



Galway City Joint Policing Committee

Meeting Minutes (Held virtually on Zoom platform and in the Galmont Hotel)

Date: Monday, 17th October 2022 at 11.00am.

Chairperson: Cllr. Níall McNelis, Chairperson of the Committee

Members Present: Cllr. Níall McNelis, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, Cllr. Owen Hanley, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Noel Larkin, Cllr. Niall Murphy, Deputy Mairéad Farrell TD, Senator Pauline O' Reilly, Senator Sean Kyne, Mr. John Rabbitte, Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Superintendent Damien Flanagan, Superintendent Paudi O'Shea, Sergeant Sinead Cunniffe, Sergeant Mick Walsh, Mr. Brendan McGrath, Mr. Brian Barrett

Apologies: Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, Mr. John Cleary, Mr. Cameron Keighron, Deputy Éamon O'Cuiv, Cllr. Michael Crowe

In Attendance: Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Secretary to Committee
Ms. Emma Johnston, Clerical Officer

Cllr. N. McNelis reminded all on the protocols with regard to in person/online meetings as previously circulated and welcomed members of the media who were joining the meeting. The apologies were noted as per above. Cllr. N. McNelis also expressed his condolences to Superintendent D. Flanagan on the recent passing of his mother.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Joint Policing Committee held on Monday 20th June 2022

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on Monday 20th June 2022 were approved on the proposal of Mr. Tommy Flaherty, seconded by Cllr. Alan Cheevers and agreed on by all.

Matters arising were as follows:

- Senator Sean Kyne advised that his name was not included on the minutes for June's meeting, noting he did attend and asked for this to be updated.
- Cllr. Alan Cheevers requested that Gardaí from Doughiska be on this committee as it now falls under Oranmore.

2. Consideration of Garda Report

Superintendent D. Flanagan advised members that Chief Superintendent Gerry Roche was taking up his new role in charge of the Galway Garda Division this week, taking over from long

serving Chief Tom Curley who is retiring in the next couple of weeks. Superintendent D. Flanagan presented the Garda Report and the Fraud Incidents Report, as circulated noting that the reports were for a 9 month period from January to the end of September 2022 with comparison figures included for the same period in 2021. Overall, it was noted that there were reductions in figures across a number of headings which was welcomed. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Superintendent D. Flanagan responded to same as follows:

- In relation to baring orders figures he noted that this is positive as it means less cases.
- In relation to no offences disclosed he noted that this is due to increase of reporting which is welcomed.
- In relation to serious injury figures he noted that is partially due to more traffic on the road.
- In relation to intoxicated driving he noted that there currently is no breakdown between drugs and alcohol.
- In relation to money mules he noted they are aware of the issue and that the drugs unit are actively looking into it. Campus awareness and community policing can help with this.
- In relation to property crime figures he noted it is due to more footfall after Covid19 and security levels in shops. He also stated that detection rates are higher.
- In relation to drugs he noted that it is due to many factors some being more people are back socialising in the community and the active drugs unit are detecting more. He also stated that a multiagency approach is required to combat this issue. The Chief Superintendent has put in 4 extra staff to this unit. He also noted that there is a dog in training and sergeant placed for the dogs unit. Finally, the issue of drugs been mixed he noted working with students to bring awareness and to educate them is required.
- In relation to assaults he stated that safety on the streets is the priority and that hot spot areas are being focussed on, noting that resources are being diverted to free up more Gardaí for street patrols to ensure public safety.
- In relation to theft of mobile phones he noted there is no breakdown but they are usually stolen from premises.
- In relation to proceeds of crime being released back into communities he welcomes this as it is money towards the better of the community.
- In relation to driving through red lights he noted members of the public who witness this can come forward and make a statement. He also stated that he would support Galway City Council on the installation of CCTV at traffic lights.
- In relation to time pedestrians have to cross in Salthill he noted to follow this up with Galway City Council.
- In relation to parking offences he noted that a combined effort with businesses needs to happen to try tackle this issue as fixed charge notice not working as well as it used to.
- In relation to domestic abuse he noted that every step is followed and that there is a lot of unseen and unreported work being done in the background.
- In relation to racism he noted it is recorded as hate crime ad there is currently no breakdown. He noted improvement on encouraging people to come forward is needed.
- In relation to different speed limits at different times he noted this would only cause confusion.

- In relation to bonfires and fireworks ahead of Halloween he noted that operation Tombola is in place and he will support Galway City Council with the removal of stock piles.
- In relation to checkpoints he noted that awareness needs to be brought to road users regarding being over the limit the next day.

