



## Cork County Council Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Floor 2, Council Chamber, Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork

### Present:

Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen Chair  
Cllr. Kay Dawson  
Cllr. Joe Carroll  
Cllr. Karen Coakley  
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy  
Cllr. Ted Lucey  
Cllr. Danielle Twomey  
Cllr. Kevin Murphy  
Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien  
Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Ian Doyle  
Cllr. Frank Roche  
Cllr. Michael Looney

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan  
Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin  
Chief Superintendent Thomas Myers

### Apologies:

Deputy Sean Sherlock TD  
Deputy Thomas Gould TD

### In Attendance:

Ms Claire Looney O'Sullivan,  
Administrative Officer, Corporate Services  
Ms Myra Heffernan,  
Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

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

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan TD  
Deputy Michael Moynihan TD  
Deputy Padraig O'Sullivan TD

## 1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Proposed:** Cllr. Karen Coakley

**Seconded:** Cllr. Gearóid Murphy

### Approval of JPC Annual Report 2019

**Proposed:** Cllr. Ian Doyle

**Seconded:** Cllr. Michael Looney

The chair of the JPC meeting Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen welcomed everyone to the meeting giving a special welcome to the new members Deputy Michael Moynihan, Deputy Aindrias Moynihan and Deputy Padraig O'Sullivan.



## 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 3. Garda Statistical Report on Crime in Co. Cork

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan presented the Garda Statistical Report on Crime from January 2020 to August 2020. The report showed crime figures for the last eight months have shown sharp decreases in many types of crime, but also highlight a rise in domestic violence, dog thefts, possession of drugs, and theft of bicycles. The Chief Superintendent said there was a significant increase in inspections and many checkpoints and patrols were in operation during Covid lockdown. Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin said drugs had been seized at garda checkpoints and several people had been arrested while they were moving them on public transport.

Following a discussion Members made the following points: -

- Domestic violence is on the increase and this doesn't seem to reflect in the figures, Gardaí need to be in a position to access people to make sure they are safe.
- Are there any special measures taken in the past six months to combat drugs?
- The theft of dog is commonplace, are the Gardaí proactive with this issue.
- Is there a major reduction in the Gardaí and are they being replaced?
- What specific crimes were most common during Covid

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin told members every domestic reported incident is investigated and each of the three units have now set up protective services units and they are working with communities and organisations and other support groups. Regarding the measures taken to combat drugs there were more Gardaí operating twelve-hour shifts and there was a significant increase in inspections. Gardaí engaged, explained and encouraged communities to report incidents to An Garda Síochána.

Gardaí are aware of the increase in the theft of dogs and advise people if they are purchasing dogs to buy from a reputable breeder and ask for papers. On the bright side Gardaí have recovered a significant number of dogs and they were reunited with their owners. Some members said a dog licence should not be issued unless the dog is microchipped.

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan told members it is part of their business plan to retain the new recruits they welcomed to the force during Covid.

Fraud and online investment scams are crimes that have also increased during Covid.

#### 4. Issues Arising/Notices of Motion

*Deputy Aindrias Moynihan*

“That a report would be provided outlining the number of occasions the Gardai in each Cork division visited licenced premises, restaurants and any gatherings, arising from covid compliance, the outcome of these visits and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan thanked the Chief Superintendent for the report and presentation and was happy that his notice of motion was covered in the report, he was pleased to know that Gardaí were investigating more pubs to see that publicans are adhering to the rules and regulations set out by Government. Deputy Moynihan asked the following questions: -

- Any indications of what the Gardaí are finding.
- Are the Gardaí revisiting non-compliant premises.

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan told members under Operation Navigation An Garda Síochána continue to ensure that licensed premises in their area are operation in accordance with The Health Act. There were over nine thousand inspections carried out in Country areas with additional patrols and checkpoints. The Chief Superintendent thanked the public saying many communities are working with the Gardaí and are acting in a very responsible way. In one area of Cork West the possession of drugs for personal use decreased from Jan – August 2020. Gardaí believe the reason for this was many festivals were cancelled during the Covid 19 restrictions.

