

Cork City Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of meeting

7th October 2019 at 2.00pm

Council Chamber, City Hall, Cork.

Present:

Supt. Colm O'Sullivan	An Garda Síochána (Deputising for Chief Supt.)
Ms. A. Doherty	Chief Executive, Cork City Council
Cllr. Colm Kelleher	Chairperson
Ms. A Rodgers	Director of Services, Cork City Council
Cllr. H. Cremin	Cork City Council
Cllr Joe Kavanagh	Cork City Council
Cllr .Kenneth O Flynn	Cork City Council
Cllr. Paudie Dineen	Cork City Council
Cllr. Ted Tynan	Cork City Council
Cllr. Derry Canty	Cork City Council
Cllr P.J. Hourican	Cork City Council
Cllr. Damian Boylan	Cork City Council
Cllr Lorna Bogue	Cork City Council
Cllr Thomas Moloney	Cork City Council
Cllr John Maher	Cork City Council
Cllr Tony Fitzgerald	Cork City Council
Senator J Buttimer	Seanad Éireann
Dr. D. McAdam O'Connell	Public Participation Network
Ms Nora O Donovan	Public Participation Network

In attendance:

Supt. C O'Sullivan	An Garda Síochána
Claire Healy	An Garda Síochána
Mr. Chris Dorgan	Community, Culture and Placemaking , Cork City Council
Mr. David O Brien	Community, Culture and Placemaking , Cork City Council
Ms Ruth Lynch	Community, Culture and Placemaking , Cork City Council

Apologies

Ms. Katherine Dullaghan	Public Participation Network
Ms. Mary Crilly	Public Participation Network

1. Welcome

Chair Cllr Colm Kelleher welcomed attendees and reminded the meeting that only Committee Members were entitled to address the meeting. He further reminded attendees that items to be raised at JPC should first have been raised and discussed at the appropriate local safety forum in the first instance.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the JPC of 8th April 2019 were considered and approved by the meeting.

Prop. Cllr T Fitzgerald , **Sec** Cllr H Cremin

4. Presentations

Supt C. O'Sullivan gave a presentation on Crime and Traffic statistics to 30th September

Key statistics:

Property Crime:

Large increases in robbery from the person, interfering with and theft from vehicles, and handling stolen goods. Decreases in theft from establishment or institution, unauthorised taking of vehicle and non aggravated burglary.

Crimes against the person:

Marked increase in menacing phone calls, decrease in stalking, threats and harassment.

Rapes and sexual assault:

Rape of Male or female down by 24%, sexual assault not aggravated increased by 23%

Criminal Damage and public order:

Criminal damage increased by 8% while public order offences decreased by the same amount.

Drugs and Weapons:

Possession of drugs for personal use increased by 31%, while possession of offensive weapons (not firearm increased by 17%

Presentation of Ann Doherty, Chief Executive, Cork City Council

Anne Doherty, Chief Executive, delivered her report outlining a number of points –

31st May saw the transition on of services in Douglas, Grange, Ballincollig, Glanmire, and Blarney to the enlarged city. The Transition Project was smoothly delivered with no interruption to public services. The following transferred to Cork City Council on that date:

- **Population:** +85,000 (from 125,000 to 210,000)
- **Area:** +fivefold increase from 39km² to 187km²
- **Electors:** +approx. 62,000 moving from the County to the City
- **Planning:** +500 planning applications p.a. (500 existing)
- **Staff:** +210 staff moved to Cork City Council (existing 1,280 staff)
- **Social Houses:** +approx. 1,000 Social Houses (existing 9,500 approx.)
- **Roads:** +550km of Roads in effect doubling the existing road network
- **Public Lights:** +10,000 lights being added to the City inventory (14,000 existing)
- **Libraries:** +3 Libraries moving to the City (7 existing libraries)
- **Cemeteries:** +9 Cemeteries (4 existing)
- **Parks/Managed Open Spaces:** +6 transferring to the City
- **Playgrounds:** +6 moving to the City

The Chief Executive brought to the attention of the committee that the community section had held a series of four family fun days in Glanmire, Douglas, Blarney and Ballincollig in September in conjunction with Red FM.

She also brought to the attention of the gathering the establishment of a new customer Service telephone number 021 4924000 staffed five days per week from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. staffed by trained service agents

- September 27th saw the opening of Cork's newest bridge, named in honour of Mary Elmes.
- Culture Night 2019 attracted over 22,000 attendees across 100 venues attending 245 events.
- Heritage week ran from 17-25 August with 100 events and 2 festivals.
- This year saw a specific Age friendly event held in Bishop Lucey Park organised by the Cork Age friendly City Programme. Heritage Day itself recording 24,000 visits to over 40 buildings.

The Chief Executive delivered statistical reports on housing stock, reports on antisocial behaviour among city council tenants and statistics on parking, litter and drinking fines issued together with a report on derelict sites YTD.

Arising from the presentations the following issues were raised by members of the committee. These questions to The Supt

Traffic Corps presence in Ballincollig was raised together with related questions on opening hours and how the new Garda Operational Plan was being reviewed.

A question was raised on whether drug driving and drink driving statistics were collated separately enabling the public to know the prevalence of driving under the influencing of prohibited substances.

Similarly a question of how many drink driving offences were recorded as "morning after" statistics was raised. The issue of Local Safety forums in the extended area was also raised together with an observation that there had not been a JPC in almost six months.

In relation to the Chief Executive's Report

a question was raised on the availability of parking discs given the high number of tickets issued for the non-display of an appropriate parking disc.

The Chief Executive was also asked to comment on the ratio of payment of litter fines to fines issued.

In response the following clarifications were given

Superintendent O'Sullivan outlined that social media had a major role in the perception of an increase in city centre violence compared to the recorded statistics. He further clarified that public drunkenness is more likely to be recorded under section 4 of the Public Order Act.

The issue of Safety Forums in the extended area was under consideration. The JPC had not met since April because of the election of a new council in May and the likely unavailability of members during the summer months.

The Supt. outlined that drug detection statistics were up as a direct result of more vigorous enforcement. In relation to the observation that there was a marked decrease in the number of Gardaí Síochána attending today's meeting he advised that this was as a result of holidays and did not reflect any reduction in commitment to the work of the committee whatsoever.

Ann Doherty, Chief Executive advised that it was the Council's intention that derelict sites be put back into effective use at the earliest opportunity and that it was working to ensure same. The availability of court time was the key determinant factor in prosecution of litter fines. She further advised, in relation to availability of parking discs, that an interactive map outlining the location of sites selling discs was available on the city council website together with the option of "pay by phone" which was increasing in use.

A special note of thanks was extended to Ms. Nora O'Donovan, outgoing PPN Representative for her long term community commitment and her commitment to the work of the committee.

5. To consider the reports from the Local Policing District Management Committees

Anglesea Street report – No Comments

Mayfield Report – No comments

6. AOB

The committee's attention was drawn to the upcoming Garda Divisional Youth Awards with a closing date of November 1st.

It was also suggested and agreed to invite Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to attend a meeting of the Cork City JPC. This was agreed by the meeting. A letter of invitation will be sent.