

Cork County Council Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

14th May 2018

Floor 16, Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork

Present:

Cllr. Frank O Flynn, Chair
Cllr. Kevin Conway
Cllr. Joe Carroll
Cllr. Kay Dawson
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy
Cllr. Ted Lucey
Cllr. Kevin Murphy
Cllr. Des O'Grady
Cllr. Daithi O'Donnabhain
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen
Cllr. Michael Ahern
Mr. Tim Lucey, Chief Executive
Ms Nicola Radley, Senior Executive Officer
Deputy Aindrias Moynihan TD
Senator Jerry Buttimer
Mr. Diarmaid Cronin, PPN
Mr. Gavin Falk, PPN
Mr. Tom Howard, PPN

Mr. Sean Kelly, PPN
Mr. John Fuller, PPN
Mr. Liam McCarthy, PPN
Jim O'Leary, PPN
Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan
Superintendent Billy Duane
Superintendent Mick Comyns

Apologies:

Cllr Timmy Collins, Vice Chair

In Attendance:

Ms Claire Looney O'Sullivan, Administrative
Officer, Corporate Services
Ms Majella McMorrow, Assistant Staff
Officer, Corporate Services
Ms Grainne Curtin, Policing Authority
Mr. Kevin O'Donovan, District Supervisor,
Social Operations Housing
Ms Claire O'Rourke, Cork County PPN

1. Approval of Minutes

Confirm Minutes of JPC Meeting 13th February 2018

Proposed: Mr. Diarmaid Cronin
Seconded: Mr. Gavin Falk

2. Welcome New Member

The Chair welcomed new member, Councillor Michael Ahern, who was recently co-opted on to Cork county Council.

3. Matters Arising

Councillor Des O'Grady asked for a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the issue raised by the motion he had submitted regarding arrangements between An Garda Síochána and their EU Counterparts regarding the sharing of information on convicted sex offenders.

Chief Superintendent Cadogan confirmed that in consultation with the Chair, the motion was not approved as it appeared to be referring to specific cases and as such was deemed to be operational and therefore not appropriate for discussion at the JPC.

Cllr O'Grady rejected this assertion and stated that he had not been given the opportunity to consult with the Chair on his motion.

Chief Superintendent Cadogan agreed to briefly outline arrangements between An Garda Síochána and their EU Counterparts. He said that there was co-operation between European Police Forces through Interpol. He also stated that the sex Offenders Register is closely

monitored and those on the register are obliged to inform the Gardaí when they move, failure to do so is an offence.

Correspondence:

- From the Blarney/ Macroom MD regarding the provision of a Garda Community Bus
The Chief Executive stated that there is no funding available from Cork County Council for this.

Superintendent Comyns confirmed that these buses are usually fundraised for by communities and are then taken onto the Garda Fleet and the Gardaí pay for the upkeep of the vehicles.

- Members noted the following correspondence:
 - From Full Council regarding the shortage of Garda Numbers
 - From the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport regarding Legislation on Minimum Passing Distance for cyclists and causing the death of a cyclist.

4. Garda Statistical Report on Crime in Co. Cork

Presentation given by Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan, An Garda Síochána

In response to members' queries Chief Superintendent Cadogan outlined the following:

- There have been 22 drug driving detections since the 1st of January, cannabis and cocaine are the most common drugs detected and there is a mixture of age groups involved
- Car doors are being checked by thieves and leaving cars unlocked is making them vulnerable
- Handbags etc are been stolen from boots of cars parked at amenity sites as the areas are being watched however the use of signage and CCTV has helped reduce incidents.
- Test purchasing is used to detect sales of alcohol to underage people but if a person has suspicion that a premises is serving those underage then they should report it to the Gardaí
- Operations are targeted to areas where complaints have been made – 'hotspots'
- When recording accidents it is the number of accidents not the number of people involved that is recorded
- If drug dealing is taking place in social housing the Gardaí can act as a witness in the eviction proceedings – judges wait for the drug detection cases to conclude before proceeding with the eviction cases
- A number of people have been intercepted on suspicion of carrying out burglaries – the public are advised to report any suspicious activity in their areas to the Gardaí, text
- Gardaí have been in contact with TII and Cork County Council following the tragic accidents at Waterloo Junction on the N20 with a view to taking every action to prevent further incidents at this junction

Members agreed to write TII and An Garda Síochána to request that they liaise closely with Cork County Council and to ensure that every effort is made to make any changes necessary to improve safety on the Cork/ Mallow road.

