

DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 5th July 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 Michael Conaghan
Councillor Cieran Perry
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 McNamara, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Vincent Healy, Senior Executive Officer, City Manager's
Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department

Councillor Eric Byrne
Councillor John Gallagher
Councillor John Redmond
Deputy Cyprian Brady
Deputy Catherine Byrne

Non-members: Councillor Marie Metcalfe

Apologies: John Tierney, Ciaran Dunne, Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh, Inspector Gerry Murphy

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 31st May 2010

Minutes agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Noted.

Dr. Ann Hope, Trinity College, will make a presentation on "The Effect of Alcohol on Communities" to the next meeting of the Dublin City JPC on October 4th.

3. Manager's report

Report noted.

Following a discussion regarding the consumption of alcohol in public places, the Manager gave a commitment to discuss the issue of drinking along the Canals, the Boardwalk and other public spaces with the Assistant Garda Commissioner. It was agreed that Public Representatives and J.P.C. Members would notify Ruth Treacy regarding public areas that require extra Garda attention.

4. Creation of a Dublin Business Policing Forum

Members welcomed the concept and agreed to establish this forum which will comprise members of the Business Sector e.g. BIDs Company, Dublin City Business Association (DCBA), Dublin Tourism etc. working together to improve the quality of life and address crime in Dublin City. Members would like to see the forum extended to include Christchurch and The Liberties.

First meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 14th September at 10.00 a.m. in the Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

5. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Report noted.

6. Community Courts - Documents entitled:

“National Commission on Restorative Justice”
&
“Problem Solving Justice – The Case for Community Courts in Ireland” (National
Crime Council)

were emailed to Members on 1st June.

Noted.

Actions

- ***Manager to liaise with Tom Coffey and write to Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform, The Courts Service and The Joint Committee on Justice requesting that they pursue the concept of establishing a Community Court in Dublin (citywide) as a pilot project.***

7. Estate Management & Antisocial Behaviour (report circulated to members by Housing Department 15/06)

Noted. The Strategy is a reserved function of the Council and is to be adopted by November. Draft document was circulated by the Housing Department to Dublin City JPC Members on 15th June.

Ciaran McNamara complimented his staff who frequently work in difficult circumstances. Following a discussion during which Members expressed dissatisfaction with the speed at which the document is being prepared, the following was agreed:

Actions

- ***Lord Mayor, Councillor Gerry Breen, to liaise with Vincent Healy regarding the document***
- ***Housing Department to make contact with each Member of the Dublin City JPC requesting them to forward their comments / issues to Housing***
- ***Following this a Workshop will be arranged with the only agenda items being the issues raised by the Members in their correspondence (this has now been scheduled for Thursday 15th July to take place in the Council Chamber, City Hall at 3.30 p.m. Members of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.), Housing, Social & Community Affairs Strategic Policy Committee (S.P.C.) and all DCC Councillors have been invited to attend by Housing & Residential Services Department).***
Deputy O’Sullivan requested that the Private Rental Tenancies Board (P.R.T.B.) be invited to attend the workshop (it has since been agreed with the Housing, Social & Community Affairs SPC that the Council should agree its strategy first and then consult with other bodies such as the PRTB etc. at a later stage.
- ***It is then intended to bring the revised document to both the Dublin City JPC and the Housing, Social & Community Affairs SPC in September, following which it will be brought to the City Council in October / November with a recommendation.***

8. A.O.B.

Copies of correspondence circulated from:

- (i) Planning Department regarding "Pop-up" Shops"
- (ii) Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association regarding Street selling of Prescription Drugs

Correspondence noted.

9. Next meeting:

Next meeting scheduled to take place on **Monday 4th October at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.**

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Meeting 05/07/2010

Managers Report

1. Anti-social Behaviour Work Shop

As indicated at the last JPC meeting a workshop was organised for June 16th in the Civic Offices in relation to anti-social behaviour, at which JPC Members were given the opportunity for input into the Draft Policy Document prior to commencement of the formal adoption process. The latest version of this document has now been circulated to the Housing, Social & Community Affairs SPC for further consideration. It is hoped to have consultations completed and to bring a final policy document forward for adoption by City Council sometime in the coming Autumn.

