



Galway City Joint Policing Committee Meeting Minutes

- Date:** Monday, 22nd July 2019 at 11.00am
- Location:** Council Chamber, College Road, Galway City Council
- Chairperson:** Cllr. N. McNelis, Chairperson of the Committee.
- Members Present:** Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. P O'Reilly, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. E Hoare, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. T. O' Flaherty, Cllr. O. Hanley, Mr. Cameron Keighron, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Mr. John Cleary, Mr. T. Connell, Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe, Acting Superintendent Karen Maloney
- Apologies:** Mr. B. McGrath
Deputy Seán Kyne
Superintendent Marie Skehill
- In Attendance:** Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Secretary to Committee
Ms. Ruth Flynn, A/SO
Inspector Peter Conlon

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on 25th March 2019 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. T. O'Flaherty, seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

Matters of Accuracy

- Cllr. F. Fahy queried why the Control of Horses Act 1996 was not on the Agenda and highlighted the serious issue of cyclists not wearing hi-vis clothing.

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

- Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and Cllr. D. Lyons queried the status of the driver feedback signs, in particular if there was any further update on whether or not additional staff resources could be made available to download the data

from these signs, in addition to noting that a number of these signs are not working / out of order

- Cllr. T. O’Flaherty queried if there is any update on Community Policing and if there was a report available on the lifting of horses.
- Cllr. F. Fahy proposed that the Control of Horses Act 1996 be on the next Agenda for the next meeting, seconded by Cllr. M. Cubbard. It was also requested that a copy of the relevant Act is circulated to the Committee by email in advance of the next meeting
- Cllr. M. Cubbard queried the timeframe and cost of the contract for the lifting of horses. He has also requested that the number of phone scams be included on the Garda Report.

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

- In relation to Community Policing this is being reviewed on an ongoing basis, noting that an extra Sergeant has been assigned to this area. The up-to-date list of Community Gardaí will be circulated to the Committee as requested.
- A business case has been submitted to the Gardaí Commissioner for additional resources.
- In relation to cycling offenses, this issue is continually on the agenda for the Superintendent, noting that further work is needed coming into the autumn and winter months on road safety, in particular visibility.
- In relation to the Garda Report and the recording of phone scams it was noted that this will be included under a Fraud category as it is being captured in this way.

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.
- In relation to the control of horses Ms. S. Carroll, Housing Department gave a report at the last JPC meeting. The introduction of bye-laws in this regard will be progressed by the Housing SPC and thereafter come before Council for consideration. He further advised that the current contract for the lifting of horses was in place for a period of 6 months.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

The Chief Superintendent T. Curley referred to the Garda Report dated 22nd July 2019, noting that the overall property crime figure for the first 6 months of 2019 was down which was very welcomed.

- Cllr. D. Lyons welcomed the figures and suggested including a breakdown on the type and value of the drugs figure.
- Cllr. F. Fahy welcomed the reduction in cars with no insurance and a reduction in parking offences and would like Gardaí to address loading and unloading in

particular on Forster Street and Eglinton Street, noting that more foot patrols at peak times would be most welcome.

