

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 1st of October 2012
at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

Lord Mayor Naoise Ó Muiri	
Councillor Gerry Breen (Chairperson)	Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice-chairperson)
Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan TD	Deputy Catherine Byrne TD
Deputy Kevin Humphreys TD	Deputy Aengus Ó Snódaigh TD
Senator Catherine Noone	Councillor Edie Wynne
Councillor Mannix Flynn	Councillor John Redmond
Councillor Anna Quigley	Councillor Cieran Perry
Councillor Tom Brabazon	

Mr. Brendan Kenny, Assistant City Manager
John Twomey Assistant Garda Commissioner
Garda Inspector Gerry Murphy
Mr. Peter O'Connor, Community Policing Forum (North East Inner City)
Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association (D.C.B.A.)
Mr. Zephyrin Ngaliema, The Integration Centre
Peter Ayton Executive Manager (Housing)

Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department

Also Present:

Jim Keogan (Executive Manager) and John Downey (Administrative Officer), Planning Department Dublin City Council

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 2nd July 2012

Order: Agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Order: Noted.

3. Manager's report

Order: Noted.

Brendan Kenny, Assistant City Manager, welcomed the new JPC member, **Mr. Zephyrin Ngaliema from The Integration Centre**. Following a selection process, The Integration Centre, 18 Dame Street, was the organisation chosen to represent the Migrant Community on the Dublin City JPC.

4. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Order: Presentation noted and welcomed.

Members acknowledged the tremendous work that went into organising the Tall Ships Festival on behalf of all the agencies involved, including Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána.

Actions:

- **Report to be requested from Waste Management Services for December meeting detailing any information on the number of tyres confiscated by Dublin City Council in the lead-up to Halloween last year and this year (if feasible) and prosecutions of Garages found to be involved in the practice of illegally disposing of tyres etc.**
- **An Garda Síochána to provide clarification on those collectors that do/do not require permits owing to the proliferation of “Chuggers” on the city centre streets of late.**
- **Issues of J-walking and reports of cyclists ignoring traffic lights, and Lollipop persons in some instances to be investigated by the Gardaí**

5. Halloween

Noted; discussed as part of Item 4.

6. Presentation by John Downey, Planning Department on “Planning for Special Events”

Order: Presentation noted and welcomed.

As the licensing Authority the Planning Department intends to carry out a review of the event licence process for Dublin city. At the meeting of the Planning and Economic Development SPC on the 25th September it was agreed that when the review is completed the findings would be brought back to the Planning SPC for their consideration. It is expected that this review will be completed before the end of the year and brought to the SPC in either January or February next year. This review is in the context of the issues arising of recent concerts in the Phoenix Park.

7. Lord Mayor’s Commission on Antisocial Behaviour – Key recommendations

Order: Report noted.

The following recommendations will be prioritized by the JPC:

1. **Extend the use of restorative Justice in Dublin in appropriate cases (Funded by the Department of Justice and Equality and led by the Probation Service).**
2. **Report on the work of the Juvenile Liaison Officer to Local Policing Fora on an annual basis (Gardaí).**
3. **Support the Dublin City Development Plan 2011- 2017 in limiting the concentration of alcohol retail outlets in an area and the display and advertising of alcohol in outlets. (Dublin City Council) and JPC’s to engage with communities to comment on the granting of licences on an annual basis.**
4. **Empower the Gardaí to prosecute in cases where offenders are found to be trading prescription drugs (Department of Justice and Equality and Department of Health)**

8. J.P.C. Work Plan 2012-2013

Noted.

Peter O’Connor (Community Policing Forum, North East Inner City) requested that the following item be incorporated into the Work Plan:

“How the J.P.C at local or city wide level support or initiate measures that can assist in dealing with the increasing levels of intimidation and threats to individuals and families”

The Chairperson said that it was important for the JPC to focus on a relatively small number of priority issues for the period 2012/2013 in order to get best effect.

