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

Date: 13th December 2010

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Christy Burke.

1) Minutes of last meeting (Matters arising):

- Minutes were proposed by Councillor Metcalfe and seconded by Senator Donohoe.

2) Progress on actions agreed at last meeting:

- Hugh McKenna made a report on actions agreed at the last meeting.
- Chief Supt. Leahy said that if members wish to visit Templemore training college, then a date can be agreed amongst members.

3) Garda Reports:

- Chief Supt. Leahy's report relating to the North Inner City noted.
 - Chief Supt. Coburn's report relating to Cabra noted.
 - Supt. Ward's report relating to Glasnevin noted.
- Noted that the gardaí have met with o2 management recently and they have put systems in place to address antisocial behaviour in North Wall associated with the venue.
 - Supt Seán Ward said he will liaise with Insp. Liam Casey regarding the need for garda participation at the Mountjoy Street & District community forum.
 - Street selling of prescription medications and public consumption of alcohol in the city centre was discussed. Noted that gardaí have issued a raft of behaviour orders and they have been successful in court in having an individual barred from the city centre.
 - Chief Supt. Leahy informed the committee that the gardaí will be able to help out older people during the cold spell forecast as they have two jeeps at their disposal, and he urged members to convey requests to the Community Policing Office in Store Street as soon as it snows.
 - Chief Supt. Coburn reported that distraction burglaries in the Cabra area are continuing to be a problem.
 - The gardaí committed to deal with a gang of locals who congregate at the entrance to Priory North off Ashington Avenue.
 - Insp. Ward reported that in the Iona/Whitworth Road area distraction/deception burglaries are a concern, with incidents of persons posing as council officials being reported. Gardaí have called to the homes of the elderly to warn them. It was agreed to ask Dublin City Council to advise in their public communications regarding water restrictions that plumbers will not be calling to people's homes.
 - Supt. Seán Ward reported that the issues around the Addison Lodge are coming under control.
 - It was noted that the gardaí feel that there may be a need to extinguish the public right of way, (if one exists) over a laneway which runs between Cabra Park and St. Peter's Road.
- Antisocial behaviour Nottingham Street, Dublin 3.
- Hugh McKenna and Inspector Gallagher have met with residents there. There has been some improvement in the situation and residents are in contact with the Community Policing Office.

- Hugh McKenna agreed to circulate the actions agreed with residents at the meeting to all members. This item is to remain on the agenda.

The Hardwicke Apartments, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

- A significant garda operation had been in progress when a resident attended the local policing forum meeting to bring matters to the attention of the gardaí, however, the gardaí were unable to disclose this at that time. Councillor Costello reported that matters have been resolved to the resident's satisfaction. Supt. Jim Hynes said that an arrest had been made; the complex is receiving ongoing garda attention and the gardaí continue to liaise with residents.
- Noted that the gardaí are also addressing issues at the Iveagh Exchange. Councillor Costello suggested that management companies of apartment complexes should have an involvement. In this respect, the briefing document on the Multi-unit Development Bill is to be distributed to members with a view to the committee examining this issue.

Drug dealing in the Mountjoy Street area.

- Open drug dealing and use in Paradise Lane, Mountjoy Street and the Basin Park was reported by members. Supt. Seán Ward said that the divisional groups unit will be carrying out an operation at Mountjoy Street, and he said that the community policing coverage would be increased.

Halloween.

- Dublin City Council report noted.
- Deputy Costello referred to the issues around Halloween such as toxicity from tyres, the availability of fireworks from Northern Ireland and the need for alternative activities for young people.
- It was agreed that a comprehensive plan to address the issues in a timely manner before next Halloween be formulated. Members' suggestions to be forwarded to the Central Area office.
- Noted that there was a general acknowledgement that the situation has been significantly improved in recent years.

4) Policing Forum Reports:

a) North Inner City:

- Report noted and circulated. Report presented by Peter O'Connor.
- The matter of the issuing of repeat prescriptions by GPs and a link to street selling of medications was discussed. Chief Supt. Leahy said the gardaí are working with the Irish Medicines Board and they have asked that the law be brought to bear to help eliminate the problem. He said the gardaí are liaising with drug treatment centres and the Lord Mayor's office to explore ways to reduce the impact of this activity on the community.
- It was agreed to write to the Irish Medicines Board to ask that they examine the possibility of training for GPs to highlight the consequences of issuing repeat prescriptions, also to comment on the apparent over prescribing of antidepressant drugs.
- Hugh McKenna gave a report on the activities of the community/local policing fora run by Dublin City Council. The JPC public information meeting held on 29th September was well attended and successful.

b) Cabra:

- Niall Counihan made a verbal report.
- Distraction crimes remain a problem; John Paul Park has seen improvements since the introduction of a CCTV system with a speaker function.
- Overall, the residents are happy with the Drugs Unit and the Community Policing Unit response at Faussagh Avenue.
- Supt. Seán Ward said that the gardaí will be objecting to the issuing of all liquor licenses in the area.

5) Drugs Task Force Reports:

- No reports presented.

6) Strategic Policy issues:

- No business arose.

7) Date of next meeting:

- The next meeting will be held 14th March 2011.

8) AOB:

- Thanks were expressed to the Divisional Community Policing Office in Store Street.
- The meeting to discuss the Policing Plan 2011 will be held in January.
- Chief Supt. Leahy emphasised that the gardaí are adopting a community policing approach to any future public protests. He invited any comments/information which may assist the gardaí in this area.

9) Standing items:

- No business arose.

10) Actions agreed:

- It was agreed to ask Dublin City Council to include in their public communications regarding water restrictions that plumbers would not be calling to people's homes.
- The actions agreed at the meeting to discuss antisocial behaviour at Nottingham Street to be circulated to members.
- Briefing document on the Multi-unit Development Bill to be distributed to members.
- A comprehensive plan to address issues around Halloween to be formulated, members' suggestions to be forwarded to the Central Area office.
- The Irish Medicines Board to be asked to examine the possibility of training for GPs with regard to the issuing of repeat prescriptions/antidepressants.
- Gardaí and Dublin City Council to liaise on issues associated with laneway to rear of Cabra Park.

Attendance:

Councillors: Christy Burke, Marie Metcalfe, Cieran Perry, Ray McAdam, Emer Costello.

Deputies: Maureen O'Sullivan, Joe Costello.

Senators: David Norris, Paschal Donohoe.

Gardaí: Chief Supt. Declan Coburn, Supt. David Dowling, Supt. Francis Clerkin, Chief Supt. Pat Leahy, Supt. Seán Ward, Supt. James Hynes.

Community Representatives: Mr. Francis Murphy.

Officials: Mr. Hugh McKenna, Ms. Bláthnaid Conlon.

Others: Mr. Peter O'Connor NEIC CPF, Mr. Niall Counihan Cabra CPF.

Apologies: Cllr. Claire O'Regan, Cllr. Mary Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Séamas McGrattan, Cllr. Áine Clancy, Cllr. Mary O'Shea, Cllr. Nial Ring, Deputy Cyprian Brady, Mr. Charlie Lowe, Mr. Gerry Fay, Mr. John Bennett, Mr. Mel MacGiobúin.

Next meeting:

Monday, 14th March 2011 @ 9.30am.