

DUBLIN CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 27th April 2009
at 11.00 a.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Attendance: Committee Members

Councillor Larry O'Toole (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mary O'Shea

Councillor Mary Freehill

Deputy Aengus O'Snódaigh

Mr. Philip Maguire, Asst. City Manager

Chief Superintendent Phil Moynihan

Ms Kathy Moore

Mr. Ciaran McNamara, Asst. City Manager

Mr. Charlie Lowe, Central Area Manager

Ms. Celine Reilly, North Central Area Manager

Councillor Criona Ni Dhálaigh

Councillor Bronwen Maher

Deputy Cyprian Brady

Ms Maria Metcalfe

Asst. Commissioner Al McHugh

Ms. Maria Metcalfe

Ms. Anne Graham, South Central Area Manager

Also present: Mr. Ciarán Dunne, Exec Manager, Mr. Mick Clarke, Area Housing Manager, Mr. Ron Farrell, Inspector, Central Estate Management Unit, Ms. Ruth Treacy, Senior Staff Officer, City Manager's Department

Apologies: Deputy Ruairí Quinn, Lord Mayor Councillor Eibhlín Byrne, Councillor Conaghan, Councillor Paddy McCartan

1. Minutes

Minutes of meeting held on the 6th October 2008 were agreed.

Councillor Mary Freehill asked the Manager to look into the possibility of making it illegal for persons under a certain age to purchase spraypaint.

Action: Manager to investigate and report directly to Cllr. Freehill. Item to be listed on agenda of next Dublin City Joint Policing Committee meeting.

2. Update Report of Estate Management subgroup

(a) Citywide Community Safety Strategy (Ciarán Dunne)

Noted.

- This is to be used as a reference document. It has already been worked through with the 5 Area managers and will be brought to the Joint Policing Subcommittees with the Committee's approval today.
- Members welcome the strategy and agree with the Partnerships but, if the representatives do not attend, then issues cannot be dealt with on the day of the meeting i.e. the Health Service Executive (H.S.E.) is not engaging at the level they should. It was moved by Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Ni Dhálaigh and agreed by the Committee that we should

"Write to Minister for Health expressing the wishes of the Members that the H.S.E. should become formal members of all the Joint Policing Committees"

P. Maguire confirmed that, while there is currently no provision for the H.S.E. to become formal members, a delegate from the H.S.E. could attend and he gave a commitment to take up the issue at a formal level and seek a commitment. Members requested that legislation be amended to allow HSE become a member.

- Councillors feel that Schools could play a greater role in the community and that children could be educated from a young age in relation to their civic responsibility. We should be working with the Schools to encourage young people to become involved.

(b) Presentation on antisocial behaviour (Mick Clarke)

Presentation noted and welcomed by the members.

(c) Current legal position used by Dublin City Council in taking legal proceedings against our tenants for eviction (Mick Clarke)

Noted.

(d) Estate Management & Antisocial statistics (Mick Clarke)

Noted.

3. Report - Assistant Garda Commissioner (Al Mc Hugh)

Copy attached – **Appendix A.**

The issue of begging arose and Councillors asked what powers are in place to stop it. The Commissioner reported that there is no direct / specific legislation to deal with begging. Currently the Gardaí are using Sections of the Public Order Act and The Childcare Act (where children are involved) but it was never intended to use these acts for the purpose of begging. They endeavour to move beggars on; however some of the individuals concerned are now even producing letters from their Solicitors to say that begging is not an offence. The Commissioner confirmed that the volume of house burglaries is increasing.

