



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	Monday, 21 st October 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, Deputy Seán Kyne TD, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Mr. John Cleary, Superintendent Marie Skehill, Inspector Peter Conlon, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe
Apologies:	Mr. B. McGrath Mr. T. Connell Chief Superintendent Tom Curley Mr. Cameron Keighron Ms. Nichola Tierney
In Attendance:	Mr. Brian Barrett, SEO Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Secretary to Committee Ms. Theresa Donohue, SO Ms. Máire Mortimer, CO

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis advised the members that following the recent election process held by Galway City Community Network the five community representatives had been elected onto the Galway City JPC, welcoming all to the meeting. He noted the apologies that had been received as per above.

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

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on 22nd July 2019 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. F. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed. The Chairperson invited matters of accuracy and Matters Arising. In terms of Matters Arising the following points / queries were raised:

- Mr. T. Flaherty requested an update on the Red Light Camera System referred to at the last meeting.
- Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and Cllr. M. Cubbard asked for detail on the contract cost for the lifting of horses as previously requested.

In response to queries raised, Ms C. Morgan advised on the following:

- In relation to the Red Light Camera System, it was noted in response received from T&I that the system in Dublin was introduced following a number of incidents between vehicles and LUAS trams. It was noted that the enforcement of traffic offences from breaking red lights is with An Gardaí Sióchána and if there are critical locations which would benefit from such a system T&I would be willing to work with An Gardaí Sióchána on such a system to assist them in enforcing traffic offences. Budget provision would need to be secured at national level in order to advance this if agreed.

In response to queries raised, Mr. B. Barrett advised on the following:

- In relation to the contract cost for the lifting of horses he understood this information was commercially sensitive. He noted that an update on the Control of Horses Act 1996 from the Housing Department was being discussed later in the meeting.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

Superintendent M. Skehill referred to the Garda Report dated 21st October 2019 and also a Fraud Incidents Report. A number of comments and queries were raised by Members and Superintendent M. Skehill responded as follows:

- In relation to the 31% increase in theft from M.P.V, this is in connection with the rise in the theft of catalytic converters. There is a problem nationwide with, noting that this was not just happening or increasing in Galway. The primary vehicles targeted is the Toyota Prius from 2007 onwards.
- Two additional Gardaí have been allocated to the Garda Divisional Unit and this is welcomed news.
- Inspector P. Conlon informed the committee he had recently attended a presentation of a Catclamp. This is an item that can prevent the theft of catalytic converters and can be bought on the internet. Inspector P. Conlon suggested that both Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch schemes would benefit from a presentation on this item.
- In relation to the Drugs simple possession figure increasing, An Garda Síochána are targeting certain weekends and certain nights e.g. student nights and are patrolling the City on these nights to find individuals carrying drugs. Two additional Gardaí have been assigned to the Divisional Drugs Unit to target this problem.
- MIT checkpoints have increased by 23% which may explain the decrease in the number of Intoxicated Driving offences.
- FCPN Pedal Cycles will be included in the next report.
- In relation to drink driving, there is a two hour window to charge an individual suspected of the offence.
- A liaison Garda is in place in NUI Galway in a bid to reduce public order offences. Gardaí are also implementing a number of measures at the weekends and on other occasions, with extra patrols in place in certain hot spot areas and it is believed this is linked to assaults being down by 17%.
- In relation to minor assault and question from Mr. T. Flaherty on alcohol related figure in this regard it was noted that it is not possible to give a figure for alcohol related assaults as there is no specific category for such an offence within this.
- In relation to Cllr. P. O'Reilly, Superintendent M. Skehill will note the offence stated, will ensure there are extra patrols for the area and will liaise with the Traffic Department.
- In relation to the 31% increase in theft from M.P.V, people need to take responsibility and ensure to not leave their car unlocked or not leave items visible in their car. People are reminded of this very Tuesday on Galway Bay FM during the weekly Garda Slot.

