

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 3rd of December 2012
at 3.30 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

Councillor Gerry Breen (Chairperson)
Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan TD
Deputy Kevin Humphreys TD
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Councillor John Redmond

Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice-chairperson)
Deputy Michael Conaghan TD
Deputy Aengus Ó Snódaigh TD
Councillor Edie Wynne
Councillor Tom Brabazon

Mr. Brendan Kenny, Assistant City Manager
John Twomey Assistant Garda Commissioner
Gerry Murphy, Garda Inspector
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
Ms. Celine Reilly for Dick Brady, Assistant City Manager

Also Present:

Mr. Thomas O'Brien, Health Service Executive, Addiction Services Manager
Sean Moloney, Assistant Area Manager, South Central Area
Mark Toland, Deputy Chief Inspector, Garda Inspectorate
Ifrah Ahmed, Ethic Representative

Minutes: Ms. Alana Dunne

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 1st October 2012

Order: Agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Order: Noted.

3. Manager's report

Order: Noted.

Cllr. Flynn asked for consideration to be given to the possible amalgamation of the Lord Mayor's Report on Ant-social Behaviour and the "Better City for All" report as both reports deal with the same issues.

Members agreed that the voluntary code of conduct regarding street fundraising by charities is not enough. J.P.C to write to Minister for Justice asking that legislation be implemented. Assistant City Manager will arrange to meet a number of key charities involved to discuss this committee's concerns in relation to aggressive fundraising on the streets of Dublin City.

4. Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner

Order: Report noted and welcomed.

Members acknowledged the major work carried out by the Garda Síochana and Dublin City Council staff over the Halloween period.

Actions:

- ***Manager to write to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence in relation to the implementation of the Charities Act 2009.***
- ***Manager to invite CEO's/Director's of charities who operate on street fundraising to a meeting for discussion on the Committee's concerns.***
- ***Chair requested that the document "Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising" be circulated to members.***

5. Presentation by Thomas O'Brien, Health Service Executive (HSE).

Order: Presentation noted and welcomed.

Discussion took place. Members felt that more time should be given to discuss this item.

Action: Manager to invite Michael Donnelly, Director General Irish Prison Services to present at the April 22nd JPC meeting.

6. Presentation by Mr. Zephyrin Ngaliema, The Integration Centre

Presentation deferred to the next meeting – 4th February 2013.

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

Noted.

1. Public Meetings for the City JPC
2. Safety Awareness Campaign
3. Restorative Justice
4. Prescription Drugs
5. Alcohol Retail Outlets and Licence granting
6. Juvenile Liaison Officers to report to local JPC's once a year

8. Minutes of Joint Policing Sub-committee meetings.

Minutes circulated and noted.

9. Issues for future meetings

- Prison Services

10. Next meetings:

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.

Chair suggested that the committee would invite voluntary housing bodies, ethnic representatives, traveller groups, older persons groups, gay and lesbian groups to observe future JPC meeting.

Chairperson
Councillor Gerry Breen
Date

Joint Policing Committee
Monday 3rd December 2012

Report of Assistant City Manager, Brendan Kenny.

Connections with Local Area JPC's

In order to enhance stronger connection between the City J.P.C and the Local Area J.P.C we will arrange that the minutes of local meetings will be circulated with the agenda for the City J.P.C meetings. The Local Area Committees have been asked to highlight (in red) on the minutes issues that they consider should be discussed and acted on by the City J.P.C.

Lord Mayor's Report on Anti-Social Behaviour

As members will be aware the City J.P.C have prioritized a number of recommendations from this report to be considered on an ongoing basis. We have requested each of the five Area J.P.C's to also take on for attention a number of the recommendations in this important report. In this way a much greater number of the recommendations can be followed through by the six committees (five area and one citywide).

Dublin City Local Business Policing Forum

This forum was set up under the auspices of the City J.P.C and is Chaired by the Lord Mayor and includes the Chairperson of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee. It also includes the business sector, the Gardai and Dublin City Council Area Management Officials. It meets consistently every month and deals with the following range of issues;

- Proposed events in the City
- The "Better City for All" strategic report
- Shop lifting
- Homelessness in the City
- Drug problems
- Illegal tobacco selling

A Sub-Committee of this Business Policing Forum has been set up to follow through on implementation of recommendations from the "Better City for All" strategic report. This Sub-Committee which will liaise with the relevant stakeholders.

Community Policing Foras

There are a number of community policing safety foras established throughout the city that come under the auspices of the Local Area (5) Joint Policing Committees e.g. Cabra and the North East Inner City in the Central Area, Ballymun and Finglas in the North West Area, Darndale/Moatview, Belmayne/Clongriffin, Edenmore and Donaghmede in the North Central Area, South West Inner City, Crumlin and Ballyfermot in the South Central Area.

A new community safety strategy was launched in October by the "Safer Ballymun" Community Safety Forum.