3. Update from Policing Authority's annual meeting held on 19th September 2022

Cllr. N. McNelis attended the above annual meeting noting the recent launch of the new JPC Guidelines, developed by the Policing Authority as part of its statutory role in relation to JPCs as circulated to members in advance of the meeting. He referred to the guidelines which set out in some detail the purpose and function of JPCs, providing information for JPC members and the community as to how the committees work. He noted that the commissioner stated that calls are to be made to 999 rather than local stations.

4. Presentation from Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF)

Mr. Michéal Durcan gave his presentation which was welcomed by all on its detail and information given. A number of comments and queries were raised by members and Mr. Michéal Durcan responded to same as follows:

- In relation to what can be done he noted that the key is to invest in young people, give them positive opportunities and urge schools to step up to help with this. He stated that the key point here is prevention over cure.
- In relation to girls dropping out of sports he noted this is due to not enough funding left in the budget after staff and the education of what this taskforce is about. Mr. Brian Barrett added that Galway Sports Partnership delivers programmes along with Healthy Galway City and Creative Ireland Programme.
- It was noted that Mr. Michéal Durcan would share the City Planet Youth Report with the Oireachtas members for the information and attention.
- Finally, it was noted that this taskforce should link in with working groups in order to highlight issues and offer further support.

5. Proposed date for Galway City JPC Public Meeting 2022

It was agreed that the Galway City JPC Public Meeting would take place on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 starting at 7pm in the Connaught Hotel, Galway. Ms. C. Morgan noted that in line with the guidelines and standing orders the public meeting would be advertised in the local print media, in addition to circulation to JPC members and other active community networks / GCCN in order to ensure that marginalised and hard to reach sections of the community are made aware of the meeting.

6. Up-date on JPC Work Plan 2022

Cllr. N. McNelis referred to the above, inviting each of the 4 Subcommittee chairs to give a verbal update to the JPC on their strategic goals for 2022, following recent meetings at JPC Subcommittee level.

- Subcommittee No.1 - To Promote the Safety of all Road Users in Galway City:

A maintenance contract has been sought with the Elmore Group, and software is available on newer signs to receive data on to share with the Gardaí once the necessary repairs have been made. Galway City Cycle Networks updates were noted along with Bus Connects, Cross City Link, Martin Junction Upgrade, Pedestrian and cycling interventions and finally The Salmon Weir Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge.

- Subcommittee No.2 - To Enhance Community Safety Responses with a view to crime prevention:

This subcommittee will focus on water safety coming into the winter months and also on crime prevention videos that can be shared and highlighted for different events and times of the year. It was noted that education and prevention is key to tackling these issues.

- Subcommittee No.3 - To Reduce and Prevent anti-social behaviour in Galway City:

This subcommittee is going to select 5 topics to focus on for next year with councillors and reps from each ward present to deliver on each topic. A seminar with various housing bodies will be organised to explain and advise on how they tackle issues to members of public in various communities. It was also noted that they would invite housing bodies to various meetings next year to give a presentation.

- Subcommittee No. 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City:

Funding was provided through Healthy Galway City to support a number of workshops/events for older people during Positive Ageing Week 2022, which included engagement and input from local Garda were also able to attend to give a brief on what was available.

7. Discussion on specific topics

Cllr. N. McNelis advised that 8 questions were submitted in advance of the meeting and a written response was circulated. To view a full list of all questions submitted and responses received please see document attached – Appendix 1.

8. Any Other Business

It was agreed to extend the meeting by 10 minutes on the proposal of Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Deputy M. Farrell.

Mr. T. Flaherty requested that illegal parking is given a focus and not just for Make Way Day, as illegal parking is an issue, making it impossible for people with disabilities and parents with buggies to walk safely on footpaths. It was noted that Galway City Council Wardens along with Garda Traffic Core need to work together to enforce this. Mr. Brian Barrett noted ongoing work with Access for All and Galway Chamber on initiatives and awareness to deal with issues.

In relation to a number of issues raised on boy racers Superintendent D. Flanagan noted that they will follow up on this and the locations referred to. He also noted the issue raised in relation to signage at Corrib Terrace and Raleigh Row. In relation to Salthill Garda Station he again stated that there will be no change in status here.

The Chairperson, Cllr. N. McNelis thanked all members for their participation, noting that the next meeting of Galway City JPC was scheduled to take place on Monday 5th December 2022 at 11.00am.