
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Area Joint Policing
Sub-committee
held on 1st December 2008**

Cllr. Burke welcomed new members of the committee from an Garda Síochána: Chief Supt. Pat Leahy and Chief Supt. Declan Coburn.

1. Minutes of last meeting (matters arising):

- Agreed.

2. Progress on actions agreed at last meeting:

- Charlie Lowe reminded members regarding submissions in relation to noise issues. He reported that the issue of the graffiti on Buckingham Street has been resolved. Also, the homeless facility in the city centre is due to open in January, and correspondence was sent to the Minister for Justice in relation to the all-party committee. No reply has been received as yet.
- Deputy Joe Costello informed the group that due to widespread opposition to slot machines in betting shops there will not be an all-party committee and it is unlikely to form part of the proposed gambling legislation.

3. Presentation – representatives East Wall sub-group:

- Tony Kelly and Helen McCabe from the East Wall Residents Association attended the meeting to bring to the attention of the JPC issues of concern in their area, including anti-social behaviour, vetting of families by DCC, litter and traffic.
- Charlie Lowe said that issues with a particular DCC property can be reported to DCC, and it will be investigated, DCC meet with the gardaí on a regular basis on this matter. Further to the litter issue Charlie Lowe said that the number of litter fines issued in the Central Area was the highest in the city and a lot of offending properties were landlord owned. He said that DCC have been identifying landlords and have notified Revenue, the PRTB and the Environmental Health section regarding 25 instances. He reported that the Senior Engineer will attend the next Central Area Committee meeting with details of those elements of the traffic plan for East Wall which have not yet been implemented.
- Chief Supt. Pat Leahy said the gardaí will continue to work with DCC and the community in East Wall. He invited the representatives to attend the Store Street Forum and reassured those present that policing in Sheriff Street is not taking away from the East Wall area. Report on policing in the East Wall area noted.

4. Policing matters NEIC:

- Anti-social behaviour Dorset Street flats on October 31st
Report noted.
- Anti-social behaviour and bonfires in Sheriff Street.
Report noted. There were significant amounts of bonfire material removed prior to Halloween. Members reported that this year was the first Halloween that there were no major issues.
- Anti-social behaviour East Wall.
Report noted. This item to remain on the agenda.
- Recent murder in Sheriff Street.
Report noted.

5. Policing matters Dublin 7:

- Anti-social behaviour and bonfires in O'Devaney Gardens.
Report noted. Chief Supt. Leahy reported that an Inspector has been appointed to the O'Devaney Gardens area. This was welcomed by the committee.

- Cllr. Costello raised the issue of an incident in O'Devaney Gardens involving the fire brigade.
Charlie Lowe said that the fire brigade make operational decisions based on their own advice and that of people on the ground i.e. the gardaí and that there is no lack of commitment on their part. Chief Supt. Leahy said the gardaí do not have the power to 'stand down' the fire brigade but do make operational decisions based on the situation on the ground.
- Cllr. Burke suggested that the gardaí organise a meeting with the residents of O'Devaney Gardens to give them reassurances.
- Harold Road, Stoneybatter re break-ins.
Report noted.

6. A report on Halloween from DCC and the gardaí:

- Report noted. Chief Supt Leahy said significant work was done prior to Halloween by DCC and the gardaí and suggested that the concept of having designated bonfire areas be explored. A number of members praised the co-operation between DCC and the gardaí, and the diversionary activities put in place by DCC for children which resulted in a reduction in activities such as releasing fireworks.
- Charlie Lowe reported that DCC had a three-month campaign prior to Halloween but in the day or so beforehand a lot of material was dumped by businesses and that it is difficult to trace items such as tyres back to the supplier. He said that 90 tonnes of material was collected between Waste Management and Housing Maintenance.
- A brief discussion took place on the concept of having designated bonfires/ bonfire areas, which would be authorised.
- Supt. John Harnett reported that the CCTV camera in Fassaugh Avenue is in place and will be up and running shortly.

7. The 'Dial to Stop Drug Dealing' Campaign:

- Deputy Joe Costello provided background on the campaign, which has yielded good results thus far.

8. Report on prostitution in the Arbour Hill area:

- Report on this issue to be forwarded to members.

9. Outline of the current funding for anti-graffiti programme.

- Report noted.

10. The new Housing Bill 2008.

- Deferred to next meeting

11. Report on the matters arising from the second high court decision, which found against sections of the Housing Acts as implemented by DCC.

- Deferred to next meeting.

12. Reply from the Minister for Justice regarding minimum mandatory sentencing.

- Deferred to next meeting.

13. Date of next meeting.

- The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th at 9am.

14. A.O.B.

- Chief Supt. Leahy to inform the committee of details of the Policing Plan for 2009 at the next meeting.

Attendance:

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

Deputies: Cyprian Brady, Joe Costello.

Senators: David Norris.

Gardaí: John T. Murphy, Séan Ward, Supt. John Harnett, Chief Supt. Declan Coburn, Supt. Ray Barry, Chief Supt. Pat Leahy.

Officials: Mr. Charlie Lowe, Mr. Mick Clarke, Ms. Bláthnaid Casey.

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

Other: Mr. Tony Kelly, Ms. Helen McCabe (East Wall Residents Association).

Apologies: Senator Paschal Donohoe, Dep. Tony Gregory, Cllr. Maureen O'Sullivan, Cllr. Brendan Carr, Cllr. Aodhán O'Riordáin, Cllr. Maurice Ahern.

**Next meeting:
Monday January 12th, City Hall @ 9am.**