The Action items agreed were;

- 1- Public Meetings for the City JPC and the Area JPCS
- 2- Mobile Phone Theft – plan to prevent
- 3- Restorative Justice
- 4- Alcohol Retail Outlets and Licence granting
- 5- Prescription Drugs
- 6- How the J.P.C at local or city wide level support or initiate measures that can assist in dealing with the increasing levels of intimidation and threats to individuals and families.

9. Items for future meeting

Deputy Aengus Ó Snódaigh asked that Gangland Crime be addressed by the JPC.

Cllr. Mannix Flynn – requested that a representative from the Temple Bar Traders become a member of JPC.

10. Next meetings:

3rd December 2012

4th February 2013

22nd April 2013

24th June 2013

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

11. A.O.B.

- The issue of delays being experienced by individuals when dialling 999 was reported.
Action: Gardaí to investigate.
- Thomas O'Brien, Health Service Executive, will attend the December meeting of the JPC to present on issues pertaining to the HSE.
- A meeting was held earlier this afternoon between the Chairs of the Area (JPC) committees, Area Managers, An Garda Síochána and the Assistant City Manager (JPC) to discuss general issues relating to the connectivity between the Local Area Committees and the City JPC. These meetings are normally scheduled 1-2 times annually.

Chairperson
Councillor Gerry Breen
Date

Manager's Report to Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.)
01/10/2012

Dublin City Local Business Policing Forum

The Dublin City Local Business Policing Forum was set up in September 2010. It is chaired by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and is attended by the Assistant Garda Commissioner for the Dublin Metropolitan Area and senior representatives of An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, Business and Tourism organisations in the City Centre.

Lord Mayor Naoise Ó Muirí took over the chair of the Forum in July 2012.

The Forum examines issues which face Dublin from a business, policing and tourism angle and was set up to provide a structured way of communication between all relevant stakeholders. Meetings are held monthly except for August.

Since the update in May 2012 the following issues have been raised:

- Report from Assistant Garda Commissioner on Concerts held in Phoenix Park weekend of 5th – 8th July
- Progress on implementing “Better City for All” Strategic Report
- Update on changes in the Homeless Agency
- Discussion on a draft DCBA Shoplifting document
- Grafton Street Improvement Works

New member of JPC

Following a selection process, The Integration Centre, 18 Dame Street, was the organisation selected to represent the Migrant Community on the Dublin City JPC. Following approval at the City Council meeting on Monday 3rd September the organisation was invited to nominate a representative to sit on the JPC and Mr. Zephyrin Ngaliema will be attending JPC meetings from 1st October onwards.

The Tall Ships Races 2012 – Dublin Festival

From the 23rd to the 26th August, 2012, over 1.1 million people attended the Tall Ships Races 2012 – Dublin Festival in the Docklands area of the city. The successful delivery of the event was the culmination of 2 years of preparation and planning led by the key lead agencies Dublin City Council and Dublin Port Company, in partnership with Sail Training International (the Race organisers), the many statutory agencies engaged in the delivery and management of events in the city, the public transport agencies and also in the final year by the provision of event related services by some of the most excellent service providers currently working within the event industry in the country.

From the outset it was an objective to deliver a family orientated event that provided activity and entertainment for all ages. In particular and in recognition of the 1800 young trainees (aged between 16 and 25 years) arriving on ships, emphasis was placed on activity for young people.

Policies were agreed early on in relation to alcohol at the event and measures that would be implemented to ensure that no alcohol or inappropriate availability of alcohol would take place at the event. In addition it was a key objective to ensure that this event was a safe environment for all who attended.

Initial information available indicates that, with the support of all involved in stewarding and providing security and monitoring on site, including the services of An Garda Síochána, we achieved the above objectives. The main issues that arose at the event were traffic management generally in the city and around the event and access for local businesses and residents. Reports are currently being collated and de-brief sessions are ongoing and more detailed outcomes in relation to the event will be made available in the coming months.

Brendan Kenny
Assistant City Manager

Joint Policing Committee

Monday 1st October 2012

Report of Assistant Commissioner John Twomey Dublin Metropolitan Region

At this fifth meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2012 I intend to concentrate on the following topics:

- developments in policing since our last meeting in July
- crime and traffic statistics and
- problem-orientated policing initiatives that have been introduced.

