



## Galway City Joint Policing Committee

### Meeting Minutes

- Date:** Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 11.00am via MS Teams
- Chairperson:** Cllr. N. McNelis, Chairperson of the Committee
- Members Present:** Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. E Hoare, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. T. O' Flaherty, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. M. Crowe, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Cllr. Niall Murphy, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Senator Sean Kyne, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Mr. John Cleary, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Cameron Keighron, Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Inspector Brian Ryan, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe, Mr. Brendan McGrath, Mr. B. Barrett
- Apologies:** Cllr. M. Cubbard, Deputy Eamon O'Cúiv TD
- In Attendance:** Mr. Gary McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Secretary to Committee  
Ms. Angela Breslin, A/Staff Officer  
Ms. Máire Mortimer, A/Assistant Staff Officer  
Ms. Emma Johnston, Clerical Officer  
Karen Shelly, Policing Authority  
Dr. Aoife Delaney, Policing Authority

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. He welcomed Karen Shelly and Dr. Aoife Delaney from the Policing Authority, who were also attending the meeting. He expressed condolences on behalf of the JPC to Cllr. Frank Fahy on the passing of his wife and also to Mr. Tommy Flaherty on the passing of his mother.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 7th December 2020**

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. D Lyons, seconded by Mr. J. Rabbitte and agreed by all. The Chairperson invited Matters of Accuracy and Matters Arising. In terms of Matters Arising the following points / queries were raised:

- Mr. T. Flaherty queried when a community representative could be included in JPC Subcommittee 3 meetings that are taking place. In response Cllr. N. McNelis as Chair

of this subcommittee noted that this would be brought up for discussion at the next subcommittee meeting.

## **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 the period January & February 2021 with comparison figures included for January & February 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 as follows:

- In relation to drink driving, he noted that breath tests at MIT checkpoints were not being used due to COVID-19, however drink driving was not ignored and was closely monitored. Drug driving is also being monitored carefully.
- In relation to speeding and fines issued, he noted that if speed limit signs are incorrect this needs to be brought to the attention of Galway City Council to investigate. He also noted in relation to the amount of fines issued that areas are being monitored and areas of issue will be addressed. In terms of road fatalities and the further categorisation of these in line with national reporting this can be noted to do going forward.
- In relation to domestic incidents, he noted all policies are strictly adhered to and he is satisfied with same, there is also a 98% call back rate in Galway which is above the national average of 80%.
- In relation to proceeds of crime seized and what happens to it, he noted that this is returned to the exchequer, as set out within the legislative framework.
- In terms of an increase in issue for 2021, Chief Superintendent Curley said that online fraud, property crime and public order were key issues, noting that all areas will be monitored closely with further investigated if any increases arise.
- In relation to public order offenses, COVID-19 related offences within this are not broken down in the Garda report and he stated he did not see a benefit in doing so.
- In relation to the drugs unit, monitoring is still ongoing, the teams are working hard on this matter and noted that the Salthill uniformed gardaí in particular have carried out a high number of detections to date. He also stated that he would liaise with Ms. C. Morgan regarding a presentation to the JPC from the Divisional Drugs Unit at a future meeting.
- In relation to the upcoming Easter mid-term and concerns around the Salthill/Knocknacarra area, he noted that resources and time would be put into this area if required.

## **3. Consideration and approval of JPC Annual Report 2020**

Ms. C. Morgan advised members on the requirement in relation to the preparation and submission of the JPC Annual Report 2020 which was previously circulated. She noted that the annual report should reflect the interagency work done during 2020, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 2020 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed.

## **4. Up-date on JPC Strategic Plan 2017- 2020**

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

- Subcommittee No.1 - To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City: Mr. J. Rabbitte outlined the 3 strategic objectives, focussing on effective speed controls with a focus of Driver Feedback Signs; ongoing promotion of alternatives to the car transport system; and measures to protect and support pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities. He noted a summary of actions to be taken during 2021 in line with these strategic objectives. He referred to an ongoing TikTok Mic Drop Road Safety competition with iRadio to encourage young people to create and deliver a positive message to their peers and wider community to communicate the importance of safe road user behaviour and ultimately save lives. School children and parents in Scoil Iognáid have welcomed Galway's first 'School Streets' pilot project and it is hoped this will be rolled out in other areas throughout the city.
- Subcommittee No.2 - To Enhance Community Safety Responses with a view to crime prevention: Sergeant Mick Walsh advised that the strategic objectives from 2020 were being brought forward into 2021 whilst adding in a new objective around water awareness and safety. A new working relationship with An Post to be looked into to help towards a new initiative for domestic abuse. He noted Galway has been earmarked for the Crime Prevention Ambassador Programme which is welcomed.
- Subcommittee No.3 - To Reduce and Prevent anti-social behaviour in Galway City: Sergeant Mick Walsh referred to the SARA problem solving model being used which was a proactive model towards addressing issues - Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment. He also noted that surveys are being carried out throughout the designated communities to assess their needs through EVA's and he will circulate the survey findings to all members of the JPC and any further suggestions to the findings would be welcomed.
- Subcommittee No. 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City: Mr. T. Flaherty advised that a representative from Claddagh Watch Group was going to join in on the next subcommittee meeting to give a presentation on the concerning matter. He noted that Sergeant M. Walsh was to also join the next meeting to give a presentation on Anti-Social behaviour. An ethnic minority representative is being sought to join this subcommittee. He advised that a public meeting is proposed for the end of the year, restrictions allowing.

## **5. 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 circulated. She noted the ongoing work of the Community Call Helpline, COVID-19 Emergency Funding, Keep Well campaign and some other initiatives which were ongoing. 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.

## **6. Discussion on specific topics**

Ms. C Morgan advised that 6 questions were submitted in advance of the meeting and a written response had issued, as circulated. A number of comments and queries were raised by members on the questions as submitted and Chief Superintendent T. Curley responded as follows:

- In relation to reporting of recent incidents of burning trees and categorisation, he noted it is recorded under the heading of criminal damage and stated he does not see the benefit of adding further categories.

- In relation to the installation of thermal cameras on Galway's waterways, he noted that he will liaise with Inspector Shane Bermingham and revert back directly to Cllr. O. Hanley in due course.
- In relation to house parties and fines he noted that it is the person in charge who receives the fine and people in attendance can also be issued with fines.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Ms. C Morgan advised the members of the Galway City Mayors Awards which is open for online nominations with a closing date of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Cllr. T. O' Flaherty reminded the members of the Galway Divisional Garda Youth Awards 2021, noting a closing date for entries is 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

Cllr. A. Cheevers noted that an awareness campaign between An Garda Síochána, schools and Galway City Council would be beneficial around the number of young people gathering together during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Superintendent T. Curley stated that Salthill Garda Station is not closing and noted that it was only advised to call 999 over the station as it gave a quicker response to urgent matters. He also noted that if resources were needed elsewhere, it may mean that after 7pm any calls to the station may be dealt with by another station.

Cllr. F. Fahy noted condolences to Alan Lebligue, An Garda Síochána.

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 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 11.00am.