

Cork County Council Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

13th FEBRUARY 2018

Floor 16 Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork

Present :

Cllr. Frank O Flynn, Chair
Cllr. Timmy Collins, Vice-Chair
Cllr. Kevin Conway
Cllr Kay Dawson
Cllr. Joe Harris
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy
Cllr. Ted Lucey
Cllr. June Murphy
Cllr. Des O’Grady
Cllr. Daithi O’Donnabhain
Mr. Gavin Falk, PPN
Mr. Tom Howard, PPN
Mr. John Fuller, PPN
Mr. Liam McCarthy, PPN
Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan
Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin
Chief Superintendent Ger Dillane

Apologies:

Mr. Tim Lucey, Chief Executive
Ms Nicola Radley, Senior Executive Officer
Councillor Joe Carroll.
Mr. Sean Kelly
Deputy Aindrias Moynihan TD
Deputy Sean Sherlock TD
Senator Jerry Buttimer

In Attendance:

Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Services, Corporate Services.
Ms Claire Looney O’Sullivan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms Myra Heffernan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services
Mr. Kevin O’Donovan, District Supervisor, Social Operations Housing
Detective Chief Superintendent Pat Clavin
Sgt. Patrick Conway, An Garda Síochána
A/Garda Commissioner Dónall Ó Cualáin
Ms Claire O’Rourke, Cork County PPN
Jim O’Leary

1. Approval of Minutes of

Confirmation of Minutes of JPC Meeting of 23rd October, 2017

Proposed – Mr. Tom Howard

Seconded – Cllr. Des O’Grady

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation Criminal Assets Bureau Links with Local Gardaí

Detective Chief Superintendent Pat Clavin gave a presentation of the overview of CAB operations and how it is working to recover the proceeds of crime based in our community. CAB was established in 1996 with powers to focus on the illegally acquired assets of criminals involved in serious crime. The aims of the CAB are to identify the criminally acquired assets of persons and to take the appropriate action to deny such people of these assets. The Chief Superintendent told the meeting CAB is an independent body and has many of the powers given to Gardaí. The Chief Bureau Officer is drawn from a member of the Garda Síochána holding the rank of Chief Superintendent and is appointed by the Garda Commissioner and the remaining staff of CAB are appointed by the Minister for Justice and Equality. He urges the public to report people suspected of

being involved in organised crime by ringing the Gardaí and he reassured the members of JPC that members of the public will never be required to give evidence if they make a report to CAB. He told members of the JPC that CAB has ninety operatives and twenty profilers working in Cork who are trained to search for assets and wealth which have been amassed through criminal activity. Detective Chief Superintendent said CAB activity in Cork was very low in comparison to Dublin. The bureau has targeted organised prostitution in Cork previously and it has also seized holiday homes in the region which were bought through the proceeds of crime. CAB are in partnership with Crimestoppers.

The Chair of JPC Councillor Frank O’Flynn thanked Detective Chief Superintendent Pat Clavin for the great presentation and the good work done to date by CAB. Cllr. O’Flynn asked have they enough resources to carry out the great work they are doing and can Cork County Council offer any assistance to them.

Following a discussion Member of the JPC made the following points:

- It is great that the public can notify CAB directly.
- Can you give examples of cases that are in the High Court?
- Would you suspect there are more crimes committed in rural areas that you should be looking at.

Detective Chief Superintendent Pat Clavin told Members they liaise with other international crime agencies which are very helpful; they don’t have a lot of targets in Cork at present. A lot of crimes they are seeing would be Drugs, Burglaries, and Prostitution. Det. Chief Superintendent said they are well resourced but would like the help of the public to report anything if they suspect someone’s lifestyle is funded by crime and the public will not be asked to give evidence in court. The Chief Superintendent could not go into details of High Court cases. CAB also monitors the Garda Pulse system and Social Media for evidence of criminal activity.

Members of the JPC would like to extend their sympathy to the colleagues of Detective Superintendent Colm Fox who died last week in Dublin.

