

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2012
at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

Lord Mayor Andrew Montague
Councillor Gerry Breen (Chairperson)
Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice-chairperson)
Mr. Peter O'Connor, Community Policing Forum (North East Inner City)
Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association (D.C.B.A.)
Asst. Commissioner Mick Feehan
Mr. Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager, Housing & Residential Services Department
Mr. Vincent Norton, Executive Manager, City Manager's Department
Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department

Councillor Edie Wynne
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Inspector Gerry Murphy

Apologies: Mr. Philip Maguire, Deputy City Manager, Deputies Maureen O'Sullivan & Catherine Byrne, Councillor John Redmond

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5th December 2011

Order: Agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Order: Noted

3. Manager's report

Order: Noted.

4. Review of Joint Policing Committees

Order: Survey document (in word format) circulated to Areas last week.

In addition an Annual Report summarising the activities of all the J.P.C.'s during 2011 is to be brought to the March City Council meeting.

5. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Order: Report noted.

Tom Coffey, DCBA, requested that the concept of Community Courts be raised with the new CEO of the Prison Service, Mr. Michael Donnellan who has publicly declared an interest in looking at alternative strategies to incarceration of prisoners in a bid to reduce the number of inmates in the country's jails.

Councillor Breen (Chairperson) is scheduled to meet Minister Alan Shatter T.D. on 27th February, where the focus of the meeting will be on JPC's so he will raise the issue then.

6. (i) Sale of Solvents

Order: Noted.

(ii) Internet Shops

Order: Lord Mayor Andrew Montague will launch a report and hold a discussion on "Irish Kids Online: Youth and Parent Perspectives" will take place on Tuesday 7th February from 11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. in the Wood Quay Venue, Dublin Civic Offices, Dublin 8. This event is part of Safer Internet Day. Councillors have been invited; however they must register prior to attending.

7. Update on Emergency Freephone numbers 116 006, 116 123 & 112

Order: Report noted.

116 006 is the European wide Freephone number for Crime Victims Helpline and 116 123 is the European wide freephone number for emotional distress and is assigned to the Samaritans. 112 is a European wide freephone emergency number for all services able to accept text messages.

8. J.P.C. Work Plan 2011-2012

Order: Noted. At request of Councillor Flynn an additional item on the Evaluation of the Drugs Taskforces operating in the 5 DCC administrative areas is to be incorporated into the Dublin City J.P.C. Work Plan 2011/2012.

It was also agreed that a report would be requested from the 5 area for the next meeting.

9. A.O.B.

(i) Councillor Flynn raised the issue of the "Occupy Dame Street" campaign, which has been running for a number of months now. He feels the area is unsightly and was worried about the amount of combustible materials being stored. He has no objection to the protest in principle.

Order: Public Domain Enforcement Officer, South East Area to be requested to investigate this matter in the first instance and Committee will be updated at next meeting.

(ii) The Lord Mayor is holding a Conference in Croke Park on Wednesday 29th February to discuss issues pertaining to the Lord Mayor's Commission on Antisocial Behaviour. Items on the agenda include:

- Restorative Justice
- Alcohol
- Racism

All the Councillors are invited to attend and are welcome to contact the Lord Mayor's Office on lordmayor@dublincity.ie with any suggestions for the conference.

(iii) Members were informed that Casual Trading Byelaws have been drafted in recent weeks following the establishment of a Working Group and months of consultation. They will be brought to the March City Council meeting for approval.

Next meeting

5th March 2012

All meetings are scheduled to take place at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2.

Manager's Report to Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.)

23/01/2012

Lord Mayor's Commission on Antisocial Behaviour

Lord Mayor Andrew Montague 2011/2012

To date five meetings of the Lord Mayor's Commission on Anti-Social Behaviour have been held on the following themes:

- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Discrimination and Prejudice
- City Centre issues
- Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Alternatives to Prison
- Organisational Structures & Governance

The final meeting of the Commission will deal with the theme of Education.

