

**COMHAIRLE CHONTE NA GAILLIMHE**

**Minutes of the Galway County Joint Policing Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae,  
Prospect Hill, Galway on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

***I LATHAIR:***

***Council Members:*** Cllr. Peter Roche (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Malachy Noone  
Cllr. Michael Connolly  
Cllr. Aidan Donohue  
Comh. Seosamh O’Cualain  
Cllr. Tom Healy  
Cllr. Noel Thomas  
Cllr. Joe Byrne  
Cllr. Mary Hoade  
Cllr. Frank Kearney

***Deputies:*** Deputy Anne Rabbitte  
Deputy Catherine Connolly

***An Garda Síochána:*** Supt. Seán Glynn deputising for Chief Supt. Tomás Curley  
Garda Stephanie Moylan

***Community Reps:*** Mr. Aodán MacDonncha

***Oifigigh:*** Mr. Alan Farrell, A/Director of Services, Economic Rural & Community  
Development and Corporate Services.  
Ms. Marian Donohue, Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services.

***Apologies:*** Chief Supt. Thomás Curley  
Sgt. Peter Conlon  
Supt. Ernie Whyte  
Dep. Noel Grealish  
Cllr. Eileen Mannion  
Cllr. Michael Maher  
Cllr. James Charity  
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe  
Cllr. Donagh Killilea  
Mr. Gerard Costello  
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 the members from An Garda Síochána, Oireachtas members Ms. Anne Rabbitte TD and Ms. Catherine Connolly TD, Galway County Council Elected Members, Galway County Council officials, community representative and the members of the press who inform the public of the meetings business, and acknowledged the apologies received.

Comh. Ó Cualáin PROPOSED that a Resolution of Sympathy be extended to the family of the late Garda Shane Cuffe. He said it was a huge shock and loss to his family and to the Garda community. Cllr. Thomas SECONDED the Proposal. Cllr. Healy concurred with the Proposal and expressed his sympathy to the Cuffe family.

Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Service, on behalf of the Executive, expressed his condolences to the family of the late Garda Shane Cuffe, his colleagues and friends and said he empathised on the sadness and difficulty on losing a colleague.

Supt. Glynn, on behalf of An Garda Síochána, thanked the committee for their condolences and expressed his sympathies to the family on the sudden and untimely loss to their family and said that the late Garda Shane Cuffe was an exemplary Garda and one of the most inoffensive persons one could meet, RIP.

### **Item No. 1 – Minutes of the JPC Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018:**

On the proposal of Cllr. Kearney, seconded by Cllr. Healy, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th February 2018 be adopted.

#### **Illegal Dumping:**

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Donohue referred to the grant funding of €22,750 that had been made available to Galway County Council to undertake clean ups in 2017 and the expected funding to be received in 2018. He said while any funding to assist with clean ups was welcomed, litter and illegal dumping was a huge issue across the county and, in his opinion, clean-ups was not the best course of action to deal with this huge problem.

Cllr. Donohue expressed concern that that the detection rate of illegal dumpers and enforcement was too low. He made reference to the re-occupation of vacant houses in recent times and while welcomed, he said that many of the occupiers, be it residents or short-term renters, may not have waste bins. He said it was his understanding that, under Pay By Weight initiative, if there was a wheelie bin service within 100m of one's house then householders must avail of the service. He added, however, that in rural areas this may not be an option and he recommended the re-introduction of 'household waste collection bags' which could be purchased by householders to dispose of waste to a registered collector.

Cllr. Donohue made reference to Galway City Council's initiative where in exceptional circumstances, as set out in the criteria from the Department of Environment, one can apply for a Household bag waste collection/ wheelie bin exemption which is available in exceptional

circumstances and asked if the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and /or Galway County Council could consider offering this service in the county.

Cllr. Healy queried the creation of a database of users which could be used to track non-payers of waste and asked if this was yet implemented.

Cllr. Hoade agreed that large costs were incurred to undertake clean-ups and made reference to the large clean-up of the N84 but said people were again emptying trailer loads on the road. She said that illegal dumpers must be named and shamed and brought before the courts.

