
Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee

Date: September 13th 2010

1) Minutes of last meeting (Matters arising):

- Chief Supt. Leahy reported that it had been decided to supply the Resident for Realignment/Drumcondra Community Forum Neighbourhood Watch project a direct number to the Divisional Community Unit, rather than issue an actual phone, and to assess how this is working after a three month period.
- Minutes were proposed by Councillor Burke and seconded by Councillor McAdam.

2) Progress on actions agreed at last meeting:

- Hugh McKenna circulated a report on the activities of the community fora operated by Dublin City Council in the Central Area. He highlighted that the reconvened Ballybough/North Strand Forum would be meeting before the end of September and that the Phibsborough/Mountjoy Forum will now be meeting every two months instead of every month. Report noted.

3) Garda Reports:

- Chief Supt. Leahy's garda report relating to the North Inner City noted.
- Chief Supt. Coburn's garda report relating to Cabra/Glasnevin noted.
- Chief Supt. Leahy also reported that following 2009's 15% reduction in crime, a 20% reduction had been targeted for 2010. This reduction is now at 16% and it is hoped that the remaining 4% will be achieved by year end. He will further report on this at the December meeting.
- Chief Supt. Leahy stated that there had been no reduction in garda man hours in the North Inner City area, and that the number of Community gardai had been increased.
- Councillors Burke and Ring commended the professional and efficient way in which they had both been dealt with by gardai recently in relation to personal matters.
- Chief Supt. Leahy explained that the reason for the high number of arrests, in comparison to the number of offences given in his report, was due to the extremely high number of searches of people under suspicion of misuse of drugs which had to be carried out by gardai in the area.
- Gardai were commended by a number of members on the success that had been achieved in closing down "head shops".
- Chief Supt. Coburn reported that there is currently one Community guard in six in his area but he hopes to increase this number.
- Chief Supt. Coburn reported that the effectiveness of juvenile ASBOs depends on whether they are issued at an early age and on the co-operation of the parents.
- Chief Supt. Coburn reported that there are currently fifteen Case Managers in his area and that while some are dealing with two cases, most are dealing with just one.
- Supt. Ward reported that crime figures in his area related mostly to thefts from vehicles and drugs offences, however, crime levels in general have decreased.
- Supt. Ward reported that the vehicle problem at Mountjoy station had been resolved.
- Supt. Ward agreed that either he, or Insp. Liam Casey, would attend the next Phibsborough/Mountjoy Community Forum.
- In relation to case management, Chief Supt. Leahy explained that the aim is to identify the individuals who are impacting the community, allocate them a case manager and remove them from circulation. Once the individual is identified they are assessed to determine if they can be successfully managed out of crime. The final decision on juveniles is made by the Juvenile Liaison Officer, and on adults by the Detective Inspector.
Gardai are now receiving special training in relation to case management in Templemore and through a two day course.
Gardai are also liaising with outside agencies in relation to identify individuals for case management as early as possible.

Case managers are working as part of a Community Policing team which decreases risk of disruption to cases if gardai are redeployed or promoted.

- In relation to scrambler motorbikes at Iarnród Éireann lands at Mount Bernard Park, a report on this matter, which has been prepared by the Iarnród Éireann Chief Executive, will be circulated to all members following the meeting.
- In relation to Addison Lodge, Councillor Fitzpatrick expressed concern that the problems are persisting. Residents are still having a lot of trouble and disturbance from the place. The Gardai reported that they undertook five inspections of the premises in the month of August and responded to three assaults since the start of the year. Supt. Ward agreed to personally follow up with the Manager and residents regarding this matter.
- In relation to Nottingham Street, a number of members stated their concern at the escalating anti-social behaviour of residents of three properties on this street, and the impact that it is having on the other residents. Supt. Ward reported that Sgt. Joe Flaherty has been dealing with these residents, however, the relevant landlords have not been co-operating with him. Hugh McKenna reported that he has sought assistance from five DCC departments in relation to this matter and has managed to find the details for the landlords in question. Supt. Ward undertook to intervene directly on this matter and liaise with DCC in relation to the landlords. Charlie Lowe stated that, according to the Joint Policing Committee guidelines, it was not appropriate for the landlords to be asked to attend the next meeting. It was agreed that this item should remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

