
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Area Joint Policing
Sub-committee
held on 5th October 2009**

Noted that Cllr. Mary Fitzpatrick was elected new Chairperson.

Outgoing Chairperson Cllr. Burke opened the meeting by thanking all members, including the Gardai and also the Community Policing Office in Store Street station and the staff at City Hall. Condolences were expressed to Senator Donohoe on the recent death of his father.

Members of the committee thanked Cllr. Burke for his courtesy, efficiency and fairness in the chairing of the subcommittee.

It was agreed to write to Councillors previously members of the committee to acknowledge their input and wish them well for the future.

1. Minutes of last meeting (matters arising) and correspondence:

- Minutes of last meeting agreed.
- Members who do not attend to be reminded to participate.
- Senator Norris enquired as to the status of negotiations regarding the parking of buses on Mountjoy Square, and emphasised his safety concerns. Charlie Lowe reported that the Traffic Department are currently looking at alternative locations. Report from Traffic Department on the main issues – coach parking, private bus stops and Dublin Bus stops to be made at the next meeting.
- It was agreed to write to Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann and the GAA underlining the need for an integrated transport management plan for the area.

2. Progress on actions agreed at last meeting:

- No update on Bill relating to begging.
- Proposed City Wide Community Safety Strategy reviewed.

3. Representation regarding policing matters Sheriff Street:

Deferred.

4. Standing items:

Issues relating to: -control/regulation/sale of alcohol in pubs/off licences
-licensing issues in relation to pubs/off licences (re: public disorder/nuisance)
-Estate management issues/parks and playgrounds issues (re:public order/anti-social behaviour/nuisance issues).

See item 6.

5. Garda Report:

- Chief Supt. Pat Leahy's report on crime figures noted.
- Chief Supt. Declan Coburn's report noted.
- Chief Supt. Leahy suggested a meeting be convened to discuss and agree the Policing Plan for 2010.

Prior to opening up the Garda report for discussion as is the norm, the Chairperson proposed to deal with an issue that was not included on the agenda. Following on from correspondence received from the Cabra Community Policing Forum, members of the Forum were present to consult the committee on a number of matters.

The purpose of their attendance was to seek the support of the committee to extend the remit area of the Cabra CPF to include the Navan Road area. They also sought clarification on a number of specific issues set out in the local policing fora in local drugs task force area guidelines.

It was noted that discussion on the Garda report was suspended and the agreement of the meeting was sought to take the representatives from the Cabra CPF. The meeting did consent to the Chairperson's request to take this matter, but the Lord Mayor raised her concern that such a serious matter was tabled without being on the agenda or without

members of the JPC being informed in advance of the meeting that the Cabra CPF had been invited to make such a presentation. She also proposed that this situation would not re-occur in the future.

Deputy Costello said he was not in favour of extending the Cabra CPF's remit area as Navan Road Community Council wish to set up their own CPF. He informed the group that residents there had had discussions with the Gardaí and he had been asked to oversee the setting up of the new forum by the then Assistant Garda Commissioner. Senator David Norris stated that he would only support the proposal on the basis that the Navan Road Community had been consulted and were in agreement with the proposal. The Lord Mayor also stated her reservations about the proposal. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to convene a meeting with Cabra CPF, Navan Road community groups i.e. those in Ashtown A and B, DCC and the Gardaí with a view to agreeing a proposal.

Charlie Lowe pointed out that DCC and the Gardaí have been careful to avoid overlap with the NEIC CPF and Cabra CPF when convening subfora of the JPC in areas such as Drumcondra, Mountjoy etc. Geographically, most of the Central Area is serviced by fora and he had planned to set up subfora of this JPC in any area not covered by either DCC or a CPF. He said a lot of DCC/Garda issues raised involve the wider Pelletstown area.

Chief Supt. Leahy reported that the re-alignment of Garda boundaries, which will have a bearing on this geographical area, should be finalised in the first quarter of 2010.