Cllr. Hoade referred also to the problem of bogus collectors who have no permit or licence and are taking payment from householders but then illegally disposing of the rubbish. She said that householders should not give their waste to a Waste Collector who does not have a permit. She said the illegal dumping was occurring on main public roads and serious action must be taken.

Cllr. Byrne referred to his motion proposed at the February 2018 Plenary Council Meeting where the Motion required that a connection be made between the Local Property Tax and their registered waste collection payment confirmation, so when a householder goes to pay their Local Property Tax, they must produce payment confirmation for waste collection from a registered waste provider.

Cllr. Noone referred to the proposed increase in household waste charges. He said that householders cannot afford these large charges and, therefore, resort to the cheaper option of disposing of waste with an unlicensed waste collector or burning the waste themselves. He suggested that perhaps that households be supplied with bins free of charge and only pay for waste and be encouraged to recycle to keep waste levels low.

Cllr. Noone explained that it was extremely hard to change the mindset of people not to illegally dump if the Council continues to clean up areas. He referred to the huge additional amount of plastic wrapping and packaging on food.

Cllr. Kearney commended the initiative undertaken recently in Kinvara – Kinvara Plastic Free Challenge – where the people aimed to reduce the huge volume of plastic packaging that goes to waste. He explained that local businesses backed the campaign by providing in-store recycling points for packaging and said that the huge effort made over the week should be replicated and taken on board by other towns and supermarkets. He said that incentives should be provided to businesses and shops to dispose of the plastic left by shoppers.

Deputy Rabbitte referred to the waste disposed of in bogs and roadsides and said it was not always householders, who pay their local property tax, that illegally dispose of waste. She commended the Community Wardens on the role they play but said additional resources are required to support the environmental enforcement staff.

Deputy Connolly referred to the N84 and said that the dumping increased when the waste recycling facility, located next to the former landfill area, on the Headford Road was privatised. She said the Council had a civic and environmental responsibility to sort this problem. She said the issue of remediation of landfills had been debated at the Committee

for Public Accounts of which there are approx. 70 legacy landfill sites that require remediation works.

Cllr. Roche acknowledged the investment by the Department and the Council in the identification and clean-up of litter blackspots and said progress had been made in many areas as a result of this funding. He said there will always be serial prolific dumpers so an appropriate mechanism was required to dispose of waste. He said that many financial burdened households cannot afford the large waste collection fees and will dispose of their waste by whatever means.

Cllr. Roche said while the Kinvara initiative was inspiring and should be replicated, he expressed concern over the wide scale dumping on roadsides and bogs which did not consist of 'clean rubbish' such as plastic but black bags of ashes, nappies, tins, cans etc. and said these people have no regard for the community. He explained that while the Illegal Dumping and Litter Awareness Sub Committee of the JPC had undertaken work to alleviate the problem, it still had a long way to go. He added that appropriate funding is needed and a large financial injection would be required from the Department. He thanked the Oireachtas Deputies on the Joint Policing Committee who highlight and relay the Council's and the JPC's issues to the Oireachtas forum.

In reply to Comh. O'Cualáin, Ms. Dolan, Environment Section, said there may be a Health & Safety risk, with regard to insurance and training, for large scale clean-ups of dumping blackspots but that the Council – Environment Awareness Section - do provide bags, gloves, picks to community groups for small scale clean-ups.

Cllr. Thomas said there was two types of illegal dumpers; 1. Uneducated dumping where persons traveling in vehicles throw litter out the windows etc and he recommended education initiatives in schools and more public awareness around same and 2. Serial dumpers. He expressed concern that the penalty for dumping is not high enough and illegal dumpers need to be properly punished. He added that a large fine should be payable and if not paid, that if the person is in receipt of social welfare, then their social welfare payment should be terminated until the fine is paid.

Cllr. Roche said that in respect of fines, he welcomed the new recognition of support from the judiciary in respect of illegal dumping penalties.

