



**TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE GALWAY CITY
JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

Date: 31st August 2018.

A meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee will be held on Monday, 24th September 2018 in the Council Chamber, Galway City Council, College Road, Galway at 11.00am.

Parking is available at the customer car park at City Hall or the Greyhound Track, College Road.

The Agenda is as set out hereunder:

Signed: 
Caitriona Morgan
Secretary to the Committee

AGENDA

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 25th June 2018**
- 2. Consideration of Garda Report (report to follow)**
- 3. Up-date on JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2020**
- 4. Discussion on holding a Public Meeting**
- 5. Discussion on specific topics (please submit any specific questions you would like to have considered for next JPC meeting by Monday 10th September 2018)**
- 6. Any other Business**



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, 25th June 2018 at 11.00am

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. O' Flaherty, Cllr. P. Keane, Deputy Sean Kyne TD, Mr. J. Rabbitte, Mr J. Loughnane, Mr Tommy Flaherty, Ms. N. Tierney, Mr. J Cleary, Mr. T. Connell, Chief Supt. T. Curley

Apologies: Mr. Brendan McGrath

In Attendance: Ms. Caitriona Morgan, A.O.

Ms. A Whyte, C.O.

Detective Chief Superintendent Pat Clavin

Superintendent Kevin Gately

Sergeant Peter Conlon

Mike Swan, Galway RNLI

Cllr. M Cubbard welcomed Ms. Caitriona Morgan as Secretary to the Committee and proposed that the Committee send Mr P. Salmon a letter of thanks for his service to the Committee, following his recent retirement from Galway City Council. This was seconded by Cllr. T O'Flaherty. Cllr. M Cubbard also welcomed Mr. John Cleary who is replacing Ms. Irene Murphy on the Committee.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on 26th March 2018 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and seconded by Cllr. F Fahy and agreed.

Matters of Accuracy

Mr. Tommy Flaherty raised a number of points of accuracy on the Minutes of the 26th March 2018, as follows:

- It was noted that Cllr. T O'Flaherty had been used in place of Mr. T Flaherty for certain items so to be corrected.
- In relation to the JPC Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 it was noted that a report from the Sub Committees was requested and this should have been recorded in the minutes.
- Galway City Council were requested to provide figures on fines issued – this was also requested at the meeting of 6th December 2017.
- Mr. T Flaherty had queried if “Operation Enable” was in place in Galway City – this should have been recorded in the minutes.
- Cllr. B Cameron proposed that red light cameras be included for consideration as an action for this Committee and that Gardaí and City Officials would meet in relation to same this was seconded by Mr. T Flaherty.

In terms of Matters Arising the following points / queries were raised:

- In relation to the guidelines for the operation of JPCs as revised, in particular under General Membership, Mr. T Flaherty enquired if there was any way of setting aside this requirement in relation to Oireachtas members attending, with a view to increasing the number of Oireachtas members attending.
- Cllr. T O'Flaherty advised that there is still complaints in relation to the horses in Ballybane and she queried if there is any update in relation to this issue.
- Cllr. P Conneely asked for confirmation on the statement made by Chief Supt T. Curley in relation to spend on heroin by addicts being €1,200 weekly and enquired on where they were getting this sort of money.
- Cllr. F Fahy advised that the 50KMPH sign is missing between Galway Crystal and Merlin Park. This has been missing for months and needs to be replaced.
- Cllr. Mark Lohan advised that he had recently attended LAMA training in relation to CCTV where he was advised that CCTV should be under the control of the Gardaí so that footage can be used in prosecution. He further queried if a response had been received from Oireachtas members in relation to sitting on the JPC. Finally he noted a presentation which was given by Leitrim Comhairle na nÓg in relation to their campaign “Use your brain not your fists” and he asked if this could be progressed in Galway City.