A public meeting of the North Central Local Area Joint Policing Committee was held on 4th October titled "Don't be a Victim of Theft".

The Dublin City Business Association presented two new Segways to the Gardai Síochána on 31st October at a launch in Grafton Street as an assist for the ongoing challenge of providing safe streets in the City.

Chuggers in the City Centre Area

Under the current legislative system charitable bodies do not require a permit for fundraising activity on the streets of Dublin City. Permits are required from the Gardai Síochána if the fundraising involves visiting homes and businesses.

The Charities Act 2009 had provisions to regulate such fundraising activity but significant parts of that Act have not been implemented because of the current economic climate.

Therefore the only regulation in place is that which exists under the “Guidelines Principles for Fundraising” which is a voluntary code of practise for charitable bodies which was introduced a few years ago.

Unfortunately there has been a relatively low level of full sign up to this code of practice. It is our view that the resolution of this problem is dependent on the future full implementation of the Charities Act 2009. There is currently no indication when that implementation will occur.

Cash for Gold

This issue was raised by the Chairperson with the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence. The Minister has indicated that his Department intends to publish a report on the issue. He also said that Gardai have visited every “Cash for Gold” outlet in the Country and there was no indication of an upsurge in theft as a result of the proliferation of such outlets. The Minister said that he was examining the mandatory use of photographic records of goods by such outlets and he said that the principle “seller beware” pertained.

Brendan Kenny

Assistant City Manager

Date: 3rd December 2012.

Joint Policing Committee

Monday 3rd December 2012

Report of Assistant Commissioner John Twomey Dublin Metropolitan Region.

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

- developments in policing since our last meeting in October,
- crime and traffic statistics and
- Community policing initiatives.

During the months of October and November An Garda Síochána was responsible for the policing of a number of protests and special events in the Aviva Stadium. Despite some challenges there were no serious incidents and each of the events passed off peacefully.

Crime

Since my last report Theft from the Person continues to be a challenge, but has recently stabilised. Robberies from the person are showing a decreasing trend. In line with previous reports Crimes Against the Person also continue to trend downwards.

To address the Theft from the Person trend I put in place a specific intelligence led focused operation to target specific locations and individuals involved in this type of crime. The other Crime Prevention Strategies alluded to previous reports to this committee continue to be in operation and are evaluated on an ongoing basis to take account of any trends occurring.

Home Safe Home Initiative

On the 19th November 2012 An Garda Síochána with the support from the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee launched the Home Safe Home initiative. Its purpose is to advise homeowners on simple home security precautions. Early indications are that the seasonal increasing trend is not in line with previous years.

This initiative forms part of a targeted campaign to evolve over the next twelve months to highlight issues regarding;

- Residential Burglaries
- Theft of Mobile Phones and IT devices
- Public Disorder
- Night Time Economy issues

I look forward to working closely with Dublin City Council and the Joint Policing Committee in developing this targeted campaign

Policing Halloween

A successful operation was put in place to engage with the local communities in an effort to ensure a peaceful Halloween period. “**Operation Tombola**” which was aimed at preventing and detecting the organised importation for sale of fireworks together with addressing anti-social behaviour, was seen as a successful operation and I thank all in the Council for their on-going support and co-operation which was a key component of the operation.

Traffic

At the time of writing this report the number of people killed on the roads of the Capital this year is eleven compared with nine 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 with reducing fatal and serious injury collisions and increasing high visibility enforcement activity is in place since the 1st October 2012. 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 have also take place with further operations planned between now and Christmas in particular the Christmas Drink Driving Campaign to ensure Dublin’s record on Road Safety within Europe remains.

FAI

On the 12th November 2012 the Late Night soccer winter League was launched in conjunction with the FAI, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs. 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. The leagues are now running in 19 venues throughout the Region. The Leagues are running well to date and are progress towards the Regional finals which will be held in Irishtown on 7th December from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

Engagement with Young People:

In addition to the SPHE schools programme where An Garda Síochána engages young people through the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) programme via presentations to post primary students, we are currently developing a Teenagers & Gardaí Programme (TAG) which is currently being piloted in Finglas and aims to;

- further engage with children
- facilitate a forum to promote positive engagement with children
- promote positive engagement between Gardaí and with children
- create a space to facilitate dialogue between Students and Gardaí
- discuss issues that have arisen in relation to Garda engagement with Students
- discuss issues that have arisen in relation to Students engagement with Gardaí

Two Community Gardaí facilitate the Promoting Positive School Engagement Pilot & are trained to facilitate the programme. They are supported by the Community Sergeant and the Inspector. Following on from the programme a Garda member will visit the school weekly and will call to visit the class. Meetings will also take place with the school representatives to review the Pilot

Conclusion

I have outlined above the current position in respect of crime, community policing initiatives in place together with details of the targeted initiatives 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