#### Oireachtas membership:

Arising from the Minutes, Mr. Farrell said following concern raised at the last meeting regarding the non-attendance of Oireachtas members at JPC Meetings, contact was made with the Oireachtas members sitting on the Committee. He said that Minister Ciarán Cannon TD, Minister of State for Diaspora and International Development, was no longer in a position to remain on the Committee but had confirmed he could be contacted if there was any issue that the Committee required assistance or highlighting and he would be happy to help.

Mr. Farrell said that Deputy Grealish had confirmed his involvement on the Committee and had recently attended the Illegal Dumping and Litter Awareness Sub Committee meeting of the JPC.

Mr. Farrell said that the Community and Voluntary representatives would be reviewed also via the PPN network.

Mr. Farrell thanked the recently retired Sgt. Pat Flanagan, Crime Prevention Officer, for his contribution to the Sub Committees of the JPC that he was a member of and also the overall JPC Committee. He said that he was always extremely and was interested in the Committee being one that could achieve actions for the betterment of the community.

Cllr. Joe Byrne thanked Dep. Rabbitte for her excellent contribution to the JPC Committee and wished former senator Trevor O'Clochartaigh for his input over the years.

Cllr. Healy concurred with the good wishes to former senator Trevor O'Clochartaigh. Cllr. Healy PROPOSED that a letter of thanks be extended to Mr. O'Clochartaigh from the JPC Committee thanking him for his input and support to the Committee. Cllr. Byrne SECONDED the Proposal. This was AGREED by the Members.

Cllr. Roche said that he wished to thank the Oireachtas members for their attendance as he knows is difficult for them to attend all meetings requested of them but appreciated their attendance at the JPC Meetings and said their attendance was invaluable to seek and receive information and relay it back to the Oireachtas.

Mr. Farrell said that a review of the operations of the Sub Committees was undertaken since the last meeting where he met with the Chairperson and the Facilitator of each Sub Committee to discuss the Sub Committee's operation and 2018 Workplan and very positive feedback was obtained. He added that arising from the meetings, it was proposed that a joint Sub Committee meeting take place between the Illegal Dumping/Litter Awareness and the Crime Prevention/Personal Safety Sub Committees as there appeared to be common work themes among both these Sub Committees with regard to environmental enforcement, CCTV and Data Protection.

### **Item No. 2 – Reports from Sub Committees:**

#### **Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Sub Committee**

The Chair of the Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Sub Committee, Cllr. Mary Hoade, outlined the report of the Sub Committee's meeting held on 27th April 2018.

Cllr. Hoade said the Sub Committee members supported the importance of having a joint Sub Committee meeting with the Illegal Dumping /Litter Awareness Subcommittee regarding illegal dumping and it was proposed that this take place after today's full JPC meeting.

With regard to CCTV, Cllr. Hoade advised that the facilitator of the Sub Committee, Mr. Evan Mulvey (Housing Section) had explained to the Sub Committee that the CCTV in Parkmore Tuam was now operational. She said that a recommendation was made that consideration be given to non-Council community based CCTV schemes, where the Council must act as the data controller, Garda vetting of the delegated person must be in place, a Memorandum of Understanding agreement be put in place, and an audit schedule in place to ensure compliance.

Cllr. Hoade said that a recommendation was made by the Sub Committee at their recent meeting, to nominate retired Sgt. Pat Flanagan to be appointed to the Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Sub Committee and also to the full JPC, as a community representative.

### **Education and Awareness Sub Committee**

Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Chair of the Education and Awareness Sub Committee, outlined the report of the Sub Committee's meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Cllr. Donohue referred first to the 'Home Safety' event held in Gort on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and thanked Cllr. Byrne for organizing same and asked Cllr. Byrne to provide an update to the meeting on same.

Cllr. Byrne advised the meeting that there was over 80 people in attendance at the 'Home Safety' event which was a very informative and educational evening. He thanked the assistance of Supt. Seán Glynn, An Garda Síochána, for his assistance in facilitating the event in conjunction with Gort Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr. Byrne thanked recently retired Sgt. Pat Flanagan, Crime Prevention Officer, who gave an outstanding, useful and practical Presentation and said the attention to detail was outstanding and he wished to commend him for same. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to the members of An Garda Síochána who attended and facilitated a Questions & Answers / Feedback Session and addressed individual questions after the event. He said that a strong message needs to get out to everyone that even very simple measures to prevent crime can be very effective. He commended the Text Alert/Community Alert Schemes in place and said it was a new form of community policing which shows the co-operation between the Gardaí and the people of a community working together.