5. JPC Annual report 2017

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Conway



Seconded by Councillor Cathal Rasmussen

6. Issues Arising/Notices of Motion

- Sean Sherlock, TD – “To seek an update on the challenges of policing large scale athletic events held on public roads” – deferred as Deputy Sherlock wasn’t in attendance
- Cllr Joe Carroll - "That this committee would ask An Garda Síochána to redeploy man power and resources, to try to deal with the very prevalent and growing drug problem in West Cork. The appointment of a community garda in Skibbereen, where the problem is rife, would surely be a positive move in the right direction."

Seconded by Councillor Daithí O Donnabháin

In response to queries by members, Chief Superintendent Cadogan outlined the following:

There is a very successful divisional drugs unit based in West Cork, 23 dealers have been caught in the last 4 months and they are working closely with Cork County Council regarding their houses used for the sale of drugs. The unit has been increased and has been targeting West Cork for the past 2 months. There have also been 104 personal detections and known drug users are being targeted for drug driving. Publicans and others who suspect that people have taken drugs should call the guards.

Members stated that there appeared to be an increase in drug taking and availability and that more resources are needed to deal with the issue.

- Diarmaid Cronin – “I wish to propose that the JPC initiate discussions with the Insurance industry (perhaps jointly with Kerry Co Council) re incentivising people to maintain a log book of their property which may be at risk of being stolen.

I propose that a discussion be held whether a implementation group or sub-committee should be established to track progress of decisions carried by the JPC, and report on progress to JPC meetings.

I also wish to propose that the proposal about illegal dumping at previous JPC meeting be revisited, the problem is ongoing, there are substantial costs to the County Council and to landowners, indeed to the thousands of volunteers who have to tidy up the countryside.”

During the discussion members made the following points:

- Any mention of increases in waste charges leads to an increase in fly tipping
- More resources are needed, especially for enforcement
- Could members receive feedback from the Environment SPC regarding illegal dumping and prosecutions
- The logbooks are a great idea and it makes the guards’ job a lot easier when all this information is stored in one place
- The Kilworth anti dumping initiative was launched recently and it is hoped that this model will be rolled out county wide
- Under a new scheme those found dumping will not be fined, the case will go straight to court



- This is a national issue and it is not the role of Cork County Council to legislate for the confiscation of vehicles involved in illegal dumping.

Members agreed to write to the Insurance Federation of Ireland seeking a meeting with them to discuss sponsorship of the logbooks.

7. A.O.B

Community Guards

Councillor Cathal Rasmussen asked if changes to the rosters meant that the Community Guard was now being rostered onto the normal roster and not available to attend community meetings.

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- The previous model of community policing was very effective
- It can be hard to find the right person for the role
- The role seems to have changed recently

In response Superintendents Coymns and Duane informed members that vacancies for community guards are currently being filled and Garda numbers generally are recovering. However the frontline must be the priority and the Community Guard can be rostered in if necessary.

Macroom Garda Station

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan raised the issue of Macroom Garda Station and the retirement of the guard in Ballingearry.

In response Chief Superintendent Cadogan stated that three stations including Macroom had gone to tender together and they were awaiting clearance for Sligo Station and that this could take up to six weeks. In relation to the Guard for Ballingearry, the dates for interviews are being finalised and it is hoped that a replacement will be in situ by the end of June.

Members agreed to write to the OPW and Minister for Justice expressing their support for Macroom Garda Station.

*This concluded the business of the meeting
Next meeting 10th September 2018*