



## Galway City Joint Policing Committee

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 11.00am via Zoom

**Chairperson:** Cllr. N. McNelis, Chairperson of the Committee

**Members Present:** Cllr. M. Cubbard, Cllr. N. McNelis, Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. N. Murphy, Cllr. F. Fahy, Cllr. E Hoare, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. T. O' Flaherty, Cllr. O. Hanley, Cllr. N. Larkin, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Senator Pauline O'Reilly, Senator Sean Kyne, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Mr. John Cleary, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Mr. Cameron Keighron, Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe, Mr. B. McGrath Chief Executive, Mr. B. Barrett, A/ Director of Services

**Apologies:** None

**In Attendance:** Mr. Gary McMahon, A/Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Secretary to Committee  
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Staff Officer  
Ms. Máire Mortimer, Clerical Officer

Cllr. N. McNelis reminded all on the protocols with regard to Zoom meetings as previously circulated.

Cllr. N. McNelis welcomed the members of the public and members of the media who were joining today's meeting via zoom.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy and agreed. The Chairperson invited Matters of Accuracy and Matters Arising.

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

- Cllr. F. Fahy asked when the Control of Horses Act was to be brought before the JPC.

- In relation to Go Safe vans, Cllr. F. Fahy queried whether the RSA had been written to regarding their locations.
- Cllr. F. Fahy asked if a full time profiler had been appointed by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB).
- Cllr. F. Fahy queried whether there had been an influx of heroin users from other parts of the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In relation to the audit of CCTV, Cllr. O. Hanley asked if more information could be provided such as outcome, conclusions and follow up if required. In addition he enquired on the purpose of the Community based CCTV schemes.
- Cllr. M. Cubbard queried what the policy was on speed ramps in housing estates.

In response Mr. B. Barrett advised on the following:

- In response to Cllr. O. Hanley's queries about CCTV, he would refer these onto the Council's Information & Data Protection Officer for response.
- The Housing SPC are scheduled to meet on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and if draft bye-laws in relation to the Control of Horses are approved by the SPC, an update presentation can follow to the JPC in line with the consultation process.

In response Mr. B. McGrath advised on the following:

- A 30km/h special speed limit is in place in approximately 120 housing estates across the City. Draft bye-laws in respect of implementing special speed limits was due to be presented at a Council meeting later in October.

## **2. Consideration of Garda Report**

Chief Superintendent T. Curley presented the Garda Report and the Fraud Incidents Report, as circulated noting that the reports were for the period from January 2020 up to the end of September 2020. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Chief Superintendent T. Curley responded as follows:

- Doughiska has been allocated one more additional community garda, bringing their total to 2.
- There are 2 community gardaí in the Sliabh Bán housing estate.
- If people are under pressure due to drugs debt, they should contact An Garda Síochána. A specific unit deals with these types of issues and a number of complaints have been investigated and all complaints which are brought to the Gardaí are treated in the strictest of confidence.
- If Go Safe vans are parked illegally, people should take a photograph of it and report this to An Garda Síochána. Safety cameras are provided and operated by Go Safe on behalf of An Garda Síochána. The Road Safety Authority (RSA) should be contacted in relation to the locations of Go Safe vans.
- Patrols to combat "boy racers" in shopping centre car parks will be sent out to areas where this is prevalent but An Garda Síochána also rely on people to report these people in the act.
- An Garda Síochána have no authority to shut down house parties and encourage people to report these also.
- There were 278 drinking in public offences since the start of 2020.
- Gardaí do not need additional training in relation to policies on domestic violence.

- If a victim of domestic violence refuses to make a statement and there is no evidence, Gardaí cannot make a prosecution. In the event of reports at recurring addresses, the Superintendent will make an evaluation.
- The North Western region will be the first to receive a dog unit in the upcoming national roll out and Galway are currently waiting on Garda HQ to advertise the positions.
- It is national policy to use the value of drugs as opposed to the weight as the price does not change on a week to week basis. Value is used in court proceedings.