Cllr. Donohue complemented Cllr. Byrne, Supt. Glynn, Sgt. Flanagan and all associated with the successful event.

In relation to the Illegal Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking topics, Cllr. Donohue advised the meeting that contact had been made with Mr. Neil Wilson, AIDS West/ Western Region Drugs Task Force, to continue the roll out of the Risky Business Programme in a Secondary School in each of the other 4 Municipal Districts in Co. Galway as the event held in the Clifden Community School on December last was a success.

With regard to a bullying initiative/event, Cllr. Donohue advised that he would liaise with New Inn Foróige, which ranged in age from 13-15 year olds, in relation to the organisation of a Presentation on Bullying by a member of An Garda Síochána with a view to organising this event by end of May 2018.

Cllr. Donohue said that a Road Safety initiative with publicans in the county would be organised whereby Ms. D. Caulfield (Galway County Council's Road Safety Officer and Sub Committee Facilitator) would distribute high visibility vests, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, to various public houses for circulation to their customers who walk/ cycle home at night and it was proposed to hold this initiative in October, 2018.

### **Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub Committee**

Cllr. Roche outlined the report of the Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub Committee's meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Cllr. Roche complimented retired Sgt. Pat Flanagan, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, for his tremendous work on the JPC Sub Committee and said the Mr. Flanagan attended the recent Sub Committee meeting and expressed his interest that Mr. Flanagan remain on the Sub Committee, if possible, to support it going forward.

Cllr. Roche welcomed Ms. Ann Dolan, Executive Scientist, Environment Section Galway County Council to the Illegal Dumping & Litter Awareness Sub Committee, and said that her knowledge and advice would be invaluable to the Committee going forward.

Cllr. Roche said that an honest and frank discussion took place at the last Sub Committee meeting and Deputy Grealish (who attended the Sub Committee meeting) said he would make representation to the DCCAE in relation to the provision of funding to the JPC. He said that if funding was received, that perhaps a quirky pilot scheme could be undertaken to incorporate all elements to include national and secondary schools, community groups etc to feed into a process to help find a solution to illegal dumping.

Cllr. Roche said that the next element of the Cleaner Greener Galway campaign, would be to advance the communication with Fast Food outlets to reduce wrapping on fast food.

Cllr. Roche advised that the Environment Enforcement Section in conjunction with the Western Region Local Authority had set up a multi-agency committee to combat illegal waste activities for the West region and their first meeting was to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> May in Oranmore Garda Station.

Cllr. Roche referred to the significant investment on CCTV and barriers and said that the investment made was noticeable. He acknowledged and accepted that more needs to be done.

The Cathaoirleach complemented the work undertaken by the Sub Committee to date and said that all Sub Committees were focused and mean business but to be successful adequate resources is required. He said while it may be perceived that the committees work at a slow pace, considerations such as data protection etc. needs to be taken into account.

Cllr. Healy welcomed the three Sub Committee reports and suggested that in respect of future events in relation to bullying that Jigsaw – Young People’s Health in Mind, may be able to provide assistance or contribute to these events, if required.

Cllr. Connolly made reference to a public meeting recently held in Athenry where it was highlighted that there was an issue of anti-social behaviour and drug misuse in the area. He said this was extremely concerning and action must be taken.

In response, Sgt. Glynn said that they Gardaí were aware and were dealing with the issues raised.

With regard to illegal dumping, Cllr. Connolly said that it was a huge problem and it is in peoples mindsets to dump anywhere as the Council will clean it up and this must change.

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

Superintendent Seán Glynn read the Garda Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 in comparison to the same period in 2017.

With regard to the Property Crime – Burglary figure, this had an increase of 7% from Q1 2017. He made reference to Operation Thor which actively targets organised crime gangs through coordinated crime prevention and enforcement activity based on intelligence and the latest crime trends and patterns to protect communities. He explained that there is crime in all parts of the country and there is no one area free from crime.