- Cllr. N McNelis queried if figures for phone scams and online scams could be given. He also advised that cars were still parking on the footpath at Kingston Cross, towards the lower end even through bollards had been put in place recently.
- Cllr. B Cameron queried if the City Council and Gardai can work jointly on identifying areas within the City that require CCTV And sanction it. In relation to the matter of a safe place for addicts to inject he felt that it was appropriate for this Committee to consider this.
- Cllr. B Cameron proposed that the JPC write to the WRDATF seeking their policy so it can be determined if a plan to roll out safe places to inject for drug users in Galway. This was seconded by Cllr. F Fahy.
- Cllr. D Lyons proposed a motion at the previous meeting in relation to extending the footpath at Ashleigh Grove and queried if there was a response on this matter. He also queried if figures for cyclist offences can be included in the Garda report. He further noted his agreement with Cllr. McNelis comment on parking at Kingston Cross.
- Cllr. D Lyons asked if the Garda station in Salthill will still operate as normal once the new Regional HQ opens. Chief Supt. Curley advised that this will remain a 24 hour station.
- Ms. N. Tierney enquired if the Garda Station at Millstreet will remain open once the Regional HQ is opened, and public opening hours for the new HQ.
- Mr. J. Tierney also enquired about the new Regional HQ, in particular the Traffic Management plan and opening hours.

In response Chief Supt. T Curley advised on the following:

- The Control of Horses is managed by the Housing Department in Galway City Council, noting that there is currently no pound facility in the City.
- In relation to spend on heroin by addicts the figure in the amount of €1,200 weekly was an admission from an addict.
- In relation to CCTV there is a Control Unit in the new Regional HQ which is expected to be in operation from early July 2018. If there is a recording facility on CCTV system this can be taken as evidence in line with proper procedure and protocol.
- In relation to the “Use your brain not your fists” initiative Chief Supt. Curley will speak to Sgt Marie Skehill to see if a similar initiative is in place in Galway City or any other initiative going on.
- In relation to figures for online and phone scams it was noted that these are hard to access from the Pulse system.
- In relation to bollards at Kingston Cross, Chief Supt. Curley will speak to Supt. McHugh.

- In relation to the matter of a safe place for addicts to inject he felt that it was appropriate for the WRDATF to led on this, noting that bins are provided in patrol cars.
- In terms of figures for cyclist offences Chief Supt. Curley advised that the Promenade in Salthill is a particular area of concern and issue, noting that he had recently briefed patrol units in Salthill on the issuing of tickets and signage.
- In terms of the new Regional HQ Chief Supt. Curley advised that this will pilot a new divisional policing model and members can be briefed on this at the next meeting of the JPC.

In response Mr. T Connell advised on the following:

- In relation to the Control of House he outlined the procedure in place in the Housing Department on dealing with complaints in this regard. Mr. Connell advised that Galway City Council are waiting on an announcement re: the results of a National Tender for the provision of services for the seizure of stray and abandoned horses. It is expected that the announcement will lead to the preparation of new procedures, in line with the Estate Management strategy.
- Mr. Connell to review the bollards at Kingston Cross. He will also follow up on the signage item as raised by Cllr. F. Fahy and review the budget to see if the extension of the footpath at Ashleigh Grove can be advanced.

In her response Ms. C. Morgan advised on the following:

- In relation to the Oireachtas members and the point in the guidelines, as revised that no Oireachtas member may register for membership of more than one JPC at City/County level she will follow up with the relevant Oireachtas members on this.
- In term of the Galway City Comhairle na nÓg she advised on the approach taken to select a topic / item for each year and she advised that she will contact the local Comhairle co-ordinator on the initiative mentioned.

In relation to the JPC Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 she advised that she would be following up with the Sub Committee and they would be asked to report on update at the next meeting.