- In relation to Hate Crime Offences, Gardaí deal with all assaults very seriously and investigate each thoroughly.
- There is a programme in place in schools to encourage people to wear high-vis clothing when walking or cycling. The message is “Be Safe Be Seen”.
- Parking Offences are down by 15% and Superintendent M. Skehill believes this is due to the Enable Initiative. Gardaí are working with Community groups and these offenses are becoming more publicised and as a result people are more aware to not park in disabled parking spaces.
- In relation to begging the figure has decreased by 65% and this is believed to be because Gardaí have been proactive and there have been extra patrols across the City which need to continue in order for this issue to be addressed. There will be extra town patrols happening before Christmas also, noting that plain clothes Gardaí are also on patrol in the City.
- In relation to Cllr. M. Cubbards query regarding crack cocaine being a major problem in Galway City, there is nothing to suggest this at this time.
- Mr B. Barrett said that a figure in relation to tickets issued for parking offenses during 2019 by Galway City Council would be requested from the T&I Department in Galway City Council for the next meeting.
- Mr. B. Barrett responded to questions raised in relation to the security system in place at Lenaboy Castle and also in relation to recent vandalism offenses at a City graveyard.

3. Presentation of findings from consultation on the Galway City Alcohol Strategy 2019 – 2021

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Dr. Ann Hope, Department of Public Health and Primary Care and Ms. Evelyn Fanning, Health Promotion Officer, HSE. He noted that the Galway City Alcohol Forum undertook work in relation to the above earlier in the year, noting that this is a multiagency group with many representatives similar to the Galway City JPC i.e. Galway City Council, An Gardaí Siochána, Galway City Community Network etc.

Following the circulation to the Members of the summary report that was prepared on the above a presentation was given by Dr. Ann Hope and Ms. Evelyn Fanning. The presentation outlined the consultation process and methodology that was undertaken by the Galway City Alcohol Forum earlier in the year in order to inform the development of a second Alcohol Strategy for Galway City. A number of issues were highlighted following the responses received, with a number of priority actions identified to be addressed which included the availability of alcohol, exposure of children to alcohol, availability of alcohol treatment and alcohol related crime. A number of questions were raised by Members, in particular the advertising of alcohol, lack of alcohol treatment services that are much needed, enforcement of licensing laws, education in schools and ongoing work with young people, full implementation of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 and the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing.

Mr T. Flaherty proposed that support and action should be taken to introduce Minimum Unit Pricing to stop below cost selling of very cheap alcohol especially in supermarkets, seeking the immediate introduction of this as included in the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018. This was seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis and agreed.

4. Galway City JPC Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 / Proposed Membership of JPC Sub-Committees

Ms. C. Morgan advised that a report on the above item had been circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting, noting in particular the request to review the membership of the four Sub-Committees so that each one can reconvene / meet to review and develop their annual work plan for 2020 in line

with their strategic objectives. It was agreed to follow up by email with the Members on this in advance of the next meeting.

5. Appointment of Vice Chairperson to the Galway City JPC

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that Cllr. O. Hanley become the Vice Chairperson to the Galway City JPC, which was seconded by Cllr. P. O'Reilly and agreed.

6. To receive a presentation on the Control of Horses Act 1996 in Galway City

Ms. S. Carroll, Housing Department reported a verbal update on the Control of Horses Act 1996 in Galway City as requested. This update included the timeframe and procedure from when a complaint is received to when a decision is made to seize a horse, national framework panel for seizing and impounding horses which Galway City Council must adhere to and the 24 hour service if a call is received out-of-hours. She advised that Galway City Council is currently considering the introduction of bye-laws and this will be discussed at the Housing SPC. A series of questions were raised by Members in relation to the above, in particular the timeframe, price, number claimed in addition to horses in some Housing Estates and the need for stricter enforcement on this issue. Ms. S. Carroll noted the questions raised, advising that a written reply would issue subsequently.

7. Any Other Business

- As a follow up to the report that issued to Members on the proposed membership of the JPC Sub-Committees, Superintendent M. Skehill gave an update on the change of members from An Gardaí Sióchána for each of the Sub-Committees. Ms. C. Morgan advised that she will again contact all Members on this, requesting their response on membership of each of the Sub-Committees as soon as possible and in advance of the next meeting.
- Cllr. D. Lyons requested that only one presentation be on the Agenda going forward.
- Mr. G. McMahon informed the members that a community awareness campaign to highlight various issues to do with Halloween, including a collective warning / advice message from across Galway City Council, Galway Fire Service and An Garda Síochána was being launched and announced after the meeting outside City Hall and all members were invited to attend. He noted that a press release was prepared and circulated to the Members.

The next meeting of the Galway City Joint Policing Committee is taking place on Monday 16th December 2019 at 11.00 am in the Western Region Headquarters (An Garda Síochána), Dublin Road, Renmore, Galway.