



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes (Held virtually on Zoom platform and in the Galmont Hotel)

Date: Monday, 5th December 2022 at 11.00am.

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. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Michael Crowe, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Senator Pauline O' Reilly, Senator Sean Kyne, Mr. John Cleary, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Mr. Cameron Keighron, Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Superintendent Paudi O'Shea, Sergeant Sinead Cunniffe, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Mr. Brian Barrett

Apologies: Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Brendan McGrath, Cllr. Niall Murphy, Ms. Nichola Tierney

In Attendance: Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council - Staff Officer
Ms. Emma Johnston, Galway City Council - Clerical Officer
Mr. Ruairí Lehmann, Galway City Council - Tourism Officer
Mr. Francis McEvoy, Galway City Council - Senior Executive Engineer

Cllr. Neil McNelis reminded all on the protocols with regard to in person/online meetings as previously circulated and welcomed members of the media who were joining the meeting. The apologies were noted as per above. Cllr. Neil McNelis expressed his condolences to Nichola Tierney on the passing of her brother and also expressed well wishes to Mr. John Rabbitte.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 17th October 2022

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Donal Lyons and seconded by Cllr. Eddie Hoare and agreed on by all.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche stated that the report would go before the committee on the day of the meeting noting that this is best practice going forward, further adding that statistics and data on the report are strictly private and confidential. Senior Data Analyst Oliva Maher presented the Garda Report and the Fraud Incidents Report, noting that the reports were for a 11-month period from January to the end of November 2022 with comparison figures included for the same period in 2021 and 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 Gerard Roche responded to same as follows:

- In relation to the use of seatbelts and mobile phone he stated that it is hard to detect and further noted that an appeal/campaign to change people's mindset is needed.
- In relation to public order offences Superintendent Damien Flanagan noted that there is a new operation in place for the city that came into effect last month noting that further to the permanent post in Eyre Square that there is now a second one on Quay Street. Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche added that patrols on foot/car, roads policing units and armed response units are out all the time.
- In relation to drugs he noted that a new strategy in place, there has been increases in staff in the drugs unit and new drug testing has come out which will lead to more detections.
- In relation to domestic violence Senior Data Analyst Oliva Maher noted that the figures are individual incidents and that some are repeats to the same household. She further noted that the call back rate is in line the 7day compliance rate.
- In relation to hate crime he noted that this is hard to report on but will see if this can be done going forward.
- In relation to the possible licensing laws to extend the opening times of nightclubs he noted that details and information are still to come down on this new act and will know more then.
- In relation to incidents and convictions he noted that this is a matter for the courts.
- In relation to CAB he noted that there is active profilers and a fraud unit looking into higher level dealers and money laundering activities.
- In relation to CCTV he noted that he would work with Galway City Council in getting this implemented and further added that it requires a lot of work, resources and data protection issues.
- In relation to the increase of thefts from shops he noted the Crime Prevention Officer visits and advice's shop and retail owners regularly on how to enhance security.
- In relation to burglaries Senior Data Analyst Oliva Maher noted that people need to be more alert with the dark evenings upon us but also stated that this is a year-round issue not just at winter nor late at night it can happen anytime. She noted that lock up and light up is key.
- In relation to a summer campaign on break ins Crime Prevention Officer Mick Walsh noted that this is something that is in place already and added that a Christmas campaign is underway.
- In relation to staffing pressures he noted that Galway currently has 623 staff members, and the key is to hold on to what we have and maximise resources.
- In relation to speed limits, he noted this is a matter for Galway City Council.
- In relation to regulations on e-scooters he noted that he is awaiting legislation to come down on this to act further.
- In relation to missing figures from the report he noted that they will be included going forward.

- In relation to families targeted due to drug debt Shane Cummins noted that Brendan Carrol is the liaison officer for this and that he would circulate his details to this committee and that there are options available to these families.
- In relation to money mules, he noted that it is on there radar and that can convict person allowing their bank account to be used but it is difficult to do so.
- In relation to adult cautioning being added to the report he noted that is only in place for cannabis and that he is awaiting further information on legislation.
- In relation to the scheme to drug testing kits being available in nightclubs, Brian Barrett Director of Services Galway City Council noted that this is in place already for music events and noted that a pilot scheme for night-time economy is coming and further added that this can be raised to the HSE locally to carry out.

3. Presentation from Galway City Council Tourism Officer, Ruairí Lehmann on Night-time Economy

It was agreed that the Galway City JPC would convene online on Monday, 12th December 2022 at 10am online via MS Teams to receive this presentation. From the online meeting held on Monday 12th December 2022, Tourism Officer Ruairí Lehmann presented his report on Night-time economy and a number of queries were raised as follows:

- In relation to various stakeholders being involved in this he noted that yes, they will be and that he is awaiting on details from the department before setting up any steering committee and he will be engaging with all stakeholders to work and develop plan with partners. He further noted that a big part of the plan is to work with Galway's Arts & Culture sector to help promote this along with Galway's retailers instead of it just being a plan for pubs and nightclubs.
- In relation to other areas in city for this plan he noted that there will be stakeholder engagement will all and this plan will lead to footfall in places that wasn't their before, noting that this is an important opportunity.
- In relation to consultations with resident associations and students he noted that consultation and engagement will take place once set up. He noted that this will also take place for environment, transport, An Gardaí and HSE also.
- In relation to a full-time employee for this he noted that this person has not been hired yet but confirmed this will happen on a 2-year pilot scheme which will be remitted to City Hall.

4. Up-date on JPC Work Plan 2022

Cllr. Neil McNelis stated that this item would carry over onto the next meetings agenda next year for an update.

5. Discussion on specific topics

Cllr. Neil McNelis advised that 5 questions were submitted in advance of the meeting and a written response was circulated in advance with a further update issued at the meeting. To view a full list of all questions submitted and responses received please see document attached – Appendix 1. There were a number of queries raised and Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche replied to same as follows:

- In relation to the questions Cllr. Donal Lyons raised he noted that they are operational matters that he cannot get into.
- In relation to illegal parking on footpaths, Brian Barrett Director of Services Galway City Council noted that this should be raised to the wardens and to bring out an awareness campaign to change people's behaviours and to work with schools, estates

and GCCN to help raise awareness. Francis McEvoy, Senior Executive Engineer Galway City Council further added that there has been an increase in tickets for illegal parking on footpaths and that RSA brought out a campaign on this earlier in the year.

- In relation to speed limits Francis McEvoy noted that throughout the city the speed limit is 50kmph bar certain exceptions. It noted it currently being discussed and it is the reserved function of the elected members. He further added that Clybaun Road will be included for the next review.

6. Proposed dates for Galway City JPC Meetings 2023

The proposed dates for meetings of this committee for 2023 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty and seconded by Mr. Tommy Flaherty and agreed on by all.

7. Any other business

It was agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Deputy M. Farrell.

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis thanked all members for their participation and wished all a merry and safe Christmas. He noted that the next meeting of Galway City JPC was scheduled to take place on Monday 27th March 2023 at 11.00am.