

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2011
at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice-chairperson)	Councillor John Redmond
Councillor Mannix Flynn	Councillor Edie Wynne
Councillor Bríd Smith	Councillor Tom Brabazon
Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh	
Asst. Commissioner Mick Feehan	Inspector Gerry Murphy
Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association (D.C.B.A.)	
Mr. Peter O'Connor, Community Policing Forum (North East Inner City)	
Mr. Philip Maguire, Deputy City Manager	
Mr. Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager, Housing & Residential Services Department	
Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department	

Non-Members: Councillors Pat Crimmins & Críona Ní Dhálaigh

Apologies: John Tierney (City Manager), Cllr. Gerry Breen (Chairperson), Deputies Maureen O'Sullivan & Catherine Byrne

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1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 25th July 2011

Order: Agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Order: Noted

3. Manager's report

Order: Noted.

The Manager invited members to make submissions for inclusion on the Lord Mayor's Committee on Antisocial Behaviour.

4. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Order: Report noted.

Action: Assistant Commissioner Feehan invited Members to feel free to submit any items they would like to see included in the 2012 Policing Plan, which is currently being prepared.

5. J.P.C. Work Plan 2011 – 2012

Order: At the July meeting members were requested to submit any items they wished to have included in the J.P.C. Work Plan 2011-2012 during the summer. It was considered that some of the items submitted would be best dealt with via the Area Committee / SPC / Joint Policing Subcommittee structure and consequently a number of the items were referred on as deemed appropriate. In each case the member was informed and furnished with a copy of the relevant correspondence that was circulated to the Area / SPC etc. Manager to meet with Chairperson again to finalise items for inclusion on the Work Plan.

A number of members expressed their interest in seeing Community Courts established.

A meeting is to be scheduled between the Manager, Chairperson of the Dublin City J.P.C., An Garda Síochána, Area Managers & Chairpersons of the Joint Policing Subcommittees to discuss general issues. This meeting will take place immediately prior to the Dublin City JPC meeting on Monday 5th December next.

6. Item referred from South East Area Joint Policing Subcommittee –

Implementation of Community Service Orders as punishment for convicted graffiti offenders (correspondence attached).

Order: Noted. Idea of making “free walls” available for Graffiti Artists, as piloted in other Countries, was mooted. It was noted that skateparks and various utility control boxes are available for artistic expression within the city. The ubiquitous problem is tagging, which in many instances is gang-related. Cost of graffiti removal and vandalism repair could be deducted from offenders’ wages / unemployment benefit cheque / student grant, as applicable.

7. Item referred from North West Area Joint Policing Committee meeting held on 18th July 2011 - summary of the report on the HSE and Private Residential Tenancies Board presentations (correspondence attached)

Order: Noted.

8. Correspondence from the Environment & Engineering Department regarding Halloween (attached)

Order: Noted.

The Manager thanked the Gardaí for their ongoing support regarding Halloween and asked that any member who becomes aware of locations where bonfire material is being stockpiled in advance of Halloween contact the Gardaí.

Mr. Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager, Housing & Residential Services Department, also asked parents to be vigilant and assist the Council in this regard.

9. Correspondence from National Drugs Conference Dublin Ireland

Order: Noted.

10. Motion from Councillor Mannix Flynn (deferred from July Meeting)

Call on this committee to establish a sub-committee to examine ways in which the work of the local policing community fora can be financed or financially supported in their efforts with regard to policing committees at local area level. The policing act which governs this initiative is lacking the necessary legal framework to enable this initiative to draw down funds and to administer these funds. At present it would appear that the drug task force initiative and the department for social protection unit is the source for some funding in some areas this is creating an inequality in funding opportunity and is somewhat adhoc.

I believe it is now time to put local policing fora initiatives on a much more best practice financial arrangement throughout the entire area of local policing fora. In order to advance this process I would ask that a sub-committee be set up to enquire into this matter.

Order: It was agreed to include the establishment of a subcommittee to look at funding options in the JPC Work Plan 2011/2012.

11. Motion from Councillor Edie Wynne

That this Committee seeks reassurance that there is no consideration of the following:

- that consideration is being given to closing some urban village Garda Stations at night time, e.g. Terenure which covers a large well-populated area,
- to further seek reassurance that any such consideration be abandoned on the basis that 'prevention is better than crime' and that the presence of an Garda Síochána in the locality and on the streets is a significant deterrent to criminal activity and the ready response from a local Garda Station promotes confidence in the belief that an Garda Síochána are in a position to respond to criminal activity in the community
- To seek alternatives to any perceived cost benefit analysis being carried out on any proposed closures.
- Finally, to consider whether any such move would erode belief in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme that encourages local communities to work with An Garda Síochána to help prevent crime, which is much more cost effective than the processes that take place after the crime has been committed, including dealing with the emotional trauma caused to victims.

