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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Area Joint Policing  
Sub-committee  
held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008**

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**1. Minutes of last meeting (matters arising):**

- Agreed.

**2. Presentation on the protocol for eviction of tenants for antisocial behaviour:**

- Mick Clarke of the Anti-Social Policy Unit, Dublin City Council gave a presentation on the policies, procedures and legislation in this area. A question and answer session followed.

**3. The new Housing Bill 2008:**

- The new Housing Bill 2008 and its provision for a council anti-social behaviour strategy, to include consultation with the local JPC, was briefly discussed. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.
- The committee agreed to make a submission to the Minister for the Environment in relation to the recently launched consultation paper on Noise Issues. Members to forward their views to Bláthnaid Casey in the Central Area Office.

**4. Litter Management Plan 2008-2011 – complementary role of the gardaí – graffiti etc.:**

- Report noted. Sean Purcell, Waste Management, gave details of the five key priority areas for litter management and the co-operation between DCC and the gardaí, particularly with regard to graffiti crime and litter fines.
- Owner of premises on Buckingham Street to be contacted by the Environmental Liaison Officer in relation to graffiti on shutter outside premises.

**5. Policing matters NEIC:**

- Report noted. Concerns were raised about the antisocial behaviour in the East Wall area and that it is increasing. Chief Supt. Feehan reported that Sherriff Street remains the most policed area, there are a lot of meetings held locally with the CPF and a garda youth diversion project has been set up. Over the last six weeks a major operation has taken place to confiscate alcohol being consumed in public. He asked members to encourage the community to engage with the gardaí. This item to remain on the agenda.

**6. Policing matters Dublin 7:**

- Report on O'Devaney Gardens noted. This area has been made a priority and the gardaí will continue to liaise with residents. This item to remain on the agenda.
- Senator Donohoe referred to the Cabra Park area and said that the residents appreciate the community policing efforts there and requested that these efforts be maintained.

**7. Other Policing matters:**

- Report noted. Cllr. Costello expressed concerns about the effectiveness of CCTV. Charlie Lowe said that the usefulness of CCTV depends on the context of a specific case; in the instance of a drug deal being transacted for example, it would not prove useful, however it does act as a deterrent and is of assistance to the gardaí. There are a lot of issues around the use of CCTV, such as data protection. A policy is currently being examined by the Housing Department.
- The issue of inconsistency in sentencing for drug offences was raised, Chief Supt. Feehan pointed out that the judge must take many factors into account and the independence of the judiciary is vital. It was agreed to forward a motion to the Minister for Justice in relation to minimum mandatory sentencing. With regard to bail, again, Chief Supt. Feehan said that there are factors that the judge must take into consideration; it is up to the court to decide.
- Chief Supt. Twomey to update at next meeting regarding the provision of CCTV in Cabra.
- Charlie Lowe reported that the homeless facility proposed for Middle Abbey Street is due to be operational by November.

**8. Submissions invited for the Garda Síochána Policing Plan 2009:**

- Members were invited to forward submissions to Bláthnaid Casey, who will collate and forward to an Garda Síochána, alternatively members can send submissions directly to an Garda Síochána as per details supplied.

**9. Reply from the Minister for Justice regarding legalisation of slot machines in betting shops:**

- Reply from the Minister for Justice noted. Joe Costello T.D. stated that Labour will not be a member of the all-party committee if it concludes slots machines in bookies are permissible. Agreed to write to the Minister for Justice and enquire what the course of action will be in the event that an all-party committee will not be formed.

**Attendance:**

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

Deputies: Joe Costello.

Senators: Paschal Donohoe.

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

Officials: Mr. Charlie Lowe, Mr. Hugh Mc Kenna, Mr. Michael Clarke, Mr. Sean Purcell, Ms. Bláthnaid Casey.

Community Representatives: Mr. Aodhan Perry.

Apologies: Dep. Tony Gregory, Dep. Cyprian Brady, Sen. David Norris, Cllr. Brendan Carr, Cllr. Tom Stafford, Cllr. Aodhán O'Riordáin, Mr. Donal Barron.

**Next meeting:  
Monday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 9.00am, City Hall.**