4. Manager's Report

- A summary of the Draft Surveillance Bill was circulated. This is aimed at high-level crime such as gang wars etc. and has yet to be debated and go through the House of the Oireachtas.
- Report on antisocial behaviour – At the last meeting it was agreed to meet the President of the District Court in relation to court orders, antisocial behaviour etc. Manager wrote to Mr. Brendan Ryan, who is scheduled to meet the President of the District Court, Ms. Mary Malone, in May. Manager is hopeful that we will be granted a meeting in the near future and stressed that, although this Committee as it now stands may be suspended, we should decide on a delegation to attend, ideally a small number consisting of the Manager, Ciaran McNamara, Area Managers, a number of Public Representatives and one Community Representative.
- St. Patrick's Day – The voluntary closing of Off Licences until mid-afternoon was monitored again this year and all but 2 premises, on Capel Street (the same offenders as 2008), were found to be in compliance. The Manager extended the compliments of the Chairperson, Cllr. Michael Conaghan, and the Committee to the Gardaí for a very effective campaign.
- The Council has recouped €4,518 from the Department towards some of the running costs associated with running the Joint Policing Committees.
- Heads of Draft Surveillance Bill – This was circulated to Members. They can feed their comments to Philip Maguire, who will in turn bring them to the attention of the Department. The Joint Policing Committee welcomed the initiative as a notice of serious intent by the Government to deal with these issues.

5. Chairman's business

- Noted

6. A.O.B.

- The Community Representatives present expressed their disappointment at the turnout at the meeting.
- It is likely that the next meeting of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee will take place in September / October. The Committee intentionally meet 2-3 times annually with the aim of keeping the debate at a high strategic level and, at the same time, not making too many demands on the individual members.
- The new Committee / members will be informed of the frequency of the meetings and the importance of maintaining good attendance. There is a limited membership, which is as follows:
 - 1 Councillor from each Electoral Ward
 - Lord Mayor, ex-officio member
 - 6 members of the Oireachtas
 - 3 persons representing the community and voluntary sector
 - The City Manager (ex-officio member) & 2 other officials selected by him
 - 2 Garda Officers

Appendix A
Joint Policing Committee
Monday 27th April 2009
Report of Assistant Garda Commissioner Al McHugh

CRIME

At my previous JPC meetings I gave you the summary of our crime figures which were differentiated between headline and non-headline crime. Headline of course being the more serious types of crime and non headline being the less serious. As and from the 1st January 2009 there is no differential, all crime is treated as crime and the Central Statistics Office has responsibility for producing the Garda Crime figures which are available on their website.

To compare the first three months of 2008 with the first three months of 2009,

Property crime decreased almost 9%, of which,

- Burglaries decreased by 6%,
- Theft from Shops decreased by 6%
- Thefts from vehicles decreased by 12%.

However within this category of Property crime,

- Robberies from Establishment increased by 12% and
- theft of pedal cycles increased by 25%

Crimes against the person, show a decrease of 24%, however murders increased by 42%.

A total of 2,302 controlled drug offences were detected by Gardai for the period, of which 488 of these offences were for the sale or supply of controlled drugs.

TRAFFIC

For the period ending March 2009 there was one Fatal Collision. Regrettably in April this year there has been six Fatal Collisions within the Dublin Region.

For the same period Serious Road Traffic Collisions increased by 8% and Non Serious Collisions decreased by 12%

1,071 persons were arrested for drink driving while 40 persons were arrested driving while under the influence of drugs.

PUBLIC ORDER and CRIMINAL DAMAGE

The number of public order incidents for the period is down by 14% and Criminal Damage is down by 8%

POLICING HALLOWEEN

A successful operation was put in place to prevent any large scale outbreak of disorder. We also received tremendous co-operation from City Council Officials in removing large amounts of inflammable material prior to Halloween.

POLICING PLAN 2009

In January of this year the Policing Plan for the Dublin Metropolitan Region was produced with my priorities for 2009. It is available on the Garda website www.Garda.ie As well as crime and traffic initiatives there are quality of life initiatives for safer public transport, reduced public disorder, crimes that can have an immediate personal impact such as domestic burglaries, car theft and theft from cars, crimes against pensioners.

I have again included the use of the Intoxicating Liquor Acts and the Public Order Acts in this years Policing Plan. For the three months ending 31st March 2009 there have been 21 warnings to liquor licence holders to take action to prevent the sale, supply and distribution of controlled drugs. For the same period there has been 5 notices served on licensee's in respect of the Public Order Act because of loud noise.