Supt. Glynn said that there was a huge increase 51% on the theft from MPV (mechanically propelled vehicle) which was a concern. Supt. Glynn said that people need to be vigilant and not leave vehicles doors unlocked and property on display in vehicles. He explained that the Crime Prevention Department is continually working with community groups and social and sports clubs in areas to provide advice to help prevent crime. He said that while the former Crime Prevention Officer, Sgt. Pat Flanagan, has retired and the post is yet to be filled, Mr. Flanagan is still giving presentations on personal safety to groups and Supt. Glynn said that the process had commenced for Sgt. Flanagan’s replacement.

Cllr. Hoade expressed concern with regard to the increase in the theft from both burglaries and theft from MPVs and said that it often occurred where people were congregated. She expressed amazement at the number of areas that still do not have Text/Community Alert schemes in place and said that a fully operational text alert scheme should be operational all over the county. Supt. Glynn concurred and said that An Garda Síochána fully support the Community Alert/ Text Alert initiatives as they are a communication tool that the Gardaí use to relay messages to the Community Alert or Neighborhood Watch contact in an area, who in



turn can forward the information to the members of their Community Group. He acknowledged the great work undertaken by Muintir na Tíre with regard to the Community Text Alert scheme.

In respect of the Ed Sheeran concert to take place on the weekend of 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> May in Salthill, Cllr. Hoade asked if the additional Garda resources were to be drafted in from the county areas and if there would be Gardaí present inside the venue as she understood there was a licence to sell alcohol within the grounds. Supt. Glynn said that over 130 Gardaí would be deployed for the concert with 70 stationed outside the venue with 30 inside the venue. In response to the licence which was in place from 3-10pm, he said that policing of the event was being taken very seriously and said anti-social behaviour and the licensing laws would be strictly enforced. He said plain clothes Gardaí would also be monitoring the event.

With regard to drugs for sale or supply, Supt. Glynn advised the meeting of a presentation hosted by the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF) in February on the Icelandic Primary Prevention Model where representatives from Iceland gave their views on how Iceland had taken on the issue of drugs in their country.

Supt. Glynn said the figure for sale or supply was up for up in comparison to January 2017 and he outlined the value of the drugs seized for the first three months of the year.

Supt. Glynn advised that speeding offences were down 55% and said this was welcomed but explained that the 'Gatso' van was no longer in the Galway Division which could have had an effect on the figures.

Supt. Glynn referred to the 23% decrease in public order offences and the 25% increase in assaults causing harm, compared to this time last year.

With regard to the 14% decrease in domestic disputes – no offence disclosed, Deputy Catherine Connolly said that this was in odds to the national figures which have actually increased. She praised the work of An Garda Síochána and referred to an audit under Section 12 of the Child Care Act 1991 by Dr. Geoffrey Shannon, which reflected positively on County Galway and the huge role the Gardaí undertake with sensitivity in the protection of children, often over weekend periods, which was highlighted in the Audit. She made reference to some defects regarding communications with Tusla – Child and Family Agency and questioned if the recommendations from this audit was being implemented.

Deputy Rabbitte welcomed the reduction in sexual assault figures but sought clarification on the number of children affected under Section 12 of the Childcare Act figure of 7 incidents and asked if the out of hours Special Unit which was to be piloted in the Galway district by Tusla was set up, so the Gardaí would have a point of contact regarding intervention.

Supt. Glynn said that the figures related to Q1 2018 and welcomed the decrease but explained these figures were constantly monitored. He said Tusla had an out-of-hours contact number but the main problem was placements as they cannot always be located locally. He said there was a designated liaison inspector in place. In respect to a Specialised Unit, he explained that it was envisaged that there would be a Protected Services unit in every Division which would include the pilot for Galway, but there was no timeline in place for this.

Supt. Glynn said he would provide a written reply to Deputy Connolly regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the audit undertaken, under Section 12 of the Child Care Act 1991, by Dr. Geoffrey Shannon.

With regard to domestic violence that involves children present in the house, whether asleep or not, Supt. Glynn said that a referral was always made to Tusla.

