

DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 4th October 2010
at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

Lord Mayor, Councillor Gerry Breen (Chairperson)
Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice Chair)
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Edie Wynne
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Councillor John Gallagher
Councillor Tom Brabazon
Councillor Eoghan Murphy
Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan
Deputy Tommy Broughan
Asst. Commissioner Michael Feehan
Mr. Peter O'Connor, Community Policing Forum (North East Inner City)
Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association (D.C.B.A.)
Mr. Philip Maguire, Deputy City Manager
Mr. Ciaran Dunne, Executive Manager, Housing & Residential Services
Mr. Vincent Healy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Residential Services
Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department

Councillor Eric Byrne
Councillor Cieran Perry
Councillor Christy Burke
Councillor John Gallagher
Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh
Inspector Gerry Murphy

Non-members: Cllr. Críona Ní Dhálaigh, Dr. Ann Hope (Trinity College)

Apologies: John Tierney, Deputy Seán Ardagh, Deputy Catherine Byrne

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5th July 2010

Minutes agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Noted.

3. Presentation by Dr. Ann Hope, Trinity College Dublin on Community Alcohol Strategy

Presentation noted. Members would like to see the following in place:

- A model introduced for Schools that proves successful
- The Business Community to establish an "Alcohol-free Zone", in addition to the introduction of labelling of all products to be pursued (this was previously explored), that would provide information relating to origin, supplier etc.
- Members expressed dissatisfaction that Dublin City Council's logo was used to promote events related to "Arthurs's Day", which took place on 23rd September. Philip Maguire, Assistant City Manager, assured Members that this was an oversight and will not happen again.

4. Manager's report

Report noted.

5. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Report noted.

Action: Ruth to email Members the designated no. to be used to any issues relating to Halloween activities.

6. Estate Management & Antisocial Behaviour

Report noted.

Members were reminded that a final Workshop on Antisocial Behaviour, organised by the Housing & Residential Services Department, is scheduled to take place on **Thursday October 21st at 3.30 p.m. in the Members Room, City Hall.**

Action: Members requested a report for the next meeting on the number of court cases pending for evictions due to antisocial behaviour and/or any other actions being considered in this regard.

7. Local Policing Fora

Report noted.

Action: Report from 5 Area Managers requested for next meeting detailing any funding provided for the operation of Local Policing Fora, the source of this funding and what services this funding is used to provide.

8. Copies of correspondence received from:

- (i) Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government on Head Shops
- (ii) Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform - White Paper on Crime
- (iii) Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform on Gambling

Correspondence noted.

(i) Member requested that a copy of the correspondence from the DEHLG regarding "Head Shops" be forwarded to the Economic Development, Planning & International Affairs Strategic Policy Committee (S.P.C.) in addition to The Development Plan Team for their opinion regarding the use of the Development Plan for designating where Head Shops may or may not be located.

(iii) Seminar on White Paper on Crime Discussion Document No. 3 "Organised & White Collar Crime" is scheduled to take place on Friday 5th November in the Criminal Courts of Justice Building. Deputy City Manager and Lord Mayor Councillor Gerry Breen have been invited to attend.

Action: Manager to contact Department of Justice & Law Reform seeking information on timeframes on the Discussion Documents relating to the White Paper on Crime and requested information for next meeting on follow-up documents arising from these seminars and an approximate date when the White Paper will be published.

9. A.O.B.

Motion referred from Special Meeting of the City Council held on September 20th

"That the City Council recommends that the Gardaí authorities review the organisation of the Gardaí divisions in Dublin given that they predate the foundation of the state in 1922".

Update given to members by Assistant Commissioner Feehan on recent changes made to the Garda Divisions.

Motion from Councillor Edie Wynne

"That this committee seeks clarification on the availability of services provided by Social Services outside normal working hours, including weekends and Bank Holidays:

Examples:

- Being witness at a Garda interview of a minor who has no family/friend available where legislation requires that a witness be present

- An Garda Síochána attending at homes where a person who is disabled and has fallen out of bed during the night and who required assistance on a number of occasions.

Actions

Manager to write to Health Service Executive (H.S.E.), requesting that a report be provided for the next meeting.

Resignation

Councillor Christy Burke has resigned from the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee and the subsequent vacancy will be listed on the November City Council meeting agenda.

10. Next meeting:

Next meeting scheduled to take place on **Monday 22nd November at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.**

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Meeting 04/10/2010

Managers Report

1. Local Policing Fora

As JPC Members will be aware a number of local policing fora have existed for quite a few years in certain areas in Dublin (North East Inner City, Canal Community etc.). Some of these are funded directly from central sources. There is a commitment that policing fora will be established in all drugs taskforce areas and this is being rolled out at present.

However the City Council does not have the resources to provide funding for permanent dedicated staff and other programmes for these fora. We have, accordingly, written to the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (DEHLG) seeking such funds.

In the meantime a meeting of all such fora, which are to operate under and report through the JPC system, was held on 11th September in the Mansion House with the Lord Mayor, Assistant Garda Commissioner for Dublin and local Area Managers. This was with a view to streamlining operations and sharing experiences.

