing unit liase directly with Go Safe regarding these locations.
- In relation to the number of offences disclosed in domestic abuse cases, he outlined various reasons for this, including that the Guards call back 7 days later to follow up, and that a risk evaluation is performed to discover patterns.
- In relation to online abuse measures, he noted that the unit is up and running and they are looking at getting it added to the report.
- In regards to fires in green spaces being included in the report, he stated that they will look into it.
- In the case of road cyclist offences, he explained that the Guards must witness an offence before they may investigate.
- He mentioned that he will follow up with the Crime Prevention Officer about a car theft flyer to encourage car owners to lock their cars.

3. Consideration and approval of Galway City JPC Annual Report 2021

Ms. C. Morgan advised members on the requirement in relation to the preparation and submission of the JPC Annual Report 2021 which had circulated in advance of the meeting. She noted that the JPC Annual Report should reflect the interagency work done during 2021, within the context of Covid-19. She noted that it is an important means of communicating the role and work of the JPC, thanking the members for their input. The JPC Annual Report 2021 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. E. Hoare, seconded by Deputy. M. Farrell and agreed on by all.

4. To receive a short presentation from COPE Galway Domestic Abuse Service (Resource Pack / #GoPurpleDay)

Carol Baumann, COPE Galway joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the Domestic Abuse Resource Pack which was being finalised, noting this was a product of interagency partners working together to highlight awareness of domestic abuse in Galway and its purpose etc. She further noted that it consisted of a substantive document with information

on domestic abuse, an A1 poster which offers key questions and bullet point answers, a folder with pockets for resources and additional information/ resources from partner agencies related to the theme of domestic abuse with a specific focus on Galway City (and County). Following some queries on the resource pack, she also spoke on #GoPurpleDay which is taking place on Friday 29th April 2022. She noted that this is a joint initiative between An Garda Síochána and domestic abuse services nationwide to raise awareness about domestic abuse and support local domestic abuse services. For further information on the above contact Carol Baumann, COPE Galway by email to CBaumann@copegalway.ie

5. To receive a short presentation on 'Ask For Angela' Campaign

Róisín Nic Lochlainn, NUI Galway Students' Union President gave a presentation on the 'Ask For Angela' Campaign. She advised that this is a code word campaign that supports people who feel unsafe or intimidated while on a night out and trained staff will immediately know you need help and will get you out of the situation safely and discreetly. They are inviting Galway businesses to come aboard and get staff trained to launch it. The Gardaí support the rollout of this campaign. For further information on the campaign contact Carol Baumann, COPE Galway by email to Róisín Nic Lochlainn by email to su.president@nuigalway.ie

6. 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 2022, 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 16 Driver Feedback signs identified for repairs across Galway City during 2021 with an aim to have this complete by end of April 2022. Progress on remote monitoring / data collection on some of the newer suitable signs was noted and welcomed by members to share data with An Garda Síochána where possible. There are a number of Cycle Network projects under development with detailed design being progressed. School Zones / Safe Routes to Schools measures at a number of additional schools across the City are being examined with a number of these in progress in Renmore, Mervue, Newcastle areas. Ongoing promotion of schools Park and Stride scheme continues. Maintenance of existing cycle lanes continues to be part of the routine maintenance on an ongoing basis.

Subcommittee No.2 - To Enhance Community Safety Responses with a view to crime prevention: Sgt. M. Walsh gave an update noting the 3 key areas being focused on for 2022; 1) Home security 2) Designing safer spaces 3) Assaults.

Subcommittee No.3 - To Reduce and Prevent anti-social behaviour in Galway City: Cllr. N. McNelis noted that this subcommittee did not get the opportunity to convene to discuss this years key areas to focus on.

Subcommittee No. 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City: Mr. T. Flaherty gave an update noting the 5 key areas being focused on for 2022; 1) Initiative to support elderly and vulnerable people 2) Support the re-establishment of regular meetings between ethnic minorities and the Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers 3) Hold at least one JPC meeting in each of the local communities 4) Provide support and assistance

to Claddagh Watch to prevent loss of lives 5) To carry out various actions in communities to help, support and bring awareness to local members.

7. Discussion on specific topics

Cllr. N. McNelis advised that 16 questions were submitted in advance of the meeting and a written response was circulated. A few queries were raised by members and Superintendent D. Flanagan responded as follows:

- In relation to bike theft he noted that he would check to see if it is possible to add this to the report under property crime.
- In relation to an ethnic liaison unit he noted that this is up and running but training is given when required.
- In relation to the accident black spots he noted that the link for same would be circulated again.

8. Any other Business

In relation to concerns raised on speeding traffic at Merlin Park Lane, Superintendent D. Flanagan noted that he would look into this.

Superintendent D. Flanagan stated that Go Safe solely operate the speed vans. He inquired if the repeater speed signs on the Coast Road, Oranmore complied with regulations.

Cllr. O. Hanley queried whether Galway City Council manages the advertisements on the city's new digital notice kiosks.

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 online on Monday 20th June 2022 at 11.00am.