6. Other Policing matters:

- Chief Supt. Leahy made a short report of policing in the Sheriff Street area. Deputy O'Sullivan raised the issue of anti-social behaviour beside Oasis Counselling Centre. The issue of CCTV for this area is being examined.
- Supt. Ward committed to taking on board the issue of on-street drinking at North Great Georges Street raised by Senator Norris.
- Cllr Burke asked that the Garda inform him separately in relation to problems in stairways in specific housing complexes around the area.
- In reply to the query regarding length of time taken to process Garda clearances for youth/childcare workers, Chief Supt. Leahy said the very significant process that must be followed is comprehensive and consequently takes time.
- Best wishes and thanks were extended to Supt. Ray Barry on his retirement, it was agreed to make a presentation at his retirement function.

7. Community Representation:

- Charlie Lowe reported that the response to invitations for expressions of interest has been minimal; further applications will be invited. Update at next meeting.

8. Major Review of gambling – submission to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform:

- Submission to be forwarded on behalf of the committee.

9. White paper on crime – discussion document on Crime Prevention and Safety:

- The white paper was distributed to members and submissions invited.

10. Halloween:

- Members raised concerns that the service provision by DCC around Halloween will not match that of previous years.
- Charlie Lowe reported that due to savings made within the Parks Department, they will be in a position to clear open spaces. He said that the Housing Maintenance Department plan to blitz areas such as housing complexes in the north inner city and will do so closer to the actual day. This will include working overtime and involve co-operation with the Gardaí in the use of the Garda helicopter.
- Regarding seizing materials from private property in businesses etc. he explained that under waste enforcement powers DCC can enter and seize materials, if they are advised of its presence.
- He said a public awareness campaign is also planned that will involve the Fire Brigade and the HSE.
- Supt. Ward said he would ensure Gardaí call into the factories in the Dublin Industrial Estate and will link in with DCC.
- Chief Supt. Leahy agreed to Cllr. Burke's suggestion that Gardaí visit off-licenses as per St. Patrick's Day.

- Cllr. Perry requested a report from the Fire Brigade on the recent fires in Killala Road.

11. Actions agreed:

- Input of previous members to be acknowledged in writing.
- Members who do not attend to be reminded to participate.
- Report from Traffic Department on parking in Mountjoy Square to be made at next meeting.
- Agreed to write to Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann and the GAA regarding a traffic management plan.
- Committee to meet to discuss and agree the Policing Plan for 2010.
- A meeting with Cabra CPF, Navan Road community groups, DCC and the Gardaí to be convened.
- Report to be made to the Cabra CPF to clarify queries in relation to guidelines.
- White paper on crime to be reviewed.
- Report from the Fire Brigade on Killala Road to be sought.

12. Date of next meeting:

Monday, 11th January at 9.30am in City Hall.

13. A.O.B.:

Cllr. Fitzpatrick proposed that elected representatives engage more in the strategic direction of the Central Area JPC in order to get the balance right going forward.

Attendance:

Councillors: Séamas McGrattan, Cieran Perry, Ray McAdam, Lord Mayor Emer Costello, Mary O'Shea, Christy Burke, Mary Fitzpatrick.

Deputies: Joe Costello, Maureen O'Sullivan.

Senators: David Norris.

Gardaí: Chief Supt. Pat Leahy, Chief Supt. Declan Coburn, Inspector Augustine Keane, Detective Supt. Pdraig Kennedy, Supt. John T. Murphy, Supt. David Dowling, Supt. Séan Ward.

Officials: Mr. Charlie Lowe, Mr. Hugh McKenna, Ms. Bláthnaid Casey.

Others: Mr. Niall Counihan, Mr. Johnny Fox, Mr. John Bennett.

Apologies: Senator Paschal Donohoe, Deputy Cyprian Brady, Cllr. Claire O'Regan, Cllr. Nial Ring, Cllr. Áine Clancy, Cllr. Marie Metcalfe.

Next meeting:

Monday, January 11th @ 9.30am in City Hall.