
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Area Joint Policing
Sub-committee
held on 28th April, 2008**

Cllr. Burke welcomed members of the National Crime Council who sat in on the meeting with a view to gaining insight on how the JPCs work in practice.

1. Minutes of last meeting (matters arising):

- Agreed.
- It was reported that there has been improvement around the issue of football pitches on Alfie Byrne Road being used by scramblers, there are dedicated community gardaí policing the area and infrastructural work has commenced.

2. CCTV Dorset Street Complex and Kevin Barry House Complex:

- Dave O'Donovan, NWIC Rapid Coordinator, Dublin City Council briefed the committee on the current status of the above projects and sought endorsement of the committee for a proposal he is putting forward for funding. It is his aim that the CCTV systems be in place in the two locations by the end of September. Charlie Lowe explained that DCC are working with the gardaí on formulating a Dublin City Council policy on CCTV for use within and outside of complexes. Proposal agreed.
- Hugh Mc Kenna to arrange moveable CCTV camera to monitor illegal dumping on the corner of North Great Georges Street and Parnell Street, this address will be added to the list. Public Domain officer to determine the status of the existing camera on North Great Georges Street and report back to Senator Norris.
- Cllr. Burke requested camera to monitor illegal dumping outside Killarney Court.

3. Policing matters NEIC:

Policing at Ballybough House.

- Chief Supt Mick Feehan reported that there have been a number of seizures this year and a number of cautions for drinking under the Public Order Act have been issued. Charlie Lowe reported that individual cases will be discussed at the upcoming bi-monthly high-level meeting held between Dublin City Council and gardaí.

Drug taking and drinking in flat complex stairwells – garda checks.

- Chief Supt Mick Feehan reported that all community gardaí receive instructions to check stairwells as a matter of course.

Issues of public order – Sheriff Street and East Wall Area.

- Members expressed concerns that the antisocial behaviour in these areas is worsening and requested the gardaí and Dublin City Council to address this. Chief Supt Feehan refuted the suggestion that nothing is being done by the gardaí and Dublin City Council. He stated that this area is probably the most policed in the city of Dublin in the last 16-18 months, and that the gardaí have had successes. The gardaí are fast-tracking juvenile offenders, three perpetrators have been caught regarding burned out cars and the gardaí will continue to have a presence to address the issues. A gardaí youth diversion project will shortly be underway. He stressed the need for the community to help the gardaí with information.

Burned out cars at St. Laurence Place, Dublin 1.

- Charlie Lowe explained that the phone number of the contractor for removing the vehicles is available to gardaí, Dublin City Council has improved the lighting in the area and the public domain officer will consider further measures to improve the situation. There has been a recent eviction in the area and Dublin City Council will continue to work with the gardaí.
- With regard to the previous items, Mick Clarke, of the antisocial policy unit of Dublin City Council to be invited to give a presentation at the next meeting on the protocol for eviction of tenants for antisocial behaviour. Charlie explained that no extra powers in terms of legislation are required in order to strengthen the procedures but the crucial issue is obtaining the necessary evidence from the gardaí, who in turn must receive co-operation from the community to prepare criminal cases. Local area housing officer and project estate officer to be invited to the next meeting also, to present local statistics in relation to the issue.

Update on Sean O'Casey Avenue, Summerhill, Dublin 1.

- A fence was erected here last year to combat antisocial behaviour, it has proved successful and Chief Supt Feehan said it is an example of co-operation between Dublin City Council and the gardaí, detections have gone down a lot since the fence was erected.

4. Policing matters Phibsboro/ Cabra / Drumcondra:

Policing of waste land adjacent to Mount Bernard Park and Quarry Road:

- Senator Donohoe pointed out Iarnród Éireann have carried out some work with regard to cleaning their disused plot of land abutting Mount Bernard Park and he would like to the gardaí to encourage Iarnród Éireann to finish the clean up.
- Charlie Lowe said that as long as the plot is disused it will attract antisocial behaviour, he informed the committee that a representative of Iarnród Éireann is to attend a Central Area Committee meeting to discuss issues with regard to management of the line and that it would be appropriate to discuss this issue with him.
- Charlie Lowe agreed to invite the RPA to a Central Area Committee meeting, subsequent to Iarnród Éireann's attendance and with the agreement of the members of the Central Area Committee.
- Chief Supt John Twomey explained that the gardaí have met with the community and that they are developing a policing plan specifically to deal with antisocial behaviour during the summertime.

Policing of Eircom league matches in Dalymount and Tolka Park:

- Aodhan Perry said he felt that these matches are being over policed. Chief Supt Feehan explained that the amount of gardaí manpower is based on a risk assessment carried out with the organisers and that these matches are classed Category A – i.e. contentious. He explained that intelligence such as group communications on Bebo are used as part of the risk assessment.
- Donal Barron stated that there is never enough gardaí at these events and suggested that engaging the security company who carried out mobile patrols in the past might solve the problems caused by a particular group of thugs.

5. Other matters requested by members:

Proposals to legalise slot machines in Betting Shops.

- The committee agreed to write to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to express opposition to any likely proposals to legalise slot machines in betting shops.
- Cllr. Costello suggested betting shops should be allowed only in appropriate locations and that planners should have powers in this regard.

Overview of the current situation with regard to drug dealing in the Central Area, including update from drug unit re North Inner City and cocaine dealing in pubs in the inner city area and subsequent garda action.

- Chief Supt Feehan reported that in the first 3 months of this year in the North Central Division detection rates under Section 15 are up 15%. Operation Cleanstreets is currently ongoing. A poster campaign 'dial to stop a dealer' is also underway.
- A dedicated unit has been established in Cabra with a 20% increase in arrests for dealing, 300 searches have been undertaken, 40 under warrant. This is a considerable increase on last year. Aodhan Perry congratulated the gardaí on the excellent job in the Cabra area, and said that it has given the community a lot of reassurance.

6. A.O.B:

- The committee agreed to Supt D. Kavanagh's request to engage with this committee as part of a dissertation he is undertaking.
- The committee agreed to write to H. Dűßmann in response to letter received regarding antisocial behaviour in Summerhil.
- In response to queries in this regard, Chief Supt Feehan informed the committee that email is being rolled out for all gardaí.
- Individual members of committee to forward submissions regarding Garda Síochána Training and Development Review 2008 to this office before May 9th 2008, a group submission to be co-ordinated by Dublin City Council for forwarding to an Garda Síochána.
- Chief Supt Feehan and Charlie Lowe to arrange for visit to Templemore garda training college.
- The committee agreed to write to Mr. Joe Linders with its concerns regarding his property in Smithfield.

Attendance:

Councillors: Christy Burke, Seámas McGrattan, Mary Fitzpatrick, Tom Stafford, Emer Costello, Mary O'Shea, Maurice Ahern.

Deputies: Joe Costello.

Senators: Paschal Donohoe, David Norris.

Gardaí: Chief Supt. Mick Feehan, Chief Supt. John Twomey.

Officials: Mr. Charlie Lowe, Mr. Hugh Mc Kenna, Mr. David O'Donovan, Ms. Bláthnaid Casey.

Community Representatives: Mr. Aodhan Perry, Mr. Donal Barron.

Other: Ms. Anne O'Gorman, Mr. Paul Cunningham, Dr. Michelle Butler, (National Crime Council).

Apologies: Dep. Tony Gregory, Dep. Cyprian Brady, Cllr. Mick Rafferty, Cllr. Brendan Carr, Cllr. Aodhán ÓRiordáin.

**Next meeting:
Monday September 1st, 9.00am, City Hall.**