

**COMHAIRLE CHONTE NA GAILLIMHE**

**Minutes of the Galway County Joint Policing Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae,  
Prospect Hill, Galway on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

***I LATHAIR:***

***Council Members:*** Cllr. Peter Roche (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Mary Hoade  
Cllr. Michael Maher  
Cllr. Frank Kearney  
Cllr. Eileen Mannion  
Comh. Seosamh O’Cualain  
Cllr. Noel Thomas  
Cllr. Michael Connolly  
Cllr. Tom Healy  
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe

***Deputies:*** Deputy Catherine Connolly

***An Garda Síochána:*** Chief Supt. Thomás Curley  
Supt. Damien Ó’Flannacháin  
Supt. Finbarr Philpott  
Insp. Declan Roche  
Sgt. Peter Conlon

***Community Reps:*** Mr. Gerard Larkin  
Mr. Aodán MacDonncha  
Mr. Gerard Costello

***Oifigigh:*** Mr. Alan Farrell, A/Director of Service  
Ms. Marian Donohue, Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services.

***Apologies:*** Deputy Noel Grealish  
Deputy Anne Rabbitte  
Cllr. Joe Byrne  
Cllr. Aidan Donohue  
Cllr. Malachy Noone  
Cllr. Donagh Killilea  
Cllr. James Charity  
Mr. Pat Flanagan  
Mr. Tom Madden  
Ms. Cathy Ni Ghoill

## **Introduction and Welcome by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Peter Roche**

Cllr. Peter Roche, Cathaoirleach of the JPC, opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance and advised this meeting would be the last meeting under the current Council membership.

## **Condolences / Congratulations**

The Cathaoirleach extended his condolences to the family, neighbours and friends of the late Cllr. Michael Fahy who was a long serving Elected Member of Galway County Council and whom was previously a member of the County JPC Committee.

Tributes were expressed by Cllr. Hoade, Cllr. Kearney, Cllr. Connolly and Cllr. Cunniffe who concurred that the late Cllr. Fahy gave loyal service to his constituency. It was expressed that Cllr. Fahy had served the people of the County of Galway with distinction and always made a unique and genuine contribution in the Council Chamber at plenary meetings.

Chief Supt. T. Curley said he was saddened by Cllr. Fahys passing and said while Cllr. Fahy RIP could add humour to a meeting, he and worked hard for his constituents from his village of Ardrahan and his county. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.*

A Minutes silence was observed.

Cllr. Kearney congratulated Cllr. James Charity on his marriage to Fiona and wished them many happy years together.

## **Item No. 1 – Minutes of the JPC Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019:**

On the proposal of Comh. Seosamh O’Cualain, seconded by Mr. Aodán MacDonncha, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be adopted.

### ***Matters arising from the Minutes:***

#### **Control of Deer**

In reply to Mr. Larkin’s query re response to letters issued to the NPWS, the RSA, and the Dept. of Agriculture, regarding the Health & Safety risk posed by roaming deer which was discussed at the previous JPC meeting, Ms. Donohue read the responses received from the RSA and the NPWS. She suggested that the Education & Awareness Sub Committee consider the RSA’s suggestion, as an Action of the Sub Committee, which was that the Road Safety Officer in Galway contact the Road Safety Officer in Mayo with a view to extending the RSA’s ‘Deer Aware’ campaign in Galway and the RSA would promote it for Galway through their channels. She further advised that the RSA stated their Communications Department would prepare a news article highlighting the risk posed by deer on roads for publication in the National Press.

Mr. Larkin proposed that a further letter issue to the NPWS and the Dept. Of Agriculture seeking a reply on their culling Programme for deer. This was agreed. Cllr. Connolly said deer numbers need to be controlled as they were an extremely dangerous animal on the roads and were carriers of ticks that carry Lyme disease.

### **Garda Resources**

Cllr. Hoade raised concerns regarding future Garda resources in rural areas.

In reply, Chief Supt. Curley advised that positions within the sub-districts of Corofin and Ardahan would be filled in the coming weeks. He added that it was intended that positions in Kiltormer and Kilconnell would be filled where there was currently no Gardaí stationed.