In relation to ASBOS, there has been 129 behaviour warnings issued to both adults and juveniles during the first quarter of 2009.

POLICING ST. PATRICKS DAY

This years St. Patrick 's Day attracted a large number of people, more so than in previous years and it was a particular challenge for An Garda Síochána to ensure that people could move freely from one area to another during the parade.

I ensured this year that sufficient resources were deployed in the city centre and the suburbs to avoid disturbances and anti-social behaviour post parade. A number of arrests were made for drunkenness's and minor public order offences, but in the context of the large number of people generally speaking the festivities past off peacefully.

The provisions of the intoxicating Liquor Act 2008 were utilised and over 3,000 cans and bottles of alcohol was seized. Since its enactment its provisions continue to be used for the seizure of alcohol.

The Off Licences co-operated fully in keeping premises closed after normal opening times.

THE BOARDWALK

Drug taking and drug supply on both sides of the Liffey have received considerable media attention and the attention of Public representatives the latest being an article on a national radio show this month concerning Drugs and Drinking in the city centre.

Gardaí attached to City Centre Stations continue to closely monitor the Dublin Boardwalk and its hinterland and pay particular attention to drug activity and public order problems at these locations.

Various operations by Gardaí are in place on both sides of the Liffey. There is a high degree of interaction and co-operation between the Gardaí based in Pearse Street, Store Street, Kevin Street, The Bridewell and the Garda National Drugs Unit to target low-level street dealing of drugs.

Persons found consuming alcohol or causing annoyance to the public are directed to leave the area in accordance with Section 8 of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994.

There is also a high degree of Co-operation between the Gardaí, Dublin Bus and Dublin City Council Officials along the Quays to counter anti-social behaviour, which has proved to be of significant value.

To combat this problem it must be recognised that there are two issues to be considered

1. It must be recognised firstly that one of the reasons this area has such a high visibility of drug addicts is due to the nearby locations of the Courts Services as well as Drugs Clinic and Homeless Hostels.
2. I have spoken to you before about this. The efforts of the Gardaí in addressing some of the problems in the area are stymied as a result of the High Court decision which found that the relevant provisions of the Vagrancy Acts were unconstitutional. Gardaí are now no longer empowered to arrest persons found begging on the streets. Consequently begging has become a problem in the centre city by organised groups of people who make substantial earnings from begging, often using small children to gain sympathy or indeed to carry out begging on their behalf.

Proposed City Wide Community Safety Strategy

Proposed JPC city wide Vision

Dublin city will be a safer place in which to live, work and visit.

Proposed JPC city wide mission statement

The city-wide community-safety strategy is a collaboration involving all the citizens of Dublin, public representatives, An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council which seeks to ensure a high-quality, safe living environment in the city of Dublin through:

- Fostering cooperation and building trust between the partners themselves and other relevant agencies
- Working together to reduce levels of crime, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour
- Promoting the principles and values of active citizenship

Proposed JPC goals

1. WORKING TOGETHER

Working together to provide a safe, pleasant environment where people can live, work and visit

2. TARGETING CRIME

Working together to reduce the levels of crime and disorder in Dublin

3. PROMOTING PUBLIC ORDER

Working together to reduce the incidents of public disorder and anti-social behaviour in Dublin

4. TACKLING SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Working together to support existing agencies and community organisations throughout the city in their work to reduce the levels of substance misuse

5. COMMUNICATING POSITIVELY

Working together to provide accessible, accurate and timely information on community safety issues

6. ENSURING SAFE DEVELOPMENT

Working together to ensure that community safety is at the heart of city-wide planning and design

1. WORKING TOGETHER

Working together to provide a safe, pleasant environment where people can live, work and visit.

We will work together to:

- i. Develop a proactive multi-agency approach to community safety in Dublin City.
- ii. Resource implementation of the strategy as appropriate.
- iii. Develop consultation and decision making mechanisms between the Local Authority, An Garda Síochána and Dublin's communities in the implementation of a city wide community safety strategy.
- iv. Facilitate the participation of local residents in promoting community safety.