4. Garda Statistical Report on Crime in Co. Cork *Chief Superintendent Ger Dillane, An Garda Síochána*

Chief Superintendent Ger Dillane gave a presentation to the JPC members and told members household burglaries in Cork City and County have risen by 40% in recent months compared to the same period last year. Thefts from vehicles rose from 144 to 202. The Chief Supt Dillane said one in three cars are not locked at night and agriculture tools, quad bikes are left lying around, these gangs will steal anything that is of value and that they can dispose of. There has been a surge of phones, fuel, and tools reported missing. The Chief Supt. urged the Members of JPC to bring home to their communities the importance of locking their belongings up and to keep a record of the make, model and serial numbers of tools which may be identified if found. There are lots of stolen goods recovered and given back to their owners. The public will have to take responsibility for their belongings. The Chief Superintendent said a lot of burglaries are committed by gangs and these gangs are careful not to leave any forensic evidence so it is essential that they are caught on the scene. It is vital that the public should report any suspicious

activity no matter how trivial they think it might be. He said the Gardáí run a number of text-alert system for communities whereby warnings are issued about the movements of suspicious vehicles. These gangs can come from other Counties and change the number plates on the car to suit the one they are driving so it makes it very hard to detect. These text alerts are very successful and the Gardáí and the community are working together. He urged more members of the public to sign up to these. We would appeal to the Community not to be afraid to ring it is very effective when everyone is working together.

Following a discussion Members made the following points:-

- There is a massive spike in burglaries, are you satisfied you have enough resources and high speed cars.
- Would like to know could we get fire statistics for the County.
- There was a high profile burglary where criminals were apprehended, the helicopter was used. Is this still available to the Gardáí.
- These Cash for Gold outlets should know where the gold is coming from.
- People must be made aware of the scams out there, there are young men following elderly people into banks and watching them withdraw large amounts of cash and then following them home.
- The Community Guards can visit communities and advise them and make them aware of what they should look out for.
- Is there an up to date law on protecting ones property.
- Could the number plates be displayed on the roofs of cars, this would make it more difficult for number plates to be changed?
- Is there any relationship between the lack of resources and rising crime?

The Chief Supt. told members the fire service is not part of the JPC. We would have access to a helicopter but weather doesn't always allow for the helicopter to be out or it may be that the Air Corp is not available. We are aware of incidents where there are young men watching people coming from banks, people have to be conscious as cash is a ready currency and people are being targeted. We have trained liaison Community Guards and they would be willing to visit communities and give advice and support to families and parents of people on drugs.

5. Issues Arising/Notices of Motion

- *Kevin O'Donovan Housing Department*

"I would like to see the introduction of byelaws specifically relating to the regulations and safety considerations of the use of sulky cars on public roads"

Mr. O'Donovan alerted Members to incidents that happened causing serious injuries and in another incident the death of a child relating to sulky cars. There is a big increase of sulky cars on our roads and in particular housing estates. These are very dangerous and should be banned. A prohibition of Sulky – Racing Bill 2018 was introduced in January 2018 and will hopefully be brought into force.

During the discussion that followed members made the following points:

- The motion was widely supported by members and it was agreed we write to Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This was proposed by Mr. John Fuller and seconded by Cllr. June Murphy.
- Would like to see Cork County Council implement the bill.
- These races can cause unnecessary suffering to horses and is prohibited by animal health and welfare regulations.
- It is highly dangerous especially on motorways and the drivers of these sulky cars have no fear of the Gardaí.

It was agreed we write to the Minister and Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said powers need to be increased with perhaps the seizure of the animal and the vehicle.

6. A.O.B

The following issues were raised by members under A.O.B.:

Garda Station Ballincollig

Cllr. Daithi O'Donnabhain would like to know why the cells at Ballincollig Garda Station are being taken out and turned into locker storage space at a cost to the tax payer.

The Chief Superintendent said this was an operational issue and could not be discussed at the Joint Policing Committee meeting.

GDPR

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy would like to discuss CCTV regarding the General Data Protection Regulations. It was agreed this topic is not in the remit of the Joint Policing Committee.

DATES FOR NEXT JPC MEETINGS

Monday 14th May – Council Chamber, Floor 3. – 2.30 pm

Monday 10th September – Floor 16 – 2.30pm

Monday 26th November – Vertigo, Floor 17 – 2.30pm

***This concluded the business of the meeting
Next meeting will be held on Monday 14th May 2018.***