

DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 22nd November 2010
at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

Lord Mayor, Councillor Gerry Breen (Chairperson)
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Councillor John Gallagher
Councillor Brid Smith
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
Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department

Councillor Eric Byrne
Councillor Marie Metcalfe
Councillor John Redmond
Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh
Deputy Catherine Byrne
Inspector Gerry Murphy

Non-members: Seamus Whitty & Chris Barrow (Kerry Life Education Ltd.)

Apologies: John Tierney (City Manager), Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Edie Wynne, Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice Chair), Martin Kavanagh, Executive Manager (Housing & Residential Services)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 4th October 2010

Minutes agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Noted.

3. Presentation by Mr. Seamus Whitty & Mr. Chris Barrow, Project Manager, Kerry Life Education Ltd.

Presentation noted.

Members welcomed presentation and commended the group on its work.

4. Manager's report

Report noted.

Members are anxious to explore all avenues to secure additional funding for the operation of Local Policing Fora, particularly in relation to provision of staffing.

5. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Report noted.

Members reminded to contact Gardaí as soon as possible should they have any items they wish to have included in the 2011 Policing Plan.

The Assistant Commissioner was congratulated on the recent successful operation in the North East Inner City, whereby a number of raids were carried out and individuals arrested.

A number of attendees wished to convey their congratulations to Community Guard Vincent Houricane in South Central Area, who was awarded a Community Policing Award of the Year last week. They commended him on being a fantastic Community Representative who has developed a great relationship with the community in the area.

Members expressed an interest in having a Community Garda assigned to each Estate in an area.

Action: Details on the Midnight Soccer Initiative with the F.A.I. and Local Authorities to be forwarded to Deputy Byrne.

Action: Ciaran Fallon, Dublin City Council's Cycling Officer, to be invited to attend the next meeting of the J.P.C. in January.

Lord Mayor Gerry Breen gave the following update on the City Business Policing Forum:

- Europa League Final will take place on 18th May 2011 – Declan Conroy & Karl Mitchell made a presentation to the Local Business Policing Forum.
- It is hoped that Anti Begging legislation will come into effect by the end of 2010.
- Irish Medicines Board made a presentation and will be invited to a further meeting with Lord Mayor, An Garda Síochána & Area Management in the near future.
- Health Service Executive (H.S.E.) made a presentation on drug maintenance in the city and a further meeting is scheduled to take place on 18th January 2011 between the H.S.E., An Garda Síochána and Area Management to discuss the city centre.

6. Report from White Paper on Crime Unit, Department of Justice & Law Reform

Report noted.

7. Estate Management & Antisocial Behaviour

(i) Submission to DCC on Antisocial Behaviour Strategy (attached).

Noted.

(ii) Report from Housing Department on "Evictions due to Antisocial Behaviour".

Report noted.

8. Community Courts

(i) Courts Service on Community Courts

(ii) Centre for Court Innovation (U.S.)

Lord Mayor and Assistant City Manager met with representatives of the Courts Service on 28th September in the Mansion House. They are happy to get involved but feel that the challenge lies in getting the various agencies on board.

Action: Lord Mayor to investigate the possibility of getting the agencies on board and introducing the concept of adult cautions as opposed to bringing individuals to court on minor offences and report back to Committee.

While An Garda Síochána is happy to support the establishment of Community Courts, it is not within their remit to administer them.

Action: Lord Mayor to investigate the possibility of getting the agencies on board and introducing the concept of adult cautions as opposed to bringing individuals to court on minor offences and report back to Committee.

9. Copies of correspondence received from:

(i) Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - storage of chemicals in York Street.

Actions: The Committee requested the following:

- ***An inventory of all the chemicals currently contained in the College's on-site laboratories and departments as serious concerns were expressed, particularly concerning their proximity to York Street flats.***
- ***A copy of the investigation conducted by the Health & Safety Authority (HAS) in October.***

(ii) Office of the Minister for Justice & Law Reform - resource allocation for Local Policing Fora.

See Item 4 above.

10. Item referred from North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee at its meeting held on 18th October 2010 - "Report on Noise Pollution Regulations".

Noted.

11. Next meeting:

Next meeting scheduled to take place on **Monday 24th January at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.**

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee (J.P.C.) Meeting
22nd November 2010

Managers Report

1. **Workshop on White Collar Crime and Organised Crime**

This workshop, held on the 5th November 2010 in the Criminal Courts of Justice building on Parkgate Street, was attended by the Lord Mayor Gerry Breen and Deputy City Manager Philip Maguire; presentations given were circulated to all JPC Members on 9th November. Any additional documentation received from the Department of Justice & Law Reform will be circulated as soon as it becomes available.