2. Headshops

The Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform has now published the Heads of Bill for the Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Bill 2010. This Bill is intended to reinforce and close loopholes in the various regulations introduced by the Department of Health & Justice over the last few months. As Councillors will be aware these regulations caused some Headshops to close temporarily in May and June, but many are now re-opened with rebranded slightly different stock.

The Heads of Bill can be downloaded from the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform website:

<http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/RIA.pdf/Files/RIA.pdf>

3. Business Policing Forum

Under the Garda Act 2006 and JPC guidelines, powers are granted for the establishment of Policing Fora to tackle crime and policing on a geographical and or issue basis. In view of the importance of business (particularly retail and hospitality) to the social and economic health of the city and its citizens, it is proposed that a Business Policing Forum be established. Such a Forum can cover crime, litter, traffic, parking, public safety etc.

It is proposed that, besides the City Council and Gardaí, Dublin Tourism, Business Improvement Districts (BID's), the Chamber of Commerce and the Dublin City Business Association (DCBA) be invited to participate.

Philip Maguire
Deputy City Manager

Joint Policing Committee

Monday 5th July 2010

Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner Michael Feehan

At this fourth meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2010 I intend to concentrate on the developments in regard to the crime and traffic statistics for 2010. I will also outline developments with regard to the setting up of Local Policing Fora throughout the Dublin Region.

CRIME

You will be aware from previous reports that incidents of Burglaries across the Dublin Region had been problematic early in the year and that we put a specific operation, Codenamed Operation Creeper, in place to address this trend. That operation was successful in that it reversed the trend. However, the month of May has shown that the burglary trend was on the increase again. I have carried out a review of burglaries in the Region with the Chief Superintendents in each Division, and have now extended Operation Creeper to counteract this trend. Initial indications for the month of June have shown a decreasing trend.

As you will be aware from my last report Robbery from the Person was showing an increase, particularly in the City Centre. Following a review of the problem, an operation, codenamed Operation Pheasant, was put in place across the two city centre divisions. This was in addition to the local operations which were in place in the Pearse Street and Store Street Divisions. I am pleased to report that this trend has been reversed with a decrease in the number of incidents during May.

We are continuing to closely monitor trends both in robberies and in theft from the person, and are engaging with Headshop operators to ensure compliance with recently enacted regulation.

The initiatives across the city to target organised and armed crime are continuing. I am happy to report that the initiatives, which are intelligence driven, continue to be seen locally as having an effect on the activities of persons involved in organised crime. We have had a number of arrests in the organised crime category and will continue to prioritise the investigation of these very serious crimes.

Traffic

The number of people killed on the roads for the first five months of 2010 stands at ten compared to eleven 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 early June 2010 I allocated additional resources to Roads Policing in each Division and to the Dublin Regional Traffic Unit.

Local Policing Fora

At our last meeting I outlined my proposals and suggested structures to establish Local Policing Fora within the Dublin Region, in line with the Garda Síochána Act 2005, and Guidelines produced by Minister for Justice and Law Reform. It is intended that these Fora should build on the learning from the Community Policing Forum which has been in operation in the North Inner City for the past eleven years, and which has been acknowledged in government strategy as a model of good practice.

During the months of May and June I have met with Local Authority Officials, Local Garda Management, Representatives from Community Groups and members of the local community in the Tallaght and Ronanstown areas to discuss and outline the establishment of the Local Policing Fora. These visits were met with a warm response and support from all concerned. It is my intention to continue these visits and assist in the establishment of the Local Policing Fora throughout the Dublin Region.

Local Policing Business Forum

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 brought about the establishment of Joint Policing Committees and allows each JPC to set up Local Policing Fora in either specific geographic areas, or to deal with a particular problem. In addition to establishing Local Policing Fora throughout the Dublin Region, I am proposing that a Local Policing Business Forum should be set up in the city centre area, covering the area from Parnell Square to St. Stephens Green and will facilitate the policing needs of the Business Community. This proposed forum is intended as a means of further co-ordinating policing service provision across the two city centre divisions and to build on the excellent co-operation which already exists between the business community, Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána. Subject to your approval of this proposal, I am of the view that the proposed forum should be as inclusive as possible and that representatives of all the main stakeholder groups in that area should be invited to participate. The idea here is that by working together we can improve the quality of life in the city centre area and address concerns which are sometimes voiced about crime levels in the area.

By working together in this way, I believe that we can all benefit from an enhanced city centre environment, with the positives which this can bring to business in the city.

THANK YOU