

COMHAIRLE CHONTE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Galway County Joint Policing Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway on Monday, 13th Sept, 2021 via MS Teams

I LATHAIR:

Council Members: Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Cllr. Michael Maher
Cllr. James Charity
Cllr. Joe Byrne
Cllr. Karey Farag McHugh
Cllr. Andrew Reddington
Cllr. Liam Carroll
Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire
Cllr. Colm Keaveney
Cllr. Dáithí Ó Cualain

Deputies: Deputy Catherine Connolly

An Garda Síochána:

Supt. Damien O'Flannachain
Insp. Declan Rocke
Insp. Georgina Lohan
Sgt. Sinead Cunniffe
Supt. Karen Maloney

Community Reps: Mr. Aodán MacDonncha
Mr. Martin Ward
Mr. Pat Flanagan
Mr. Gerard Costello
Mr. Thomas Madden

Oifigigh: Ms. Valerie Loughnane, A/Director of Service
Ms. Ita Martyn, Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services.

Other Officials: Ms. Una Ní Eidhin, Corporate Services.
Ms. Noreen Moughty, Corporate Services.

Apologies: Cllr. Pádraig Mac An Iomaire

Cllr. Cuddy welcomed all to the JPC virtual meeting.

Item No. 1 – Minutes of the JPC Meeting held on 17th May, 2021:

On the proposal of Cllr. Hoade and seconded by Cllr. O’Cualáin, it was agreed the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th May, 2021 be adopted.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr. O’Cualáin queried the staffing levels in the Carraroe Garda Station..

Report from An Garda Síochána

Supt. Maloney outlined the Garda Report for the period January to August 2021 in comparison to the same period in 2020. She also gave a breakdown of figures in accordance with the different fraud types. She said there were 316 incidents of fraud for the period.

Sgt. Walsh in relation to Cyber Crime informed the Meeting that the Garda Station phone numbers were being copied and calls were being received from bogus callers and bogus Text messages were being sent from DHL number. He advised that he would be giving Crime Prevention talks at Community Alert Meetings.

Cllr. Charity queried the number of breaches of orders that were prosecuted through the Courts.

Cllr. Carroll queried the issue of bogus texts from DHL and how to prevent same.

Sgt. Walsh replied that it was very difficult as with Pay as You Go phones no proof or security.

He told the meeting that since the Cyber attack on the HSE that Cyber Crime has increased dramatically and Gardai presence is less visible on the street as investigating Cyber Crime is a huge issue.

Ms. Hoade thanked Sgt. Walsh and said she had received a lot of complaints in relation to Cyber Crime and she advised that a press release should issue advising people of the dangers.

She said that six fatalities was concerning and she advised that a promotion of road safety for pedestrians and cyclists should be carried out.

Cllr. McHugh stated that Service Providers of mobile phones should provide security.

Supt. Moloney advised that public order offences were down by 8% to 170 incidents.

In relation to bogus Text messages and bogus callers she said that Sgt. Walsh had given good advice on prevention of the crime.

Supt. Moloney in response to Cllr. Charity said that there were 64 breaches of barring-orders and safety orders and they all lead to prosecutions.

Cllr. Roche highlighted the problem of drugs in rural towns.

Supt. Moloney advised that drugs for sale or supply was down 21% and Possession was down 46%.

Cllr. Ó Cualáin queried the low number of drugs detections and if there were staffing issues in the Drugs Unit.

In response to Cllr Ó Cualáin she insisted that there was no reduction in staffing issues in the Drugs Unit which could have accounted for the reduction in drugs detections.

Supt. Moloney in relation to traffic fatalities said that travelling the wrong way on the Motorway would be investigated.

Update Sub-Committees

Cllr. Maher thanked the Gardai for update.

He advised that clarity should be sought regarding the use of CCTV footage for illegal dumping under Section 38.

He advised that 12 projects will proceed this year in relation to waste management and the Bye-Laws must be adhered to. He suggested that Bill Boards with contact numbers be erected at each MD.

Cllr. Roche said that Ms. Dolan has indicated that €128,000 funding was available to tackle illegal dumping and he suggested a Plan of Action be put in place. He thanked the Environment Section for their efforts and the Gardai for their support.