4) Policing Forum Reports:

a) North Inner City

- A written report was circulated to members.
- Mountjoy station gardai were commended for the success of the newly installed net around Mountjoy prison grounds, and the vast improvement to the quality of life of residents in the area as a result.
- Mountjoy station community gardai were commended for their essential contribution to the success of the recently held "Phizz Fest".

b) Cabra

- Mr. Niall Counihan provided a verbal report. He reported that three public forum consultative meetings had taken place since the last report. The usual crime and anti-social behaviour issues were raised at these meetings, however, the ongoing vandalism at the sports complex in John Paul Park was also discussed. The CPF are currently trying to secure a monitored CCTV system at this location with a speaker function.
- The Cabra CPF are in discussions with gardai in relation to Halloween and the stockpiling of bonfire material, it is hoped to engage DCC in these discussions as soon as possible.
- The hard work and commitment of community gardai in the Cabra/Navan Road area was again acknowledged.

5) Drugs Task Force Reports:

a) Cabra/Finglas

- Mr. John Bennett provided a verbal report. He reported that a campaign highlighting access to alcohol at Halloween is underway, with flyers being dropped to 20,000 homes.
- The Task Force will also be drawing attention to the links between buying stolen goods and drug dealing in the run up to Christmas.
- Mr. Bennett recommended a recent publication that he has come across in relation to drug selling in communities – copy of publication to be circulated to all members following the meeting.

b) North Inner City Drugs Task Force

No report submitted.

6) Strategic Policy issues:

- No business arose.

7) Date of next meeting:

- The next meeting will be held on 13th December at 9.30a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

8) AOB:

- a) Public meeting – “Information meeting for JPC participants”. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, 29th September at 7.30 p.m. in Croke Park and invitations are being sent today to a large number of community representatives.
- b) CPF for Navan Road area update. Formal notifications will be sent in the coming days, with the first meeting to take place at the start of October.
- c) It was requested that a visit by members to Templemore Training College be organised, as discussed at a previous meeting. Councillor Fitzpatrick undertook to look into this request.
- d) Chief Supt. Leahy reported that an issue had been raised at the Joint Policing Committee in relation to cash deliveries in pedestrian areas, and that he had been asked to bring it to the attention of the Sub-Committee.
- e) Chief Supt. Leahy informed members that he will be looking for their input into the 2011 Policing Plan, and that he will be holding an Open Day in Store Street Garda Station over the next six to eight weeks in relation to this.

9) Standing items:

No matters arose.

Addendum:

10) Actions agreed:

- Iarnród Éireann report in relation to their lands at Mount Bernard Park to be circulated to all members.
- A copy of a recent publication regarding drug selling in communities to be circulated to all members.
- Councillor Fitzpatrick undertook to look into request that a visit by members to Templemore Training College be organised.
- Members to be notified of Open Day regarding the 2011 Policing Plan being held in Store Street Garda Station.

Attendance:

Councillors: Mary Fitzpatrick, Séamas McGrattan, Christy Burke, Marie Metcalfe, Cieran Perry, Mary O’Shea, Nial Ring, Emer Costello, Ray McAdam.

Deputies: Maureen O’Sullivan, Joe Costello.

Senators: Paschal Donohoe.

Gardaí: Chief Supt. Declan Coburn, Chief Supt. Pat Leahy, Supt. David Dowling, Insp. Declan Good, Supt. Sean Ward, Insp. Tim McCarthy.

Community Representatives: Mr. Francis Murphy, Mr. Gerry Fay.

Officials: Mr. Charlie Lowe, Mr. Hugh McKenna, Ms. Alison King.

Others: Mr. Niall Counihan (Cabra Community Policing Forum), Mr. John Bennett (Finglas-Cabra Local Drugs Task Force).

Apologies: Senator David Norris, Deputy Cyprian Brady T.D., Councillor Claire O’Regan, Councillor Aine Clancy, Mr. Peter O’Connor (NEIC CPF), Mr. Mel MacGiobúin (North Inner City Drugs Task Force).

Next meeting:

13th December 2010 at 9.30 a.m.