*Cllr. Ian Doyle*

“That Cork County Council together with Dept of Justice and Law Reform would give an update on the position on CCTV Camera rollout in Cork County. This I feel is vital to progress in order to maintain helpful policing in our County Towns”.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ian Doyle and seconded by Cllr. Ben D’Alton O’Sullivan.

The Chief Executive Mr. Tim Lucey told the meeting that having Cork County Council take control of CCTV systems in the County would be financially problematic. There are currently fifteen CCTV systems installed in towns in County Cork and another seven proposed. The CE said to bring all the CCTV systems into one uniform system it would cost €500,000 in capital costs and for Cork County Council to monitor and respond to requests for footage it would cost €350,000 per annum.

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said CCTV is invaluable to the Gardaí in terms of deterring and detecting crime.



*Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan*

“That this Joint Policing Committee would agree to write to the Minister for Justice and Garda Commissioner requesting an increase in Garda Resources and Personnel for the Togher District, in particular, the Carrigaline area”.

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin told the meeting there were 116 Gardaí in the Togher District in December 2019 and today there are 122. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 there were 18 Gardaí in Carrigaline and there are 23 Gardaí now. The Chief Superintendent said he hopes additional community policing Gardaí will also be allocated there before the end of the year.

Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan asked if the Chief Superintendent thought that was enough Gardaí for such a big area. The Chief Superintendent said Carrigaline is not the only area looking for extra staff and An Garda Síochána need to get the balance right. Togher Garda Station is opened 24/7 and people living in Carrigaline can go to Togher Garda Station for signing of passports etc when the Carrigaline Garda Station is closed.

The chair of the JPC Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen will write to Minister McEntee with the request.

*Cllr. Frank Roche*

“Given that elder abuse and financial abuse are of growing concern and problem in Ireland, in particular, rural Ireland, we are collectively asking that this JPC write to the Minister requesting urgent legislation to tackle this issue.”.

Members supported the motion proposed by Cllr. Frank Roche and said the motion needs to be prioritised, it is important our elderly and most vulnerable in our society are looked after. The Community Guards are fantastic, but more Gardaí need to be trained to bring families together. Many elderly victims are terrified to report their abuse.

The Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan told members if an official complaint is made it will be investigated, some of the elder and financial abuse come under the Domestic Violence Act. An Garda Síochána sometimes have to utilise different legislation to cover such abuse.

## **5. A.O.B**

### **Ballinspittle Road Improvement**

Cllr. Kevin Murphy said the wall surrounding the Garda Station in Ballinspittle should be removed to allow for road improvements.

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said permission was given to remove the wall as it would also make the entrance to the Garda Station safer.



### **Lights on Bicycles**

Some members suggested it should be made compulsory that cyclist should have a red flashing lights on the rear of their bicycle as is required in other Countries. The Chief Superintendent said in Ireland there is no law stating cyclist must have one.

### **Garda Vetting**

Cllr. Karen Coakley asked was Garda vetting required for a person working in a Charity Shop next door to a creche. Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said if the Charity Shop didn't seek Garda Vetting for the person working, there was no obligation on the person to obtain it. Under the National Vetting Bureau Acts all people undertaken relevant work with children and vulnerable adults need to be vetted by the Garda National Vetting Bureau.

### **Bogus Tradesmen**

It has been reported that bogus tradesmen are calling on vulnerable people in country areas looking to do work for them. The Chief Superintendent said the Gardaí encourage communities to use Text Alerts and report anyone suspicious in their area.

### **Road Accidents**

Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan said it takes a significant amount of time to investigate fatal road accidents, it is a major challenge and investigations must be done in daylight.

### **Retirement of Superintendent Michael Maguire**

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin told the meeting Superintendent Michael Maguire is retiring from An Garda Síochána and acknowledged the great work Superintendent Maguire did for the Cork area. He stated Superintendent Maguire will be a huge loss to An Garda Síochána. The Chair of JPC Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen said all members would like to be associated with the wholehearted sentiments expressed by Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin.

*This concluded the business of the meeting  
Next meeting Public Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020*