



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, 7th December 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. F. Fahy, Cllr. E. Hoare, Cllr. A. Cheevers, Cllr. T. O' Flaherty, Cllr. O. Hanley, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Senator Sean Kyne, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Mr. John Cleary, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Inspector Brian Ryan, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Sergeant Sinéad Cunniffe, Mr. B. Barrett

Apologies: Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive
Cllr. N. Murphy
Deputy Eamon O'Cúiv TD

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

Cllr. N. McNelis reminded all on the protocols with regard to Zoom meetings as previously circulated and welcomed members of the media who were joining the meeting via Zoom.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 19th October 2020

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 19th October 2020 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. T. O' Flaherty 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 if a full time profiler has been appointed and if Go Safe Vans parking on footpaths has been addressed.
- Cllr. M. Cubbard queried if there was an update on the matter of speed ramps in housing estates and update on patrols to combat boy-racers at the Galway Shopping Centre.

- Cllr. E Hoare queried the location of where the speeding fines issued through the Go Safe Vans in addition to the process for identifying and deciding on the location to operate GoSafe vans.
- Cllr. A. Cheevers queried the issue of Go Safe Vans parking on footpaths.

In response Chief Superintendent advised on the following:

- In response to Go Safe Vans parked illegally, people should take pictures and report these incidents to An Garda Síochána. Go Safe, as a company operate under the remit of the Road Safety Authority (RSA)
- In response to Cllr. F. Fahy, he said he does not intend to have a full time profiler as he has adequate staff.
- In response to Cllr. M. Cubbard, An Garda Síochána are patrolling the shopping centre car park and will continue to monitor the location.

In response Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised on the following:

- Galway City Council contacted the Road Safety Authority in relation to questions raised at the last JPC meeting on the Go Safe Vans and this response issued by email to JPC Members in advance of this meeting.

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

- Cllr. O. Hanley expressed disappointment that public notice didn't issue in advance of this meeting and that members of the public were unable to attend the online meeting.

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 October 2020. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Chief Superintendent T. Curley responded as follows:

- In relation to the increase in attempted theft from cars, it was due to money being left visible in cars. There is no increase in attempted car thefts noting extra patrols monitoring this.
- In relation to the increase in begging offences, he noted extra foot patrols across each unit monitoring and addressing this issue.
- There were 7 people convicted of drunk driving in the past week and there would be approximately 70 – 75 drug drivers convicted on a yearly basis.
- In relation to domestic incidents, he noted the Protective Services Unit in place investigating specialist crime types in addition to providing support for vulnerable victims of crime. In addition he noted that cybercrime and bullying will a focused area of work for the new specialised regional cybercrime unit due to open shortly. In relation to barring orders, he is satisfied An Garda Síochána have sufficient resources in response to this.
- In relation to the increase in speeding offences, while traffic is down on the roads due to varying levels of COVID-19 restrictions, people are speeding more leading to an increased number of convictions.
- The Divisional Drugs Unit is in place and continues to investigate and police the sale and supply of drugs. He appealed for any information from members of the public in relation to illegal drugs that could help Gardaí in combating this issue.

- There were 12 calls for house parties the past weekend alone. In most instances, people left the premises once procedures were explained. Gardaí cannot enter a property without a warrant.
- If An Garda Síochána discover underage drinking taking place, they try to find out where it was sold and will speak to the proprietor.

3. Presentation from the Western Region Drug & Alcohol Taskforce

Mr. Michéal Durcan, Coordinator of Western Region Drug & Alcohol Taskforce gave a presentation highlighting the background, services and supports provided by the taskforce, which was welcomed. He noted key areas as outlined in their current Strategic Plan and highlighted a number and range of initiatives that were ongoing, including Prime for Life; Drug & Alcohol family support service; Planet Youth programme which is an evidence based model aimed at preventing children/adolescents from the initiation of drug use (www.planetyouth.ie) and the Galway SafeApp. Cllr. N. McNelis invited Mr. Michéal Durcan to attend a JPC Subcommittee meeting in 2021. Following a query from Cllr. O. Hanley on the Community **Detox** programme, Mr. Michéal Durcan noted that this was a pilot programme with Galway Simon Community for people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

4. Control of Horses Act

Ms. Sharon Carroll gave a presentation to update on Control of Horses. She referred to the Control of Horses Act 1996 and key provisions within this. She advised that Galway City Council are preparing bye-laws for horse control and related matters in line with the procedure to be followed as set out. She noted that a first draft has been prepared for the Housing SPC and following stakeholder engagement / public consultation in early Q1 2021 it is hoped that during Q2 2021 a final draft will go back before the Housing SPC and Council. This was welcomed by members.

5. Up-date on JPC Strategic Plan 2017- 2020

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis referred to the current Strategic Plan 2017- 2020 inviting each JPC Subcommittee to give a verbal update since the last meeting of the JPC. .

- Subcommittee No.1 - To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City: Mr. J. Rabbitte outlined the 3 priorities. He advised that 20 Driver Feedback Signs were ordered for installation over the coming weeks. In relation to cycle lanes significant resurfacing / replacement of 7.2km of cycle lanes from Ballybane Junction on N6 to Brown Roundabout had been completed, aimed to encourage sustainable transport such as cycling. The Road Safety Authority and Galway City Council had run a 'Light Up' bike light awareness campaign to encourage people on bikes to light up for the winter evenings. School children and parents in Scoil Iognáid are involved in Galway's first 'School Streets' pilot project.
- Subcommittee No.2 - To Enhance Community Safety Responses with a view to crime prevention: Cllr. M. Cubbard advised that 16,000 crime prevention leaflets have been printed and distributed. Posters highlighting domestic abuse and fraud prevention are to be displayed on bus shelters launching throughout the City this week. A safe car park initiative will be rolled out in the coming weeks, reminding people to remove personal belongings from their cars etc.
- Subcommittee No.3 - To Reduce and Prevent anti-social behaviour in Galway City: Cllr. N. McNelis advised that meetings were taking place across the 3 wards to discuss and focus responses required at a local level. He noted that Sergeant Mick Walsh had been in attendance at these local area meeting, advising that a multi-agency approach was

needed. He referred to the SARA problem solving model being used which was a proactive model towards addressing issues - Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment. Mr. T. Flaherty on behalf of the GCCN noted that one community representative on the JPC had not been invited to attend a JPC Subcommittee meeting, requesting that all community representatives are included in communication.

- Subcommittee No. 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City: Mr. T. Flaherty advised that work is ongoing. The public meeting is the one outstanding objective but this has not been possible due to COVID-19.

6. 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. She noted the ongoing work of the Community Call Helpline, COVID-19 Emergency Funding, Keep Well campaign 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.

7. Discussion on specific topics

There were no questions submitted prior to the meeting.

8. Proposed dates for Galway City JPC Meetings 2021

The proposed meeting dates for 2021 as circulated were approved by Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and agreed.

9. Any Other Business

- Sergeant Mick Walsh advised the members that 16,000 double sided leaflets highlighting domestic abuse and fraud prevention have been distributed to relevant groups and organisations. He also noted the roll out of the bus shelter campaign, where posters advertised the domestic abuse and fraud prevention will be featured on 13 bus shelters across the City.
- Ms. C. Morgan advised that the “Lock Up Light Up” leaflets have been circulated to relevant groups and organisations and that number of these will be circulated to each member of the JPC via post and email after the meeting.

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis thanked all members for their participation and wished everyone a safe and Happy Christmas.