



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes

- Date:** Monday, 25th March 2019 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. B. Cameron, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. D. McDonnell, Cllr. N McNelis, Cllr. T. O' Flaherty, Deputy Sean Kyne TD, Mr. J. Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Ms. Nicola Tierney, Mr. John Cleary, Mr. Brendan McGrath, Mr. T. Connell, Chief Supt. T. Curley, Supt. Seán Glynn
- Apologies:** Cllr. M. Farrell
Cllr. M. Lohan
- In Attendance:** Ms. Caitriona Morgan, A.O
Ms. Ruth Flynn, A/SO
Sergeant Peter Conlon
Garda Commissioner, Mr. Drew Harris

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on 7th January 2019 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. B. Cameron and seconded by Cllr. T O'Flaherty and agreed.

Matters of Accuracy

- Cllr. T. O'Flaherty queried the busking bye laws, if there was any update on CCTV within the city and if there was a report on the number of people begging on the streets.
- Cllr. F. Fahy queried why the Control of Horses Act 2005 wasn't on the agenda even though he had submitted a request on this.

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

- Mr. T. Flaherty welcomed the report on FCN issued by Galway City Council which he had requested.
- Cllr. B. Cameron asked if there was any update on the safe, secure injection facility which he raised as a motion on at the last meeting.
- Cllr. D. Lyons raised issue with the footpath south of Ashleigh Grove, cyclists on the promenade, pedestrianised areas and footpaths across the city.
- Cllr. T. O'Flaherty asked if there was an update of the Driver Feedback Signs.
- Cllr. F. Fahy raised his concerns with regards Taxi Insurance and if there was anything being done to address this going forward.
- Cllr. M. Cubbard asked if there was data / statistics regarding phone scams and what is the progress regarding lifting of horses.
- Cllr. N. McNelis enquired if there was a follow up to the motion raised regarding Garda resources.
- Cllr. D. McDonnell queried if there were any horses lifted to date in 2019.
- Cllr. T. O'Flaherty asked if the contract regarding the lifting of horses was signed this week and what was the cost implications of same.

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

- Regarding phone scams data / statistics will be provided going forward.
- Taxi Insurance is something the Gardaí monitor and check on a regular basis, working closely with the National Transport Authority and will continue to monitor and check.
- Cyclists on footpaths has been discussed with his relevant staff, highlighting the concerns raised and to enforce legislation where required.

In response Mr. T Connell advised on the following:

- Driver Feedback Signs and the compilation of data from these locations requires additional staff resource which is not available at this time.
- The footpath at Ashleigh Grove is a consent issue to use the land, which is not forthcoming, and therefore cannot proceed. The Council Member may be able to intervene and advise in this regard.
- Ms. S. Carroll, Housing Department is in attendance and will address the issues raised in relation to the lifting of horses.

In response Ms. S. Carroll advised on the following:

- She confirmed that the contract for lifting of horses was signed in January 2019 under the National Framework on an initial 6 month period with a possibility to extending it.
- 5 horses have been lifted to date in 2019 and advised that if complaints are received they are dealt with in line with the same procedure.
- Galway City Council are working closely with the County Council and the Gardai regarding the lifting of horses.
- The Control of Horses Act 2005 is in place, noting that the introduction of bye-laws to support same is a reserved function.
- Cllr. F. Fahy proposed that the City Council introduce the necessary bye-laws to enforce the Control of Horses Act 1996 in Galway City, which was seconded by Cllr. T O'Flaherty and agreed.
- Cllr. B. Cameron made reference to an interagency project that was done with young travellers and education and asked if this could be revisited.

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

- Following Cllr. N. McNelis's query on further Garda resources response received on same was read out by Ms. C. Morgan and advised that a further follow up will be carried out if necessary.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

- Chief Supt. Tom Curley advised that the overall crime figure is down by approx. 40% and this was welcomed.
- Cllr. P. Conneely enquired if the figure for Road Accidents included cyclists and noted that he felt the number of FCN was low.
- Cllr. D. McDonnell highlighted concerns in relation to illegal parking, in line with parking offences which was down.
- Mr. T. Flaherty noted that Galway City Council issued 1,300 fines and asked if it was possible to differentiate between Car Park fines and On Street fines.

- Cllr. F. Fahy welcomed the figures, noting that theft from MPV was down and assault causing harm down too. He enquired if there could be a breakdown of the intoxicated driving figure to show drink / drug driving.
- Cllr. N. McNelis with reference to drugs driving enquired if the testing of same was part of the future of policing going forward.
- Chief Supt. Tom Curley advised that additional resources had been sought for both the City and County, noting some recent staffing changes. He further noted that the FCN for parking offences figure was low and this will be discussed with his relevant staff. In relation to the queries on drug driving he referred to an initiative in Clare that could be looked at in this regard as this was proactive.
- Cllr. M. Cubbard read out a motion regarding Cyclist offences to be included in the next Garda report which was proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty.

3. Draft JPC Annual Report 2018

- Ms. C. Morgan advised that the JPC is required under Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 to 'submit to the Local Authority a report on the performance of its functions during the preceding year, no later than 3 months after the end of the year'. She further noted that in particular the report should set out how it carried out its function and the outcomes from strategies adopted by the JPC. The draft JPC Annual Report 2018 as circulated was proposed by Cllr. D Lyons, seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron and agreed. A number of members thanked the staff and Subcommittees for their work in this regard. Ms. Morgan confirmed that the JPC Annual Report 2018 would be submitted to Galway City Council in advance of their next meeting and circulated to the relevant bodies.

4. 'Vision for the Future of Policing in Ireland – Community Policing'

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris

- Cllr. M. Cubbard welcomed Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to the meeting.
- Garda Commissioner Drew Harris welcomed the opportunity to meet with and present to the Galway City JPC on the new model of policing for Galway City. He presented the vision and mission, noting in particular the 6 pillars essential to the overall delivery with a particular reference to Community Policing. A detailed presentation and discussion took place on the key areas as outlined: Partnership Development; Protecting the Vulnerable; Listening & Responding and Visible Policing, with Commissioner Harris going through in detail these areas for Galway City.
- A number of queries and questions in relation to Community Policing and what this means for Galway City were received from the Committee which Commissioner addressed and responded to.

- Cllr. M. Cubbard on behalf of the Galway City JPC thanked Commissioner Harris for his detailed presentation and discussion at the meeting.

5. Any Other Business

- Mr. John Cleary proposed that a future meeting of the JPC should be held in the new Garda Headquarters Office, which was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty.
- Cllr. M. Cubbard on behalf of the JPC thanked Cllr. B. Cameron and wished him every good luck in the future.