Order: Noted.

12. Next meetings

5th December 2011

All meetings are scheduled to take place at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2.

Manager's Report to Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.)

03/10/2011

Lord Mayor's Commission on Antisocial Behaviour

The Lord Mayor's focus is on Anti Social Behaviour in the Community – name calling, intimidation, noise, public drinking, broken windows etc. and issues facing the City Centre.

The three themes are:

Preventative Measures: How can we prevent anti-social behaviour? Suggestions to be considered include early intervention e.g. Incredible Years projects, education, role of alcohol.

Consequences: How do we deal with anti-social behaviour? Suggestions of non-custodial consequences for bad behaviour including restorative justice, on-the-spot fines, curfews with electronic tagging.

City Centre Issues: Issues facing trade, tourism and perception of safety in the City Centre including prescription drug-dealing, concentration of homeless and addiction services in the city and begging.

White Paper on Crime

In May and June, 2011 the Department of Justice and Equality held a series of regional consultation meetings on themes discussed in the White Paper on Crime discussion document 'The Community and the Criminal Justice System' (June 2011). Written submissions were also been invited on these themes, to be received before end of August 2011.

The consultation meetings were held in Tralee, Waterford, Limerick, Galway and Dublin and were facilitated by Dr. Barry Vaughan, NESC. A report on the proceedings of these meetings was prepared by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and has just been published.

This report is available at:

http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/IPA_Rpt_May_June_2011

The above link was circulated electronically to all Dublin City JPC Members on 30th August last.

Hard copies of the report are available and can be requested from the above email address or by calling LoCall 1890 253 039.

Philip Maguire
Deputy City Manager

Joint Policing Committee Monday 3rd October 2011

Report of Assistant Commissioner Michael Feehan, Dublin Metropolitan Region

At this fifth meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2011 I intend to concentrate on the crime and traffic statistics since the last meeting in July 2011, together with the policing arrangements for Halloween, developments in relation to Begging and the Policing Plan for 2012.

Crime

Since my last report in July 2011, there has been an increase in total property crime. This is mainly fuelled by Robberies and Thefts of mobile phones from the person. One of the main constituents of these crimes is the recipient of the stolen property and in this regard a number of intelligence led operations have been put in place throughout Dublin City to target these premises and recover the stolen property.

In contrast Crimes against the Person have reduced since our last meeting and are at the lowest levels since 2007.

The initiatives across the city to target organised and armed crime are still in place. These initiatives are intelligence driven and continue to be seen locally as having an effect on the activities of persons involved in organised crime. These initiatives will continue to be a priority for An Garda Síochána right across the city for 2011.

Traffic

The number of people killed on the roads so far this year stands at 7, compared with 13 deaths for the same period in 2010. While the number of deaths has decreased An Garda Síochána is conscious that each of these deaths is a tragedy for families and the wider community. This is an area which is under constant review from my Regional Traffic Division who take the operational lead in managing the Regional Casualty Reduction Strategy throughout the Region.

Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 2011 (Begging)

The Criminal Justice Public Order Act 2011 came into operation on 1st February 2011. The legislation deals with the issue of aggressive begging and also creates offences of organising begging and living off the proceeds of begging by another.

Following the introduction of the legislation I established a dedicated team to examine the issues surrounding begging. The initiative was to deal proactively with on-street begging and also investigate if there was any organised element to the begging.

Since the initiative was set up a proactive enforcement policy was put in place across the Dublin Metropolitan Region. The statistics below indicate the level of enforcement which has taken place.

Section 2 offences	396 charges
Section 3 offences	66 charges
Begging with child	20 charges

Twenty cases were also dealt with by way of the Juvenile Diversion Scheme.

In addition to the targeting of on street begging the enforcement team was tasked with investigating the organised aspect of begging.

This investigation is currently ongoing which incorporates, intelligence operations involving searches of premises and enquiries to trace any monies received from organised begging.

Policing Halloween

You will be aware that we are fast approaching the Halloween period. The main focus of Garda activity will be to engage with the local communities in an effort to ensure a peaceful Halloween period.

As with previous years An Garda Síochána has been engaging with all our partners to ensure a successful policing operation. Dublin City Council is one of the agencies with whom An Garda Síochána has traditionally worked closely in dealing with issues around Halloween. That engagement has already commenced and I thank all in the Council for their ongoing support and co-operation.

Dublin Regional Policing Plan...2012

I am presently considering the priority issues for inclusion in the Dublin Metropolitan Regional Policing Plan for 2012. As with previous years I would appreciate any submissions that you may wish to make to inform the developments of this Plan.