- Cllr. M. Cubbard commented on the high figure reported for drink driving and queried if there were any campaigns that could be looked at in order to reduce this.
- In relation to domestic incidents reported Cllr. O. Hanley queried if a collaborative approach could be taken with the LCDC on this issue.
- Cllr. P. O'Reilly raised a concern that sexual assaults were not included in the report, and if it were possible to have the percentage of successful prosecutions. She also queried if patrolling was stepped down during large scale events as this would be a cause for concern.
- Mr. C. Keighron enquired if there was a breakdown on the racially motivated crimes and assaults.
- Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised that the drugs figure was low, noting that the breakdown as requested will be included in the next Garda Report. He referred to some recent crimes, in particular car theft. He further advised on some drink driving campaigns, with a particular targeting on drugs driving. In relation to sexual assaults he noted the approach taken in particular by the Protective Services Unit in this regard. He advised that a policy decision has to be made on racially motivated crimes and the inclusion and recording of these in the Garda Report.
- Mr. T. Flaherty referred to a Red Light Camera System, recently installed at a number of blackspot locations in Dublin City to catch red light runners. He enquired if this could be considered further for installation at key locations throughout Galway City where the breaking of red lights is most problematic / blackspots identified
- Mr. J. Rabbitte queried if there could be a check point for speeding at Woodhaven and noted a lot of motorcyclist are using the bus lanes.
- Cllr. A. Cheevers asked if there is a call out time policy for any incidents.
- In relation to illegal dumping in Galway City, Cllr. E Hoare queried how this is being categorised and reported.
- Cllr. N. McNelis suggested if signage could be put on the parking meters to remind people regarding their valuables left in cars, he also queried if graffiti is a criminal damage.
- In response Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised that graffiti is criminal damage in private or public space and also clarified that there is a 999 call out system and all calls are prioritised at that time. With regard to speeding he advised that all concerns / complaints should be reported directly to the Western Regional HQ and this will get referred to the Traffic Division. In relation to the Red Light Camera System he noted that if a list of hot-spots is identified, to submit this listing to the Divisional Clerk for further consideration with Galway City Council. Finally in relation to illegal dumping he noted that Inspector Tom Waters was working in this area, noting joint operations with Galway County in this regard.

3. Galway City JPC Strategic Plan 2017- 2020

Ms. C. Morgan referred to the current Strategic Plan 2017- 2020 which was circulated to the Committee, noting the 4 strategic goals with a number of actions identified to be

delivered through the work of the various sub-committee. She advised that work in this regard was ongoing, requesting that the membership of the sub-committees is discussed and agreed at the next meeting of the JPC, following the election process to be completed by the Galway City Community Network / PPN on the community representatives which she understood would take place in mid-September 2019. She further advised on the makeup of these sub-committees, asking members to consider participating on a particular sub-committee in line with an area of interest or expertise that they have. Finally each sub-committee will be requested to elect their own Chairperson and prepare their annual work plan, meeting in line with their agreed schedule, noting that a written report from each sub-committee will be required to come before the Committee in line with this Agenda item.

4. Crime Prevention

Sergeant Michael Walsh, Crime Prevention Officer gave an informative presentation on Crime Prevention. He specified the importance of identifying crime risk before it happens so you can remove or reduce the crime. He spoke regarding the many types of crime in Galway city, including a number of Crime Prevention campaigns and circulated information on fraud and cyber-crime. This was welcomed by the Committee.

5. Schedule of Meetings for 2019

The dates for the next meetings of the Galway City JPC were noted as followed and agreed:

- Monday 21st October 2019 at 11am in the Council Chamber, City Hall, College Road, Galway.
- Monday 16th December 2019 at 11am in the Western Regional HQ, Renmore, Galway.

6. Any Other Business

Ms C. Morgan gave a brief outline of the revised guidelines that were issued to the Committee. She noted in particular the functions of the Committee, procedure for tabling questions, internal procedures etc. She reminded the Committee that in line with the Standing Orders regulating the meetings and proceedings of the Galway City JPC meetings are held on a Monday, starting at 11.00am and to finish no later than 1.00pm. She further noted the Code of Practice as included in Appendix 1 of the revised guidelines that were issued, in particular that an excessive amount of meeting time should not be spent on questions and speeches.

In relation to the pedestrian area at Eyre Square West, Cllr. F. Fahy queried what measures are in place at this location to ensure it is maintained as a pedestrian area, in particular the operation of bollards at this location as he noted that this area on occasion was not totally for pedestrians and he queried this.

Cllr. F. Fahy also raised a concern in relation to ongoing rollerblading that is happening in Eyre Square, querying what measures are in place to deal with this as he noted this is an issue on a regular basis.