In practice this means that **at local level** we will

1. Invite key agencies to contribute to the development and implementation of the strategy as appropriate
2. Invite JPC representative to liaise with local residents' associations
3. **Encourage local residents' associations to participate in local policing fora**
4. Seek support for existing local community- safety fora under Joint-Policing Committee structures
5. Ensure that Community Garda are assigned to each neighbourhood
6. Work to **involve** local residents in establishing "friends of the park" projects
7. Encourage businesses to become involved in promoting community safety and to become actively involved in local community initiatives.
8. Support a multi-agency approach to road safety and facilitate safe mobility for all citizens of Dublin.

Comment [a1]: Have inserted this because actions will have to happen at local level

Comment [a2]:

Comment [a3]: Work at local level to

Comment [a4]:

2. TARGETING CRIME

Working together to address and reduce levels of crime and disorder in Dublin.

We will work together to:

- i. Develop a multi-agency, collaborative and holistic approach to crime prevention, law enforcement and rehabilitation in Dublin City.
- ii. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated and managed within a co-ordinated policing framework.
- iii. Promote crime prevention in local communities.
- iv. Participate in comprehensive CCTV system development and implementation city-wide.
- v. Support and evaluate crime prevention action through research and reference to models of best practice.

In practice this means that at local level we will:

Comment [a5]: inserted

1. Identify levels and patterns of crime and develop and implement appropriate responses
2. Continue to maintain Garda on foot patrol
3. Work to reduce robberies and car theft by 2%*, in line with Garda key performance indicators
4. Work to increase number of seizures of illegal drugs by a minimum of 5%*
5. Work to reduce incidents involving use of firearms by at least by a minimum of 2%*
6. Work to increase number of firearms seized by a minimum of 2%*
7. Work to maintain current level of detection rates
8. Work to increase number of detections for sale/supply of alcohol to underage persons by 5%*

Comment [a6]: Work to

Comment [a7]: Work to increase

Comment [a8]: Work to

Comment [a9]: Work to

Comment [a10]: Continue to

Comment [a11]: satisfactory

Comment [a12]: work to

Above Figs need to be checked in line with latest Garda plans

*By a minimum of

3. PROMOTING PUBLIC ORDER

Working together to reduce incidents of public disorder and anti-social behaviour in Dublin.

We will work together to:

- i. Challenge and control public disorder through a multi-agency approach.
- ii. Reduce the level of on-street nuisance.
- iii. Ensure that community policing is at the heart of policing in Dublin.
- iv. Target the development and implementation of locally led responses to anti-social behaviour and community safety.
- v. Ensure that good practice guidelines and initiatives are implemented across all agencies involved in the provision of housing management.
- vi. Foster residents' awareness of their role in maintaining public order.
- vii. Promote the safe, secure and responsible use of the public domain

In practice this means that at local level we will

1. Convene regular inter-agency meetings to ensure a coordinated approach
2. Collect data and analyse incidents of public disorder in each local area
3. Encourage development of new legislation to address deficits in existing legislative controls
4. Increase number of public-order “hot spots” identified at District level by 2%
5. Increase number of licensed premises inspected
6. Appoint liaison Gardaí for all new housing estates
7. Support local residents’ groups to devise a community charter for their own areas
8. Develop partnerships with the relevant bodies, in order to develop strategies to encourage and enforce the responsible use of public spaces.
9. Maintain regular agency contact involving An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council and other stakeholders
10. Work to increase “Emergency” and “Priority One” response time to calls
11. Increase number of Garda emergency response calls answered within 30 minutes to 90%
12. Develop procedures for peaceful resolution of conflict through appropriate estate management
13. Advocate for the development of community courts and support the practice of restorative justice
14. Support transitional housing initiatives for the mentoring and development of tenants in need
15. Continue to maintain support of interagency networks for people at risk
16. Support the provision of appropriate emergency accommodation day services and outreach services for homeless and other vulnerable persons
17. Continue to promote “Second Chance” housing programme in collaboration with other agencies
18. Carry out assessment of youth-related services within local areas
19. Encourage young people to become involved in community-focused activities

Comment [a13]: Insert

Comment [a14]: Merge these 2 obj to read ‘Develop procedures for peaceful resolution of conflict and encourage harmonious community relations’ The rest will come in actions

Comment [a15]: Doesn’t work here. Move this to Goal 2?

