



## Galway City Joint Policing Committee

### Meeting Minutes

- Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2018
- Location:** Council Chamber, College Road, Galway
- Chairperson:** Cllr. M. Cubbard, Chairperson of the Committee.
- Members Present:** Cllr. P. Conneely, , Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. M. Lohan, Cllr. B. Cameron , Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. M. Farrell , Cllr. D. McDonnell ,Cllr. N McNelis, Cllr. T. Flaherty, Deputy Sean Kyne TD, Supt. M. Skehill, Mr. J. Rabbitte, Mr J. Loughnane, Mr Tommy Flaherty, Ms. N. Tierney, Mr. B. McGrath
- Apologies:** Cllr. P. Keane , Mr. T. Connell, Chief Supt. T. Curley,
- In Attendance:** Mr Patrick Conway  
Mr Unsinn Finn  
Mr. P. Salmon, A.O.  
Ms. A Whyte C.O.

Item No:	Description
No 1	<b><u>Minutes of previous Meeting and Matters Arising</u></b> The Minutes from the previous meeting held on 04 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. T. Flaherty and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons

No. 2

**Matters Arising:**

Cllr. Donal Lyons queried if figures for cyclists could be included on the Garda report.

Cllr. P. Conneely referred to a comment by Chief Supt Curley in relation to Heroin addicts having a cost of €1200 per week. Cllr. Conneely stated that this cost is exceptional and he queried where the addicts are getting the money to sustain this habit.

Supt Marie Skehill advised that Chief Supt Curley will address this matter at the next meeting.

Cllr. B. Cameron advised that the issue of CCTV at was raised at Council level and that a policy paper is to be made available at the next council meeting.

Cllr. B. Cameron welcomed Deputy Sean Kyne to the meeting and questioned why there is a high rate of absenteeism of other senior politicians.

Cllr. Frank Fahy also welcomed Deputy Sean Kyne and wished Trevor O'Clochartaigh well in his new role with TG4. Cllr Frank Fahy informed members that he had noticed a great improvement in the visibility of cyclists and queried if there are now boxes to dispose of drug paraphanelia in the boots of Garda vehicles.

Cllr. Neil McNelis commended the great policing in place on St Patricks Day.

Deputy Sean Kyne advised members that he will endeavour to make future meetings of the Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr. T.O'Flaherty queried the guideline for the Oireachtas members in relation to attending JPC meetings.

Mr Peter Salmon advised that members of the Oireachtas can only sit on one Joint Policing Committee either City or County. Deputy Kyne is the only member formally linked to the Galway City is JPC committee as Senator Trevor O'Clochartaigh has now resigned.

Mr Salmon stated that Galway Oireachtas members could be contacted to seek clarity on whether they wished to be on the City or County JPC or both Committees. This was proposed by Cllr. Donal Lyons and seconded by Cllr. Mark Lohan.

Mr Salmon advised members that the date and location for the public meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Superintendent Marie Skehill advised that 112,000 worth of drugs was seized between March 7th and 14<sup>th</sup> in Galway City.

<p>No.3</p>	<p>The out of hours drugs paraphernalia phone number is 091 538000 and there are now bins in Garda vehicles. The Garda Drugs Task force is currently very active and concentrating on hotspots throughout the city.</p> <p>Cllr. T. O’Flaherty queried what can be done about horses in Ballybane. Mr B. McGrath commented that he would to speak to the Director of Services for housing in relation to this matter.</p> <p>Cllr. Billy Cameron suggested that a safe place for addicts to inject methadone as they have in Dublin. Cllr Cameron proposed that a visit to Merchants quay drug rehabilitation be considered. Mr McGrath commented that this matter was more appropriate for consideration by members of the Western Regional Drugs and alcohol Taskforce.</p> <p><b><u>Update on JPC Strategic Plan</u></b></p> <p>Mr Salmon advised members that the sub committees have been meeting in relation to the Strategic Plan. Cllr. M. Farrell’s sub-committee met in relation to raising profile online and providing information through same. Cllr. M. Cubbard’s sub-committee had met in relation to safety issues regarding drug paraphernalia and the need for bins in Garda vehicles. They also identified the need to publicise the services available to support victims of crime. They intend that a leaflet will be produced and made available to members of the public.</p> <p>Cllr McNelis advised that his sub-committee are compiling information in relation to the neighbourhood watch and other schemes. Cllr. NMcnelis commented that the Garda Crime Prevention Officer Pat Flanagan was in attendance at this meeting and Cllr McNelis stressed the importance of having a representative from the Garda Siochana present at the next meeting also.</p> <p>Mr John Rabbitte advised that their sub committee had recently met with Carmel Kilcoyne in relation to traffic calming etc.</p> <p>Cllr. O’Flaherty proposed that red light cameras be included for consideration as an action for this sub-committee and this was seconded by Cllr. Cameron.</p>
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**No. 4**

**Consideration of Garda Report**

Cllr M Lohan welcomed the reduction in figures, he also commended the good work being carried out by the gardai in relation to check points for drink drivers. The figures for assaults causing harm is up which is worrying. Domestic violence figures from Cope had doubled in relation to people attending for their services.

Cllr T O’Flaherty queried if we had City Council figures in relation to parking offences.

Supt Marie Skehill will try to get analyst to look at crime figures for online fraud and scams and have a report for the next meeting.

In relation to other thefts people need to take responsibility and be mindful of not leaving their personal property on display in cars.

Deputy Sean Kyne welcomed the overall reduction in crime figures. In relation to assault the figure is proportionally low and he queried if these assaults are drink related.

Mr Joe Loughnane queried if it is an offence for disabled parking to be removed by private businesses.

Mr Loughnane also stressed the importance of clearly outlining the number of racial offences on the Garda report as racism doesn’t seem to be taken seriously and queried if the ethnic officers in place have been trained in relation to racism.

Supt Marie Skehill advised that the Ethnic officers are trained and community guards are also trained. She also stated that they have no control over the removal of disabled parking bays.

The assaults analyst would have to be looked at to see if a breakdown is obtainable.

**No. 4**

**Discussion on specific Topics**

Supt Marie Skehill to circulate answers to questions posed by Cllr F Fahy and Cllr N McNelis to committee members.

Cllr Donal Lyons proposed a motion for the pedestrian path south of Ashley Grove to be extended for a distance of 10meters by Galway City Council in the interest of pedestrian safety. This was seconded by Cllr. O’Flaherty and agreed by the members present

Cllr. Cameron advised that Comharle na nÓg had developed a presentation “Use your brain not your fists” and suggested that we contact this group and seek information on this initiative.

Cllr Frank Fahy advised that there is speed signage needed past Merlin Park on the Oranmore side as it is unclear what the speed limit should be.

	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>The next JPC meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.</p> <p>This concluded the business of the meeting.</p>
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