Chief Supt. Curley advised there were two vacancies in An Cheathrú Rua and one in Leitir Mór but explained that Gardaí with a high level of Irish would be required to fill these positions and any positions at Rosmuc, An Spidéal, and Indreabhán. In reply to Deputy Connolly, Chief Supt. Curley said a Garda recruitment campaign for recruits with sufficient Irish was ongoing to address the Irish language deficit within the Garda force. In response to Cllr. Kearney, he said there was no finance available to provide a residential Garda in Loughgeorge.

Chief Supt. Curley advised a new divisional policing model was being piloted in Galway which would see more community engagement. He explained the Commissioner would decide on how the new Divisional model would be rolled out and implemented nationally. He explained there would be four community engagement hubs with Community Engagement Superintendents assigned as follows: in Galway; Tuam & Ballinasloe; Salthill & Clifden and Loughrea, with two other Superintendents in the Regional HQ in Galway – one in Governance and one in Serious Crime.

Chief Supt. Curley said the new model would improve services to the public and provide a greater presence of Gardaí on the ground rather than undertaking administration roles. He said that Gort, Tuam, Clifden and Ballinasloe would also be allocated an Inspector for the area. He outlined that a separate Superintendent/Inspector would also be appointed with responsibility for Community Engagement, Serious Crime, Protected Services, Governance and Strategic Policing, and a General Administration/HR/Logistics Hub within the Galway HQ in Murrrough.

### **Item No. 2 – Update from the Joint Sub Committee Meeting held:**

Cllr. Peter Roche, Cathaoirleach of the JPC, said the joint Sub Committees meeting held was worthwhile with considerable engagement and discussion.

He explained that the purpose of the Joint Sub Committees Meeting was to:

- Identify if the Sub Committees, as was currently established, were working well;
- What actions by the Sub Committees should be prioritised into the future;
- Consider any duplication/overlap between Sub Committees;
- Identify 2 key priorities for the year / future.

He outlined that the main outcome of the joint-meeting was the priority to meet with the CE and DOS Environment to discuss resources.

The Chair of the Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Sub Committee, Cllr. Mary Hoade, advised the Meeting of the issues raised for consideration by the new Joint Policing Committee as follows:

- Resources – human and financial – Environmental Enforcement & Housing CCTV area.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – help areas/estates deal with it.
- GDPR – posing a challenge re camera and identification of illegal dumpers.
- Control of Horses – This was a very important Health & Safety Issue. It was understood that a Steering Group had been set up between Galway Co Co, Galway City Co, Dept. of Agriculture, and An Garda Síochána.
- New Areas to consider for new JPC Committee post elections:
  - ⇒ Cyber Fraud Crime (Education & Awareness Sub Committee)
  - ⇒ Rural Crime (Crime Prevention & Personal Safety Sub Committee)
- Some cross over between Sub Committees - Reconsider JPC Sub Committee formation – Consideration to reduce from 3 to 2 Sub Committees -
  1. Education & Awareness Sub Committee and
  2. Combine the Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness and Crime Prevention & Personal Safety.

The Chair of the Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub Committee, Cllr. Michael Maher, Chair expressed his concern that despite the ongoing efforts made by the Illegal Dumping and Litter Awareness Committee, it was very disheartening to still see so much illegal dumping being carried out. He said GDPR was also posing difficulties regarding the obtaining of CCTV footage.

Cllr. Cunniffe concurred and praised the work undertaken by all but said a new approach needed to be sought. Mr. MacDonncha said education around littering, funding and cleanups needed to be continued but said it would take time. Cllr. Roche agreed that education was vital but GDPR needed to be re-examined nationally as it was posing difficulties.

Mr. Farrell, A/Director of Services, acknowledged the work undertaken by each of the Sub Committees and welcomed recommendations on how the newly formed Committees, post-local elections, could be formed. In response to GDPR concerns, he said one needed to take cognisance of the legislation which required careful consideration with proper systems and protocols to be put in place. With regard to Community Based CCTV, he said the Council needed to work with An Garda Síochána on how best this could be addressed whilst being compliant with legislation. He thanked the JPC Committee Members, An Garda Síochána and the staff of Galway County Council who have facilitated both the JPC and the Sub Committees over the past 5 years.