2 Presentation by Criminal Assets Bureau

Detective Chief Superintendent Patrick Clavin, Chief Bureau Officer gave a power point presentation on the work carried out by the statutory body Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB). He advised that CAB relies mainly on information from the general public in relation to potential targets and he outlined the process and investigative approach that is followed by CAB. He further advised on the resources available to CAB in carrying out their work both in terms of staff resources and systems. In terms of asset profilers he advised on their role and the number currently in place. Finally he noted the number of investigations that are currently ongoing in the Galway Division.

Following a detailed discussion and a series of questions from member of the Committee, Chief Bureau Officer, Mr. Clavin advised that the procedures and system used by CAB are highly confidential. He also outlined the approach taken on the seizure of assets and the timeframes involved, noting that an extension to the period of 21 days to seize an asset would be beneficial. He agreed with members that the message needs to go out to the general public that CAB will deal with small crimes also and circulated a leaflet on CAB which is available for circulation. He confirmed how CAB can be contacted and briefly spoke on the current investigations as requested.

The Committee thanked Detective Chief Superintendent Patrick Clavin, Chief Bureau Officer for his presentation and attendance.

3 Presentation on Thermal Imaging Cameras

Superintendent Kevin Gately and Mike Swan of Galway RNLi gave a power point presentation to members on the necessity for the installation and operation of Thermal Imaging Cameras at specific locations, namely the Claddagh or Fisheries Tower and on the Harbour Company building at the Docks. They explained that the location of where a person enters the water in the city has huge implications for where exactly they will end up and outlined how the cameras will operate. Mike Swan advised that there is a 'golden hour' after someone enters the water, where rescue teams have about 60 minutes to make a successful rescue. He also advised that the cost of the specialist thermal cameras is in the region of €20,000, of which €5,000 is already allocated in the city's Budget for this year. Following a number of questions from members Cllr Niall McNelis proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. Peter Keane and agreed "that this Joint Policing Committee proposes to Galway City Council to make provision for immediate deployment of Thermal Imaging CCTV at Fisheries Tower and / or at the Claddagh Basin in order to assist Emergency Services in the event of persons entering the water in the vicinity of Galway City". Cllr. McNelis also queried why the Water Safety Audit carried out by Galway City Council was not published.

4 Consideration of Garda Report

Cllr. Mark Lohan advised that due to the increase of minor assaults in the report it gives a further argument for the campaign "Use your brain not your fists".

Ms Nicola Tierney queried where figures of no offence disclosed arise from.

Cllr Frank Fahy expressed the need to warn people about leaving valuables in their vehicles as figure for theft from mpv are up 34%.

Mr T Flaherty queried the legality of the booze bike.

Cllr. Neil McNelis suggested that stickers reminding public not to leave valuables in the car and to lock the car could be put on new parking meters. He also noted concerns on assault figures as presented.

Cllr. Frank Fahy proposed that a letter be sent to Serg. Pat Flanagan on this retirement and also to welcome Serg. Martin Walsh as the new Crime Prevention Officer. This was seconded by Cllr. M Cubbard and agreed.

Chief Supt. Tom Curley informed members that no offence disclosed related to domestic violence calls where no statement is made. He advised that the media is used to make member of the public aware not to leave valuables in vehicles and to always lock vehicles when not in use, noting that the majority of vehicles stolen had been left unlocked.

5 Discussion on specific topics

Cllr. P. Conneely enquired about the policing of bye-laws, in particular his question submitted on the Outdoor Public Place Alcohol Bye Laws and the Busking Bye Laws recently adopted and asked how the Gardaí intend to police these.

Chief Supt. Tom Curley noted different Bye Laws that need to be enforced and prioritised, noting that the recently adopted Busking Bye Laws were being looked at in more detail in terms of resourcing.

Mr. J Rabbitte referred to his question submitted in relation to the issue of absentee landlords and enquired how many anti-social behaviour orders (ASBO's) have gone to court and if any convictions have been made to date. It was agreed to include this as a question on the Agenda for the next meeting of the JPC.

6 Any other business

The next JPC meeting will be held on Monday 24th September 2018 at 11.00am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.