Mr. Larkin concurred with Cllr. Roche and he said that there are many Voluntary Groups involved in litter-pick ups and he welcomed the funding but he advised that it would be more

beneficial if the level of funding was on a more permanent basis. He said he was concerned with the level of dumping on country roads and he acknowledged the work of the Committees.

Cllr. Roche suggested contacting the Data Commissioner to expedite the decision on the use of CCTV cameras for illegal dumping.

Cllr. Carroll said that legislation is going through the Dail

Cllr. Maher suggested that the Oireachtas Members should be contacted to support it.

Update Education & Awareness

Cllr. King thanked the Gardai in their response to parking issues on the Coastline.

He wished Peadar Ryan well on his retirement and he thanked Ms. Caulfield for her assistance.

Cllr. King advised that Community Response Forum have road safety awareness messages

Check your Tyres Day Lock it/Loose it.

He advised that a safety programme will issue for Walking/Cycling on roads for winter. High Visibility Vests/Armbands, Helmets etc. and he said that Ms. Caulfield will be organising Engagement Days and Schools Programmes./ Events.

Cllr. Cualain thanked Cllr.King for his update and he added that hedgecutting along roads in the Connemara area was a huge issue as there were no footpaths for pedestrians.

Cllr Carroll raised the issue of 'One Punch' incidents that has become increasingly common in public order offences. He said that young people need to be aware of the consequences of such actions and a message should go out advising that if convicted they will have a criminal record which will affect their careers and travel.

Cllr. Roche told the meeting of the prevalence of drugs in the community and he suggested that pubs and business owners should have some responsibility regarding the use of drugs in their premises.

Cllr. Cuddy said there should be more education in schools regarding drugs and the consequences and parents need to take responsibility.

Sgt. Walsh replied that a Bike week was being organised and a campus watch programme had been set up in the Universities and Colleges to combat drugs and sexual assault.

Cllr. Cuddy raised the issues of parking in disabled parking spaces and speeding on the Monivea Rd and the Athenry Rd. near Laffeys.

Cllr. Herterich said there was a commitment in relation to the parking bays. She advised that the Gardai were issuing tickets and the bays were had been painted blue.

She added that there was a difficulty in locating a speeding van on the Athenry Rd near Laffeys cross as the road was too narrow and she was working with the Gardai in relation to the speeding.

Cllr. Reddington questioned progress regarding the thefts of boat engines on boats along the Corrib.

Sgt. Walsh replied that the Gardai had acquired a property marking machine which would help to deter thefts of boat engines. He agreed on the roll-out of an information campaign including meetings with angling clubs along the Corrib to advise on protection of properties including boat engines.

Cllr. Hoade informed that the local GAA club in Headford had also been targeted.

Cllr. Ó Cualáin raised the issue of staffing of Garda stations in An Cheathru Rua he said that there was just three Gardai a 50% drop compared with last year. He said that the gardai in Lettermore were being deployed to Salthill Station leaving the Gaeltacht area exposed.

He said that speed restrictions are necessary at Scoil Salerno, Inverin as a lot of children are walking to school.

Supt. Maloney replied that the resources at Carraroe Garda Station are being reviewed.

She advised that regarding Lettermore Garda Station there was a 24hr service available and it may not be the local station.

Regarding safety at Scoil Salerno she said there was a plan in progress.

Cllr. Cualáin replied that he appreciated there was a 24hr service in Lettermore but he was concerned regarding the 1hr distance to Salthill Garda Station.

Supt. Moloney responded that the matter would be brought to the Chief Superintendent.

Cllr. King requested an update on the Garda situation in Recess and Letterfrack.

Supt. Moloney replied that there was 1 Garda in Letterfrack Station and she had no update on Recess.

Mr. Larkin wished to congratulate the Galway Camogie Team on winning the All-Ireland Title.

He said that the Chairman should write a letter of Congratulations to the Secretary of the Camogie Club on behalf of the Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr. Cuddy replied that the Meetings Administrator would write to the Camogie Club.

Cllr Cuddy thanked the Gardai for their great work during Covid.

The next meeting of the JPC is a Public Meeting and it will be held on the 8th November, 2021
It will be held in the Oranmore/Athenry Municipal Area.