2. **JPC's and Fora funding**

As Members will be aware there is a requirement to have a Policing Forum in each Drugs Task Force Area.

A number of Community Policing Fora have been in existence for many years (NEIC, Cabra Area) and have independent funding from central sources. S.A.F.E.R. Ballymun has a full-time Co-ordinator, who's salary is paid for by Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. (BRL).

Additional Fora in Central, North Central, South Central and North West (Finglas Safety Forum) Areas do not receive additional funding as their support and operation falls on the Area Office. The South East Area is in the process of finalising the establishment of Local Policing Fora and there will be no funding payable to these.

No additional funding is now likely having regard to cutbacks in all areas of public activity. It may be appropriate to explore closer working relationships with Drugs Tasks Forces and Partnerships going forward as staff and funding resources continue to be squeezed.

3. **Estate Management**

The City Council, at its meeting on 1st November, formally adopted Dublin City Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

Philip Maguire
Deputy City Manager

Joint Policing Committee
Monday 22nd November 2010

Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner Michael Feehan

At this sixth 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 confronting Organised Crime, Community Engagement and Policing over the Christmas period.

Crime

I am happy to report that incidents of Burglaries across the Dublin Region are still at a lower level than this time in 2009. Burglaries were a particular concern in the early part of the year, but have been reduced following upon a number of targeted operations having been put in place to confront those involved.

The month of October has shown that Robberies and Theft from the Person continue to pose a challenge. I can report that I have directed that these crimes should be placed at the top of the agenda in the Divisions in which they are being committed. As a result, we have mounted a number of intelligence led operations which have resulted in very significant numbers of arrests.

The initiatives across the city to target organised and armed crime are continuing. These operations involve overt armed checkpoints together with covert intelligence led operations. I am happy to report on the 8th November 2010 a specific operation codenamed Operation Chisel was put in place to tackle Organised Crime in the Dublin Region, with a particular focus on the north inner city area. This Operation involved the deployment of three hundred Gardai, searching thirty one locations, resulting in thirteen arrests.

The targeting of organised crime across the city has resulted in the seizure of significant numbers of Firearms, with arrests of several people involved in serious crime. Confronting such serious and organised crime remains a key priority for An Garda Síochána right across the Dublin Region.

Community Policing – Problem Orientated Approach

You will be aware from previous reports that I am pursuing the establishment of Local Policing Fora in Local Drugs Task Force Areas. I am now in the process of rolling out training in Problem Orientated Policing techniques for Community Gardai, initially in areas in which Local Policing Fora have been established. This training will be offered to residents in these areas, who will be invited to attend at joint training with Community Gardai. The objective is to develop shared solutions to the problems encountered in local communities.

Traffic

The number of people killed on the roads in the city to date (15th November 2010) is eighteen compared to twenty four 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 through the Regional Casualty Reduction Strategy and the Christmas Drink Driving Campaign throughout the Region. Operation Freeflow will also take place once again this year with Gardai deployed on foot and mobile patrols at strategic locations to assist the local authorities in enforcing the Road Traffic Legislation to facilitate the free flow of traffic over the festive season.

Policing Halloween

A successful operation was put in place to prevent any large scale outbreak of disorder over Halloween. Sunday the 31st October 2010 was in line with last year's event and was quieter from a Policing perspective than in previous years.

Some factors were at play here, which involved early engagement with all our partners to ensure a successful policing operation and in this regard I would like to thank the Local Authorities for all assistance given over the Halloween period.

Initiative with the F.A.I. and Local Authorities

On the 15th November I attended at the launch of the Late Night League programme at Darndale & Belcamp Recreation Centre, Darndale Village. The league is run by the FAI's co-funded development officer in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPSFF). The League was set up in 2008 throughout Dublin and has seen an increase in centres from nine to 14 centres.

It is open to young people aged 13-21, this diversionary programme takes place in a number of areas, and at times, where anti-social behaviour has been a problem. Some 1,050 young people participated in the leagues in the first half of this year and figures for the winter of 2010 will see an increase on this figure.

I am conscious of the need to foster positive relationships between An Garda Síochána and young people. We have worked at building such relationships over the years through the active participation of local Gardai in initiatives such as Garda Youth Diversion Projects and Schools Programmes. The Late Night Soccer Leagues continue to provide opportunities for young people and local Gardai to engage with each other in a social environment in which each side can learn about the other. This can only be a positive development which will lead to an improved policing service and ultimately to safer communities.

Dublin Regional Policing Plan.....2011

My Policing Plan 2011 for the Dublin Region is currently being drafted, and you will be aware that I have requested any submission that you may have to this Plan. For those that have made submissions already I thank you for taking the time to submit your views. Your views and suggestions will be considered in formulating the 2011 Policing Plan.

THANK YOU