With regard to the drug figures, for sale or supply, Deputy Rabbitte queried the age profile of persons behind these figures. In reply, Supt. Glynn said that while young persons are being targeted, the supply by young persons is very low.

In response to Deputy Rabbitte's query on the age profile, if older or younger than 18 years, regarding the public incidents figure (assault causing harm), Supt. Glynn said the figures for under-18 was quite low.

Deputy Rabbitte sought clarification on the word 'harm', if it referred to physical only or included the mental aspect and the terrifying affect an assault can have on persons. In reply, Supt. Glynn explained it included emotional harm. He said while physical injuries are outlined in a medical report, the emotional harm may not be visible at the time of recording.

Deputy Rabbitte made reference to a recent public meeting held in Athenry where it was highlighted that a number of young men were controlling the town putting older people and shopkeepers at risk. She also made reference to young people being attacked within the county going to youth discos.

Cllr. Noone concurred and said young people were at risk whilst waiting to board buses to go to discos. He said intimidation and violence was being used by some youths to remove/steal the entry wristband/tickets from others while they waited to board the bus. He said these youths were very clever, with both security and An Garda Síochána, and have no respect for authority. He explained that many of these events/discos were being organised by youths themselves and the venues where the event was being held take no responsibility for them. He said that the RSA had requested bus companies not to pick up teenagers who have drink taken onto the buses. He said parents need to take responsibility at these pick up points as he expressed huge concern that it was only a matter of time before a very serious assault occurred and added that one can suffer psychological damage following an assault/intimidation.

In response to Deputy Rabbitte and Cllr. Noone, Supt. Glynn said that he was quite certain that a number of assaults were not reported due to fear etc. He said that the Gardaí must be made aware of discos /events that are to take place, so measures can be put in place. He said it was often the case that the youths organise the events with the premises without even the adults/parents being aware. Supt. Glynn said the youths were getting alcohol often being supplied by adults and stressed the importance of the Gardaí/the RSA/the bus drivers to work together and for them to inform the Gardaí of events due to take place so they can all work in co-operation with one another.

Cllr. Roche said that it would be beneficial for all Schools to show the video produced by the family of Shane Grogan to highlight the danger.

Cllr. Donohue complimented the good work undertaken by Foróige groups throughout the county. He said events were arranged for up to 1000 youths, aged up to 16 years, and the level of professionalism and stewardship is very high, with one leader for 8 youths. He said it was a model to be followed when organising events for the 16-18 year age groups.

Cllr. Healy concurred with Cllr. Noone's concern and referred to the recent attack in Toronto and said it could happen in Ireland and that it was vital that we do not allow our youths to become isolated and monitor any negative abuse on the internet to young persons. He said that the Garda Síochána have the power to deal with public order seriously and should take action when needed. In response to Cllr. Donohue, he complimented the work of Foróige and said they should be encouraged and supported.

Supt. Glynn said it was hugely important that the Gardaí promote the great work of An Foróige as it was important that the An Garda Síochána have a connection with it.

In reply to Cllr. Healy, he said that the Gardaí monitor internet activity and provide talks in Schools in relation to internet safety. With regard to attacks at events, he said that a risk assessment behind the scenes is undertaken to try to take account of all areas of potential concern.

In reply to Cllr. Thomas query re the figure 'theft from MPV', Supt. Glynn said it included theft from any mechanically operated vehicle and said there has been theft from vans outside of homes and on the streets. He said the Gardaí are constantly monitoring stolen goods and only recently recovered tools that were stolen over a year ago.

Cllr. Byrne complimented the 55% reduction in speeding offences but said cars driving through towns and villages are still not adhering to the speed limits. Supt. Glynn said speeding was always a constant area of concern.

Cllr. Donohue complimented the recent plastic free challenge held in Kinvara and the innovation in the design of a plastic free cup.

Cllr. Kearney complimented the Garda report and said the amount of drugs seized was a positive step in tackling those that grows and/or sells drugs.