Cllr. O. Hanley requested the heading “Rape of male and female” be changed to just rape.

### **3. Up-date on JPC Strategic Plan 2017- 2020**

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis 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 JPC Subcommittees. He advised that the JPC Subcommittees have been meeting in relation to the above and asked the Chairperson of each of the 4 Subcommittees to give an update of their strategic goals.

- Subcommittee No.1 - To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City: Mr. J. Rabbitte outlined the 3 priorities, with the main objective to encourage people to use alternative modes of transport to cars, with an emphasis on the provision of bicycle lanes in Galway City and the Park and Stride initiative.
- Subcommittee No.2 - To Enhance Community Safety Responses with a view to crime prevention: Cllr. M. Cubbard advised that the subcommittee had discussed cybercrimes, with An Garda Síochána engaging with both colleges in relation to this. Following a proposal from Cllr. Mike Cubbard, which was seconded and agreed it was agreed to investigate the potential of using advertisement space (a percentage of this) on bus shelters to promote community safety campaigns. Cllr. N. McNelis also requested a follow up on a previous proposal for parking meter signage to remind people to lock their car, and remove all valuable/personal belongings.
- Subcommittee No.3 - To Reduce and Prevent anti-social behaviour in Galway City: Cllr. N. McNelis advised that this subcommittee have agreed to set up sub groups for each local electoral area with high incidences of anti-social behaviour and each group would work with members of their designated area to identify problems and solutions in their areas. He asked all members of the JPC to get involved with the sub groups.
- Subcommittee No. 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City: Mr. T. Flaherty advised that the Galway City Council’s website has been updated with copies of previous JPC Agendas and Minutes. He advised the COVID-19 pandemic is making it difficult for communities to meet and An Garda Síochána are still in contact with older people since the start of the pandemic.

### **4. Update on the COVID-19 Galway City Community Response Forum**

Ms. C. Morgan gave an update on the Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum, co-ordinated and led out by Galway City Council as required. She also gave an update on the ongoing work through the Community Call Helpline, the Community Response Map, the

COVID-19 Emergency Funding, COVID-19 Health Communications Stakeholder Support and some other initiatives which were ongoing. She acknowledged the ongoing co-operation and support of Forum members which included An Garda Síochána, Galway City Community Network, Galway City Council and many others.

Ms. C. Morgan advised that the Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Small Grant scheme was currently open for applications online, noting that the closing date for applications is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 5pm.

Following a query from Mr. C. Keighron on a youth representative on the Community Response Forum, Ms. C. Morgan advised that she will liaise with Galway City Comhairle na nÓg on this as they are the local youth council which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies.

## **6. Discussion on specific topics**

In response to questions raised by Cllr. N. Murphy, Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised that An Garda Síochána work closely with Galway Traveller Movement and Pavee Point and mediation has been used on a number of occasions in dealing with issues.

In response to questions raised by Cllr. O. Hanley, Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised that An Garda Síochána together with Galway Fire and Rescue Services have circulated Halloween Safety posters in the run up to Halloween to highlight the dangers of bonfires and fireworks. He encouraged people to report bonfires to An Garda Síochána if they are seen.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- Cllr. F. Fahy asked why there are calls going unanswered at Mill St. Garda station.
- In response, Chief Superintendent T. Curley advised there is a very large volume of calls coming in to Mill St. Garda station, from the data he has received from the past 9 months there was 68,000 telephone calls made in this period. An alternative system is being looked at. He advised if there is a serious issue, please call 999 or 112.
- Ms. C. Morgan informed members of an upcoming webinar called Moving Beyond Blame: Understanding Alcohol & Sexual Consent taking place on Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- Mr. T. Flaherty queried whether another public meeting will take place this year.
- Ms. C. Morgan advised that this is up to the JPC members and should be discussed at the next meeting.
- The date for the next meeting of Galway City JPC was noted for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 11.00am.

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis thanked all members for their participation and the meeting concluded.