2. City Business Policing Forum

A Policing Forum to cover the business community has been established and held its first meeting on 14th September in the Mansion House. Representatives from the Dublin BIDs Company, Dublin Chamber of Commerce, TASCQ, Dublin Tourism, Dublin City Business Association (DCBA), An Garda Síochána and local Area Managers for the Central and South East Areas were in attendance.

The initial focus of this forum will be on issues that affect the economic wellbeing of businesses and employment in the city, including shoplifting, street crime, traffic and parking issues, street dealing and street drug and alcohol consumption.

3. Community Courts

A meeting took place on Tuesday September 28th between The Lord Mayor Councillor Gerry Breen, Deputy City Manager, Philip Maguire and Mr. Brendan Ryan, Chief Executive Officer and Ms. Margaret O'Neill, Principal Officer, Courts Service to discuss the feasibility of establishing community courts. This was on foot of a request from Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association (DCBA) to a previous meeting of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee, at which reports from both the National Crime Council (on the case for Community Courts in Ireland) and National Commission on Restorative Justice were circulated.

While the Courts Service indicated willingness to become involved and support their establishment, it is imperative to get the commitment of all other relevant agencies in the first instance i.e. from Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, An Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Health Service Executive (Substance Abuse services), Legal Aid Board, Department of Education etc. This is essential in order to have the required resources in place to support their operation. It was also noted that computerised data sharing arrangements are a key tool in community courts operating in other jurisdictions.

Philip Maguire
Assistant City Manager

Joint Policing Committee
Monday 4th October 2010

Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner Michael Feehan

At this meeting of the Joint Policing Committee, I will focus on the developments in regard to the crime and traffic in the Dublin Region for 2010. I will also outline developments with regard to the setting up of Local Policing Fora in Local Drugs Task Force Areas, and the establishment of the Dublin City Local Policing Business Forum.

Crime

You will be aware that burglaries were a cause of some concern in the Region in the early part of the year. I am happy to report that incidents of Burglaries across the Dublin Region have shown a significant downward trend in recent months. I am satisfied that this reduction has been as a result of the operations put in place in each of the divisions affected n specifically as a result of one specific operation, Codenamed Operation Creeper. That operation has resulted in the arrest of several very prolific criminals engaged in burglaries. There has also been a continued decrease in the number of assaults over the last two months.

The incidence of Robberies from the Person (i.e. theft with violence) continues to be a cause for concern, despite the downward trend from the early months of 2010. We have put a number of operations in place in the City Centre area to counter these robberies, with some notable successes.

I have now rolled out our Juvenile Case Management initiative to all divisions in the Region. This approach involves the deployment of one named Garda to manage the response to offending behaviour on the part of individual repeat juvenile offenders. Early indications have shown that this strategy has brought about a significant reduction in repeat offending by the people being case managed.

The activities of criminal gangs continue to be the subject of significant focus across the city. The overt and covert operations across the city to target organised and armed criminals are continuing and have been the subject of positive comment from community leaders in various parts of the city. These operations have resulted in several significant seizures of firearms, with a number of arrests. I intend to continue with an approach which sees An Garda Siochana proactively confronting these armed criminals.

Traffic

The number of people killed on the roads to date (28th September 2010) is fourteen compared to eighteen in the same period last year. Each of these deaths is a tragedy for families and the wider community. This is an area which I am monitoring continually and in September 2010 I put in place a Casualty Reduction Strategy throughout the Region. This strategy is a targeted one in which we will focus on areas of high risk for collisions.

Local Policing Fora

At our last meeting I outlined details of visits to the Tallaght and Ronanstown areas to discuss and outline the establishment of Local Policing Fora. To assist in determining best practice a Workshop organised by Assistant Commissioner Feehan and Lord Mayor G. Brien was held in the mansion House on the 11th September 2010. The Workshop was attended by each Garda Inspector with responsibility for Local Drugs Task Force Areas, Community Representatives, Local Councillors and representatives of existing Local Policing Fora. The morning began with a number of presentations explaining the rationale around setting up of Local Policing Fora in Local Drugs task Force Areas and experiences to date. The audience was then broken up into four groups and requested to consider two questions "Are Local Policing For a working" and "What improvements could be made".

The feedback was both positive and informative which will assist the present consultation process and in the establishment of further Local Policing Fora. I am strongly of the view that

the Local Policing Fora can provide a structure through which meaningful consultation can take place between local communities, An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council and I would urge those involved in the Area Joint Policing Committees to support the establishment of Local Policing Fora in each area.

Local Policing Business Forum

In my last report I put forward a proposal to establish a Local Policing Business Forum within the city centre area, covering the area from Parnell Square to St. Stephens Green to facilitate the policing needs of the Business Community. I am pleased to announce that the inaugural meeting of the Forum took place on the 14th September 2010 with representation from Business representatives and Dublin City Council. The forum was chaired by Lord Mayor G. Breen and provided a structured forum to discuss common problems and intended solutions. I believe this forum will assist the city centre business community in building on the excellent relations which have traditionally been in place with An Garda Síochána and will allow us to work more effectively on a partnership basis to enhance the city centre environment, which, in turn, can have the effect of bringing more business into the city.

THANK YOU