The Cathaoirleach complimented the community and text alert service and made reference to a recent alert received regarding bogus contractors. He complimented the Garda report and said that there were many elements of work that the Gardaí are involved in and where they provide interaction and support to people. He said this support is invaluable and while it may not be recorded in their report, he said this work is not forgotten and is very much appreciated.

Comh. O’Cualain made reference to the reduction in the number of fatal accidents which was welcome and said while one fatal accident was one too many, the figures were heading in the right direction. With regard to no insurance, he said that anyone driving without insurance should be dealt with severely but said 19/20 year olds were being charged astronomical amounts of up to €5000 for insurance which was wrong. In reply, Supt. Glynn said the Gardaí are always active in the area of road policing and explained that the Garda’s function in this area is to monitor non-compliance.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Byrne raised the issue of stray horses in South Galway and said there was no pound locally to place horses on a temporary basis.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. J. Byrne, **SECONDED** by Dep. A. Rabbitte, and **AGREED**, that Galway County Council provide a temporary enclosed (fencing) point at Station Road Gort (in Council property) so that stray horses, which are being allowed to go on to public roads, which causes a major safety concern are impounded until they are collected by the permanent Council pound which is located in Longford (Hungry Horses Outside (HHO) Pound).

Cllr. Hoade concurred and said there was an ongoing issue of stray horses on the N84 and they have caused a number of accidents which luckily have been non-fatal. She said this was a serious issue that must be dealt with.

Cllr. Noone agreed but said the Dept. of Agriculture should provide funding as it was a health and safety issue and these were animals, which comes under their remit. He said that the Council and An Garda Síochána have done as much as possible and the Dept. of Agriculture must intervene. He questioned that as these horses are coming from a temporary compound accepted by Galway City Council, have the City Council a role to play.

The Cathaoirleach said that an excellence presentation had been given by Rita Gately Vet, Galway County Council, some time back and clarified that this issue/area was quite complex with a lot of legal issues.

Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Service, said the Motion would be forwarded to the A/Director of Housing for consideration.

Deputy Rabbitte expressed concern regarding the huge ongoing issue on the Woodford to Portumna Road of stray deer. She said Coillte had provided funding for fencing but a traffic management plan needs to be considered.

Cllr. Healy suggested that the Roads Section consider more road signage to caution people regarding stray deer.

Cllr. Thomas requested the presence of a full-time Garda in Maigh Cuilinn village as there has been a population increase over the past number of years. He said the current Garda is often called to assist in Salthill which leaves Maigh Cuilinn without a Garda. In reply, Supt. Glynn said that there was a full time person appointed in Maigh Cuilinn but the Division is always making a case for additional staff and he would take Cllr. Thomas's comment on board. Supt. Glynn explained that Garda placements are considered based on priority and on crime figures. With regard to the amalgamation of Clifden and Oughterard, he said there was no decision made at this point in time for same to occur. He said there maybe a re-alignment of boundaries at a future date but no decision was made at this time.

Cllr. Noone expressed thanks to the Garda Traffic Corp Unit as said there has been a significant change in goods vehicles road usage on the Galway-Claregalway road.

Cllr. Kearney proposed that retired Sgt. Pat Flanagan be added to the JPC membership. In reply, Mr. A. Farrell said the membership of the community and voluntary members is managed officially through the PPN and his request will be forwarded to that section within the Community & Enterprise Department, to ascertain how it could be facilitated.

Mr. A. Farrell advised the meeting that a letter had issued to the Chief Supt. T. Curley requesting a replacement from An Garda Síochána for Sgt. Pat Flanagan on the two Sub Committees and on the JPC.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all that attended the meeting and re-iterated to the members the importance of attending the Meetings so as to ensure the Committee can work to its optimum. He continued to say that the JPC meets only on a quarterly basis with important and relevant matters such as Community Policing, Community Alert, Road Safety, CCTV, Drugs

etc. discussed with a focus to improve policing and that if members are not attending the Meetings, then they should vacate the Committee.

Following discussion, it was AGREED that the next meeting on 9th July and future quarterly meetings should commence at 10am.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN.

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

*Cathaoirleach County Galway Joint Policing Committee*

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

25/2/2018