

Cork County Council Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

13th January 2020

Floor 16, Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork

Present:

Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen Chair
Cllr. Sean O'Donovan Vice Chair
Cllr. Ted Lucey
Cllr. Kay Dawson
Cllr. Karen Coakley
Cllr. Joe Carroll
Cllr. Michael Looney
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy
Cllr. Kevin Murphy
Cllr. Frank Roche
Cllr. Ben D'Alton O'Sullivan
Cllr. Ian Doyle
Cllr. Aidan Lombard
Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien.

Apologies:

Cllr. Danielle Twomey

In Attendance:

Ms Claire Looney O'Sullivan, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services.
Ms Myra Heffernan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services.
Ms Tina Sheehan, Traveller Liaison Officer, Housing.

Mr Tim Lucey, Chief Executive.
Ms Mairead Lucey, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Senator Jerry Buttimer
Mr. John Kennedy, Foroige.
Mr. David Lane, Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.
Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan
Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin
Superintendent John Deasy

1. Approval of Minutes

- **Confirmation of the Minutes of JPC Meeting of 9 September 2019**
Proposed: Cllr. Kay Dawson
Seconded: Cllr. Sean O' Donovan
- **Confirmation of the Report of JPC Public Meeting 25 November 2019**
Proposed: Cllr. Joe Carroll
Seconded: Cllr. Gearóid Murphy

2. Welcome New Member

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and the new member, Ms. Tina Sheehan, Traveller Liaison Officer Cork County Council and also guest speakers Mr. David Lane and Mr. John Kennedy.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence

Members acknowledged email from Deputy Mattie McGrath regarding Sulky Bill 2018. Members were advised to contact their local TD's and request they support the adoption of the Bill.

5. Garda Statistical Report on Crime in Co. Cork

Chief Superintendent McPolin presented the Garda Statistical Report on Crime. The report showed an increase in property crime, theft from shops, interfering with a vehicle and drunkenness offences saw a considerable increase. The Superintendent urged property owners to make sure their vehicles are locked at night and that homes are made secure. He said the public should report any suspicious activity they see to the Gardaí through the Community Alert System. The proactive approach by Gardaí has resulted in the increase in detections of public order and drunkenness offences, reflecting the reduction in minor assaults, however there is concern with the increase in assaults causing harm linking them to the possible taking of alcohol and drugs.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent McPolin for the comprehensive report and the following points were raised:

- Major concern over people being able to source drugs in their locality.
- The availability of drugs is everywhere.
- Can the City and County Council come together and organise a task force to combat the drug problems and anti-social behaviour in our County.
- The junction at Castlewhite near the Viaduct is very dangerous and needs to be addressed.
- Would like to compliment the Chief Superintendent on the breakdown of divisions. Is there any reason for the increase in assaults?
- There is an increase in elderly abuse regarding fraud this should be addressed.

Chief Superintendent McPolin said the issue of drugs is a serious problem especially with the increase of drug driving. Gardaí will investigate every nature of crime if reported and it is important the public report any suspicious activities to the Gardaí.

The CE said the issue of safety of the Castlewhite Junction will be referred to the Roads SPC for discussion and the matter will also be referred to the Director of Roads to arrange for any accident statistics to be made available for the next JPC meeting in May.

The CE said Cork County Council have a very effective anti- social behaviour policy and tenant liaison officers in place.

6. Address by Mr. David Lane and Mr. John Kennedy

Mr. David Lane Co-ordinator of drug and alcohol services and Mr. John Kennedy Assistant Manager from Foroige told the meeting alcohol addiction is on the increase amongst young people and fewer younger people are getting involved in hard drugs. More education is needed in the home and all agencies need to work together to combat underage drinking and policing premises selling alcohol to the underage is vital.

Following a discussion Members made the following points:-

- Alcohol was cheaper in Supermarkets before Christmas than it was ten years ago.
- Concerns about Retailers selling alcohol so cheap.
- Supermarkets are selling alcohol cheaper than what publicans can buy it for.
- Drugs have taken over West Cork. It is important that schools are visited and school children are educated on the danger of Drink.
- People are openly dealing in drugs it is very worrying we need to tackle it from every angle.
- Drugs are being sold and are readily available in every town and village, people are afraid to report it. We have a crisis.
- More resources are needed. It is a national problem. We need to come up with a plan to deal with it.

Chief Superintendent Cadogan said drugs are cash driven and communities should inform the Gardaí of any drug dealing they witness. There is a confidential phone number to report such crimes and the source will never be revealed. Education is very important and the Gardaí work very closely with all other organisations. There has been an increase in drug searches; it is a huge challenge for all involved as it is an international problem.

Cllr. Rasmussen thanked Mr. Lane and Mr. Kennedy for addressing the meeting and thanked all who got involved in the discussion.

7. Issues Arising/Notices of Motion

Councillor Cathal Rasmussen

"That this meeting would seek a report from an Garda Síochána on the issue of underage drinking and drug abuse amongst our young people and to see what plans and resources are in place for dealing with this crisis sweeping through our County".

Cllr. Rasmussen was happy that his notice of motion was covered by the briefing on drug and alcohol services by Mr. Lane, Mr. Kennedy and the Chief Superintendent.

8. A.O.B

Cllr. Rasmussen said it is important that Members submit Notices of Motion to the Joint Policing Committee for future meetings.

Votes of Sympathy

- TO: The wife and family of the late Dan Crowley, Chief Veterinary Officer, Cork County Council
- TO: Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan on the death of his father, Denis

***This concluded the business of the meeting
Next meeting Monday 11th May 2020***