

---

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009

---

At the outset of the meeting Senator Norris expressed his wish to join the committee in offering condolences on the death of the late Tony Gregory TD.

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

- Agreed.

**2. Progress on actions agreed at last meeting:**

- Charlie Lowe reported that a reply had been received from the NEIC CPF, regarding the carrying out of a review. It indicated that there are various groups looking at the issue of Community Policing currently and their deliberations will be awaited before any further response.
- Reply from the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in relation to the fines issued under section 7 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993 noted. The letter indicated that one of the provisions of the Fines Bill due for publication shortly will involve the indexation of all District Court fines imposed.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February to present the Policing Plan 2009 noted.

**3. Policing Plan 2009:**

- Chief Supt Leahy confirmed that the recent cutbacks should not affect the Policing Plan 2009 as the plan was made with the new economic circumstances in mind. Charlie Lowe stated that the St. Patrick's Day celebrations were quite successful this year and thanked the Gardaí for their efforts; he said the general consensus of the Dublin BID Company was that the day went well.
- Cllr. Emer Costello expressed her concern at the difficulty she experienced attempting to contact Mountjoy Garda Station recently and on making contact, the seeming reluctance to deal with her.
- Cllr. Stafford congratulated the Gardaí on the good work in the East Wall area. He brought to the attention of the Gardaí the number of recent break-ins in the Clonmore Terrace/Road area, and also those occurring on Phibsboro Road and Great Western Square. Cllr. Burke referred to the Customer Relationship Management Office in Store Street Garda Station which had been in contact with him and other members. They are a contact point for public representatives and others for reporting these types of specific issues.
- Deputy Costello suggested that public representatives should have the mobile number of each Garda inspector or that of another contact person.

**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.)

- A discussion took place on the issue of alcohol abuse, the sale of alcohol from off licences/supermarkets and the recent changes in drinking patterns. A broad approach involving the supply side and all support services is required to help tackle the issue.
- Cllr. Costello asked if the off-licence on Mountjoy Street could legitimately hang the banner it has on the outside of the premises.
- Senator Norris pointed out that he has attacked the licensing laws in the past to no avail and added that the judiciary appear to overrule any objections/submissions from the Gardaí and DCC relating to this matter.
- Chief Supt. Leahy said that he will be able to supply a report on licensing issues including information on the number of licences and the numbers of closure orders at future meetings.

**5. Garda Report**

- Chief Supt. Leahy explained that the Customer Relationship Management Office is designed to make contact with public representatives on a weekly basis to seek specific issues for attention. The service is available 8am-6pm Monday-Friday and there is a message service

outside of these hours. He said that all issues go the Inspector/Superintendent for that sector and the public representative will be given feedback on issues reported. He encouraged members to use this service.

- He reiterated that the Policing Plan is based on outcomes, the Gardaí will aggressively target areas where outcomes are off-target. He presented a report on figures for the North Central Area for a 12-week period. Report noted. He said East Wall has had a significant increase in Community Policing and St. Patrick's Day was quiet. Cllr. Burke remarked that the response from the Bridewell Garda Station has improved.
- Map showing areas with Inspectors responsible for each area to be circulated to members along with a list of the Gardaí and Sergeants assigned to sectors.
- Deputy Costello reported receiving accounts of anti-social behaviour at St. Mary's Mansions and Avondale House, Chief Supt. Leahy said he will pass on these reports for attention and provide feedback on the matter. The Mountjoy area in particular has seen a recent increase in burglaries and the Gardaí will seek to address this. Members agreed to accept the Policing Plan for 2009.
- DCC's request to change the start time for meetings to 9.30am was agreed to by members. Cllr. Ó Riordáin expressed his dissatisfaction at the time meetings are held; he has not been in a position to attend meetings due to work commitments.
- Cllr. Fitzpatrick endorsed the approach taken by the Gardaí but said feedback from the Cabra side is needed for uniformity of approach. Cllr. Ahern requested that in future figures should be provided for the Drumcondra area and other areas specifically Violet Hill, Home Farm and Finglas.
- Supt. Harnett pointed out that the area in Cabra he reports on to this committee is quite small and suggested the issue may be addressed by the Boundaries Committee (set up to examine the proposed re-alignment of garda boundaries with local authority boundaries). He made a short report on figures for the Cabra area. Report noted. He said that CCTV was now in operation in Cabra and that the Gardaí are aware of pertinent issues and are working on these. Deputy Costello said that ensuring that the whole of the Central Area is reported on should be a priority for the incoming committee.
- Chief Supt. Leahy reported that the Gardaí have had a major focus on drug dealers and that 7 completed profiles have been forwarded to the CAB and that 2 cars have also been seized in the last few weeks.

#### **6. The new Housing Bill 2008**

Noted that this item to remain on the agenda – no progress since.

#### **7. Actions agreed:**

- Query regarding banner on off-licence to be forwarded to Planning Enforcement for investigation.
- Map showing areas with Inspectors responsible for each area to be circulated to members along with a list of the Gardaí and Sergeants assigned to sectors.

#### **8. Date of next meeting:**

- The next meeting will be held on Monday July 6th, City Hall at 9.30am.

#### **9. A.O.B.:**

- Cllr. Burke expressed his thanks and appreciation to DCC staff, City Hall staff, all members of the committee and the Gardaí.
- Deputy Costello expressed his thanks to all on behalf of Oireachtas members.

#### **Attendance:**

Councillors: Christy Burke, Séamas Mc Grattan, Maureen O'Sullivan, Mary Fitzpatrick, Emer Costello, Aodhán Ó Riordáin, Maurice Ahern, Tom Stafford.

Deputies: Joe Costello.

Senators: David Norris.

Gardaí: Chief Supt. Pat Leahy, Supt. John Harnett, Supt. Ray Barry, Supt John T. Murphy, Inspector Ronan Galligan.

Officials: Mr. Charlie Lowe, Mr. Hugh Mc Kenna, Ms. Bláthnaid Casey.

Community Representatives: Mr. Aodhán Perry.

Apologies: Chief Supt. Declan Coburn, Senator Paschal Donohoe, Mr. Donal Barron, Deputy Cyprian Brady, Cllr. Brendan Carr, Cllr. Mary O'Shea.

**Next meeting:**

Monday, July 6th, @ **9.30am** in City Hall.