During the months of July, August and September An Garda Síochána was responsible for the policing of a number of high profile events in the city namely; Tall Ships, the Emerald Classic and the All Ireland Hurling and Football Finals. From a policing perspective it was considered the busiest period in policing terms for some years with significant numbers in and around Dublin City Centre, estimated at 2.5 million. Despite these significant numbers there were no serious incidents and each of the events passed off peacefully.

Crime

Since my last report Property Crime has decreased in comparison to the same period in 2011. However, in the short term it is showing a slight increase over July and August 2012. The Crime Prevention Strategies alluded to in my previous reports to this committee continue to be in operation and are evaluated on an ongoing basis to take account of any trends occurring. Central to the success of these initiatives is the role of Adult Case Management and a holistic approach to the management of persistent offenders.

Public Order offences are trending downwards and remain well below the 3 Year Average which includes both Public Order and Drunkenness. Crimes Against the Person also continue to trend downwards.

Policing Halloween

You will be aware that we are fast approaching the Halloween period. The main focus of Garda activity will be to engage with the local communities in an effort to ensure a peaceful Halloween period.

As with previous years An Garda Síochána has been engaging with all our partners to ensure a successful policing operation. Dublin City Council is one of the agencies with whom An Garda Síochána has traditionally worked closely in dealing with issues around Halloween. That engagement has already commenced through “**Operation Tombola**” which is aimed at preventing and detecting the organised importation for sale of fireworks together with addressing anti-social behaviour, and I thank all in the Council for their ongoing support and co-operation.

Traffic

At the time of writing this report the number of people killed on the roads of the Capital this year is eight compared with six for the same period last year. I am conscious that each of these deaths is a tragedy for families and the wider community.

To counteract this trend the Casualty Reduction Strategy which is aimed at reducing fatal and serious injury collisions and increasing high visibility enforcement activity commences on 1st October 2012. In addition a number of High-Profile traffic operations to address the key lifesaver offences of Drink-Driving, Speeding, the use of Mobile Phones while driving and seatbelts will also take place between now and Christmas.

FAI

As outlined in previous reports to this committee An Garda Síochána, in conjunction with the FAI, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council intend to run Late Night Leagues in 2012 and 2013. This initiative is aimed at diverting key individuals away from anti-social behaviour at critical times. It is focused in disadvantaged areas during prime anti-social hours such as Friday nights. With a view to developing and enhancing this initiative I held a meeting on the 19th September 2012 with the strategic partners.

Arising from this meeting it is intended to expand the Late Night Soccer Leagues during 2013 which will continue to provide opportunities for young people and local Gardaí in a positive way. The ultimate aim is to reduce anti-social behaviour and ultimately to safer communities and I ask for your continued support.

Problem Solving Approaches

Since my last report I have engaged with a number of stakeholders to develop a strategic partnership focussing on specific problem areas, namely Anti-social behaviour and public disorder in the night time economy, and begging. These initiatives will focus on collaborative engagement through a partnership approach to solving community problems between An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, BIDS, HSE, voluntary agencies and the community to include the Business community.

- **PAPS**

Work is ongoing in the development a proactive policing strategy to address incidents of anti-social behaviour and incidents of public order in the Dublin Metropolitan Region North Central and South Central Divisions which is entitled PAPS (A Partnership Approach on Public Safety). A number of meetings have been held to review and analyse the issue and Garda response. Further meetings are planned which will involve external statutory and voluntary agencies, the business community, retail and vintners representative and the community thus ensuring a partnership approach in address the issue of anti-social behaviour and incidents of public order.

- **Begging**

Work is advancing on the development of a proactive policing strategy involving an interagency partnership co-ordinated approach in dealing with the issue of Begging in the DMR South Central, Grafton Street quarter. Agencies involved include Dublin City Council, BIDS, HSE, voluntary agencies and the community to include the Business community. I will report further on this initiative at future meetings.

Conclusion

I have outlined above the current policing initiatives in place to respond to the present challenges. These initiatives are primarily focused on addressing policing issues in a collaborative manner involving our strategic partners and I look forward to developing these initiatives in the future.

Thank you