### **Item No. 3 – Report from An Garda Síochána:**

Chief Supt. Tom Curley outlined the Garda Report for the period 1st January 2019 to 31st March 2019, in comparison to the same period in 2018. Chief Supt. Tom Curley said the stats provided were received from the regional analysts with data entry and data quality being continuously monitored to ensure a high level of accuracy.

Cllr. Maher expressed concern regarding theft from MPVs and said people must ensure equipment in vans was insured.

In reply to Deputy Connolly, Chief Supt. Curley advised the meeting that the new Protected Services Unit in place was staffed with two Detective Sergeants and ten Detective Gardaí but the staffing of this Unit would be continuously monitored with succession planning considered to ensure it was adequately staffed.

In reply to Cllr. Cunniffe, Chief Supt. Curley advised that in the County, the Gardaí had powers of seizure of alcohol, under the Public Order Act. He said the Gardaí work with Schools to provide educational awareness around underage drinking and its effect. He expressed huge concern regarding the worrying high level of cocaine use in the County which was very alarming.

In reply to Cllr. Kearney, Chief Supt. Curley explained that under legislation, under the enforcement of road traffic accidents, the Gardaí can carry out random testing and

checkpoints 24 hours a day/7 days a week. He advised, however, that not all checkpoints carry out drug testing as a separate set of equipment was required.

In response to Cllr. Healy, Chief Supt. Curley said the detection of heroin posed difficulties.

Following a suggestion from Cllr. Healy, Chief Supt. Curley said that the road figures could be broken into speeding, seatbelts and use of mobile phones figures.

The Chair, Cllr. Roche, commended the Community Alert Schemes and said it was vital people were vigilant and report any unusual activity and post on social media.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Hoade, SECONDED by Cllr. Kearney, it was agreed that the Standing Orders be suspended.

### **Item No. 7 – Any Other Business**

Cllr. Healy complimented the organizers and An Garda Síochána on the organization and running of the Connemarathon at the weekend.

In reply to Cllr. Healy's query regarding the speed of HGVs through Clonbur, Chief Supt. Curley said local issues should be raised with the local Superintendent/Inspector for the area but confirmed that following the public JPC meeting held in Maam in 2017, a traffic unit was set up in the area for a period time and tickets issued.

Cllr. Maher raised the issue of non-attendance at JPC Meetings by Oireachtas Members and said this should be addressed when the new County JPC Committee was formed post local elections. The Chair concurred as said their attendance was vital to relay information back to the Government.

The Chair expressed his good wishes on behalf of the JPC Committee to Cllr. Frank Kearney and to his family on his retirement from the Council, and thanked him for his positive contributions to the JPC and his impeccable attendance.

The Chair expressed his good wishes on behalf of the JPC Committee to Comh. Seosamh Ó'Cualain and to his family on his retirement from the Council and thanked him for being a sterling servant to the JPC and for the input he gave to it.

The Chair congratulated Sgt. Peter Conlon on his upcoming promotion to Inspector and to Supt. Damien Ó'Flannacháin on his new role in the Loughrea Sub district and welcomed Supt. Finbarr Philpott on his appointment to Tuam and wished Supt. Sean Glynn well in his new Governance role.

Mr. Farrell acknowledged the role of the JPC to the working operations of the Council and acknowledged the role played by the Elected Members. He explained this was the last JPC meeting to be held prior to the local elections in May and said a new JPC Committee would be formed following the local elections. He noted the motion passed at the last JPC meeting that the Community & Voluntary members remain with any vacancies to be filled by the PPN.

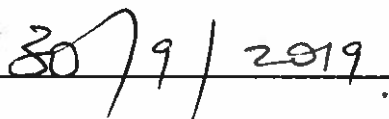
Mr. Farrell thanked Chief Supt. Curley and his team and congratulated Sgt. Peter Conlon in his promotion and thanked him for his stalwart support to the JPC Committee. He said he would take on board the learnings for the new committee.

**CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**Cathaoirleach County Galway Joint Policing Committee**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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