A conference dealing with the issues of the Lord Mayor's Commission on Anti-Social Behaviour will be held on 29th February in Croke Park Conference Centre. The programme for this Conference is being finalised. Anyone who wishes to attend should contact the Office of the Lord Mayor at lordmayor@dublincity.ie

Meeting with Area Managers & Chairs of Joint Policing Subcommittees

This meeting was held on 5th December, immediately prior to the meeting of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to engage with the Subcommittees, share information and discuss local policing fora, drugs taskforces etc. operating in their respective areas.

Philip Maguire
Deputy City Manager

**Meeting of Dublin City Joint Policing Committee
Monday 23rd January 2012**

Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner Michael Feehan

At this first meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2012 I intend to concentrate on the developments in regard to the crime and traffic statistics for year ending 2011. I will also outline developments with regard to reduced opening hours/ closure of Garda Stations within the DMR.

Crime

Burglary incidents continue to be a cause for concern. Targeted operations are in place based on current trends. By end of 2011 *Burglaries* were up on 2010 figures by approximately 2%.

The increase in incidents of *Robberies and Theft from the Person*, particularly in the city centre, continues to be addressed by Local Management. This matter remains on the agenda of meetings with my Senior Management team who are developing policing initiatives to address the increasing trend. Operations continue to focus on receivers and persons known to be involved in this type of crime.

Crime Against the Person (Assaults etc.) continues to showing a significant reduction with December showing the lowest monthly total in six years. The Dublin region finished the year significantly down on levels in 2010. *Public Order Incident and Criminal Damage Incidents* also continue to show a significant downward trend.

Traffic

As a result of the 3-year campaign jointly run by An Garda Síochána with the introduction of the Causality Reduction Strategy, Dublin City Council, other Local Authorities & the Road Safety Authority (R.S.A.) the number of *Fatal* collisions on our roads have reduced to 10 fatal collisions in 2011 compared with 18 in 2010 in the Dublin Region. This represents a drop of 44% of the deaths against 2010. Each of these deaths is a tragedy for families and the wider community. This is an area which I am monitoring continually through the Regional Casualty Reduction Strategy and the Regional Roads Policing Plan for 2012.

Reduced Opening Hours/ Closure of Garda Stations

Like every other part of the public service, An Garda Síochána has had to take a detailed look at how we do our business in order to find savings within a reduced budget and in order to provide a policing service with greater efficiency. Referring specifically to the examination of the Garda Station network, Divisional Officers were tasked with assessing the levels of activity in each Garda station in their area. Arising from this 31 Garda Stations across the country were identified for closure and a further eight stations which are currently non-operational will be formally closed. Ten stations will have their opening hours reduced.

The decision was in order to ensure that resources could be better deployed and more effectively used on the frontline if those particular stations no longer had to be staffed and maintained. The impact of this in the Dublin Region is as follows:-

- Stations to be closed include Rush, Whitehall, Dalkey and Harcourt Terrace.
- Public opening hours of the following stations in the Dublin Metropolitan Region will be reduced: Cabinteely, Stepside, Kill O' the Grange, Sundrive, Terenure, Cabra, Malahide, Santry, Howth, and Donnybrook. These stations are currently open to the public on a 24-hour basis and will, in future, be closed to the public between 10.00pm and 8.00am.

Progress with this project is currently at formulation of an implementation plan. Divisional Officers have established Divisional Project Boards to develop Divisional Implementation Plans to achieve the above changes. As part of any implementation plan there will be a Communications Strategy with both Internal and External Stakeholders, including Local Communities and Representatives. In the coming months local Garda management in places where a station will close will consult with local communities to determine how best to continue to deliver an effective policing service in their area.

An Garda Síochána remain committed to providing a professional and effective policing service within the prevailing economic conditions. We will continue to provide the best possible policing service to communities across the Dublin Region through "Collaborative Engagement", where An Garda Síochána and Community Stakeholders will work together to improve the quality of life of people in those areas and to ensure that the policing service provided reflects their needs and priorities.

An Garda Síochána can never over emphasise the importance of our partnership with the community in preventing and detecting crime and maintaining a safe environment for everyone. Our pledge is to continue to invest time and energy in those partnerships and relationships to the benefit of all.

THANK YOU