4. TACKLING SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Working together to support existing agencies and community organisations throughout the city in their work to reduce the levels of substance misuse.

We will work together to:

- i. Support the Drugs Task Forces in the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy across the city.
- ii. Address in an integrated way policies and actions that impact on substance misuse from prevention to treatment.
- iii. Advocate for any legislative change identified at Joint Policing Committee.

In practice this means that **at local level** we will

1. Work with and participate in the sub-structures of Local Area Drugs Task Force to implement the National Drugs strategy
2. Support partner agencies in the development of local responses to substance misuse across the city
3. Promote the development of a community alcohol strategy using a public-health approach
4. Promote a zero-tolerance approach to open dealing
5. Develop partnerships with the community and other agencies to support the needs of marginalised groups who currently contribute to the perception of insecurity.

Question Should we build in an action around local dispensing clinics?

5. COMMUNICATING POSITIVELY

Working together to provide accessible, accurate and timely information on community safety issues.

We will work together to:

- i. Alleviate fear of crime in the community by providing relevant information on local community safety issues
- ii. Establish suitable structures to facilitate effective communication between key agencies.
- iii. Establish a feedback structure between local communities and the statutory agencies.
- iv. Inform and shape the work of the Joint Policing Committees and sub-committees city-wide.

Comment [a16]:
insert

In practice this means that **at local level** we will

Comment [a17]: insert

1. Hold regular public meetings as appropriate
2. Consult with local groups about awareness-raising re safety issues in their local areas
3. Devise an effective communications and marketing strategy to promote community safety
4. Develop programmes of local events to highlight community safety and good environmental management,
5. Inform local communities about the city-wide community safety strategy.
6. **Circulate minutes of CPF public meetings to relevant stakeholders**
7. **Establish links with other local Community Policing Fora**
8. Commission regular articles for DCC local newsletters on safety and security
9. Increase Community Policing Units/Community Relations school-talks programme by 10% in primary and secondary schools in local areas
10. Increase number of letters sent to “Victims of Crime” by 20%
11. Facilitate the delivery of regular presentations on crime prevention and security
12. Ensure availability of “Comment Cards” in Garda public offices

Comment [a18]: Move to communication goal

Comment [a19]: Propose that this be deleted. Would happen anyway with JPC

6. ENSURING SAFE DEVELOPMENT

Working together to ensure that community safety is at the heart of city-wide planning and design.

We will work together to:

- i. Advocate that community safety is considered an integral part in the planning and design of all developments in the city.
- ii. Advocate for the implementation of best-practice management principles in all developments in the city.
- iii. Ensure compliance with all legislative and regulatory provisions designated to make the City safe.
- iv. Ensure that the management of the public domain addresses safety concerns in public places, buildings and in Dublin City Council housing complexes and estates
- v. **Deliver a high standard of management of Dublin City Council housing estates and flat complexes in partnership with residents to ensure they can live in a safe and secure environment.**
Do you think this is too repetitive or **should it be re-stated? Would obj 4 or Goal 3, 3-7 handle this just as well?**

In practice this means that at local level we will

1. Advocate that the internal security of buildings is addressed during design of all developments.
2. Advocate that security of residents is considered in design of all developments
3. Develop best practice maintenance and management programmes and processes to address safety and security concerns in public places especially in areas such as public roads and parks.
4. Promote activity generators in parks and public spaces to encourage multiple users and develop a sense of ownership and confidence in the safety of these places

Comment [a20]: insert