

**MINUTES OF SOUTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 30th November 2020
MIONTUAIRISCÍ CHOMHCHOISTE POILÍNEACHTA CHEANTAR AN
LÁRDHEISCIRT
A BHÍ AR SIÚL 30ú SAMHAIN, 2020**

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th September 2020

Order: Agreed

2. South Central Matters

- 1) Community representation on JPC.
- 2) Halloween
- 3) Grand Canal Public Safety Issues
- 4) Nomination to South West Inner City Local Policing Forum to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr. Criona Ni Dhalaigh.
- 5) Update on Building Community Resilience – Peter Dorman

1) Community representation on JPC.

Order: Noted

Cllr. Doolan explained that the aim was to strengthen the role of the community and voluntary representation on the JPC and to make sure their voices were heard.

Having adhered to the JPC guidelines, representation on the JPC would consist of 6 community reps – 1 member from each of the 4 LPF's and 2 from the PPN's.

An invitation has also been extended to the coordinators of the Local Drug Task Forces in the area to join the JPC.

2) Halloween

Order: Noted

Members of Dublin City Council's Housing Management departments in Ballyfermot and the South West Area gave the members and update on the very successful Halloween operation which saw 165 tonnes of bonfire material removed from the entire area.

- The concerted efforts over the last few years has seen a dramatic reduction in both the size and number of bonfires in the area.
- It is envisioned that DCC will work with the communities to replace bonfire as the traditional Halloween celebration and to replace them with a safer tradition going forward.
- Gratitude and thanks was extended to the public domain and housing staff of DCC and worked tirelessly over the period, and a special thanks was extended to An Garda Síochana who had provided enormous support to DCC in ensuring a safe and successful Halloween.

- Members of AGS also confirmed that Halloween 2020 was quieter than previous years and thanked DCC for the successful collaboration. Elected members also thanked everyone involved for the work carried out.
- It was requested that a report is carried out into the response to the illegal use of fireworks –
- Members of AGS gave a verbal report into the management of this issue – not only for 2020 but going forward in the coming years.

3) Grand Canal Public Safety Issues

Order: Noted

- Acknowledgement of a reduction in Anti-Social behaviour along the canals was given by elected members; however, the issue of improved lighting was brought to the attention of the committee – members of the community had expressed fear in walking in the area in the dark.
- DCC reported that an improvement in lighting along the stretch of the canal around the North fringes of the canal between Suir Road and Tyrconnell Road had taken place and improvements would continue along the rest of the canal.
- AGS reported that there was a continuous initiative with DCC to address the issue.

4) Nomination to South West Inner City Local Policing Forum to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr. Criona Ni Dhalaigh.

ORDER: NOTED

- Cllr. Doolan proposed that Cllr. Máire Devine would replace Cllr. Criona Ni Dhalaigh. Members agreed.

5) Update on Building Community Resilience – Peter Dorman

Order: Noted

The following points of interest were discussed and comment given by the members present.

Committee established in June 2020, chaired by Mary Taylor to address anti-social behaviour in the South Central Area.

Structure divided into 5 strands

- 1) Supporting the four LPF's and the JPC.
Working strongly with the 4 LPF's, separately, but more importantly together.
Implementation of the anti-social suppression tool kit
- 2) Restorative Practice.
2 groups - D8/12 Restorative Practice Partnership & the Ballyfermot area Partnership.
Both work with youth projects, schools etc. in the areas.
- 3) Responding to the street based drug trade.
Aimed towards children and young adolescents being drawn into the practice of selling on the streets.

Working group set up in conjunction with Uni. Of Limerick to help tackle the issue. Will involve schools, community groups, AGS and Tusla.

- 4) Focused on organisers/leaders of crime in the area.
AGS led to tackle the higher ranking members of organised crime.
- 5) Focused on connecting with policy.
Good communication structure with AGS.
Building Community Resilience
Green Town Programme.

Community Crime impact Assessments

Under National Drug Strategy this new scheme that has been piloted in the Rialto and Blanchardstown areas.

- Has been endorsed by the Garda Commissioner.
- Allows members of the community to safely have a voice as to what is happening in their area.
- That information will then be able to link with intelligence from AGS.
- This assessment can then be repeated and used as a measure of progression.
- Leads to a problem solving forum, whereas the interested parties can come together to find solutions.
- Scheme is being rolled out in Oliver Bond and other communities.

Questions from Members

Q. Had communication with Solas, who have carried out amazing work with young people in the Dublin 8 area been established?

A. Yes – Solas have been a key leader in the area and we are very lucky to have them in the area.

Q. How do we use this tool and start rolling out the initiative in the area?

A. We have already begun work in the Ballyfermot area and some South Inner City Communities. A way of staying with a community over time rather than just reacting when something big happens.

Q. How can we as TD's and public Reps bring in resources?

And regarding the bringing in of legislation, who is responsible for this?

Q. Would it still be the case that the LPF's will still be the first line of defence and point of contact?

A. Absolutely – This initiative is to support the work of the LPF's – Inspector Dave Harrington who was instrumental in the Rialto pilot was particularly insistent that the LPF's would remain central.

In regards to policy and legislation, anything that will influence policy and legislation such as scooters and grooming of young people for criminal activity can be brought to the forum by Public Representatives.

The chair thanked Peter for his presentation and assured everyone that he would personally see that the issue stays on the frontline.

3) Garda Matters

Garda reports from: -

1. DMR South Division for Crumlin District & Terenure Sub-District
2. DMR South Central Division for Kevin Street and Kilmainham Stations
3. DMR West Division for Ballyfermot Garda Station

Order: Reports noted.

The following issues were raised and a response was given by members of An Garda Síochána present at the meeting: -

- Robberies had decreased at the start of the year, with a small increase recently.
- Scramblers and quad bikes continue to be a massive issue in the Ballyfermot area.
- Are racially motivated attacks reported to the Gardaí?
If there are specific incidences that councillors would like to speak to the Chief Superintendents regarding same they can contact through email.
- Restrictions in retail trade have resulted in a decrease in retail theft.
- Assaults causing harm has increased and is an area of concern.
- Operation Tombola is proving successful.
- Concerns regarding the increase in public order offences were raised by members.
AGS agreed that an increase was not what they would like to see, an increase was actually a result of increased Garda presents in the area so can be seen as a positive
- Have the local DMR's been involved in the policing of COVID restrictions by AGS and the prosecuting of those that are knowingly breaking these restrictions – what is the legislation around anti mask demonstrations etc.?
AGS explained there was a crossing of different laws regarding this issue – The European Convention States it is a human right to demonstrate as a freedom of expression, however public health advice states there is a limit to the numbers that can gather.
Regulation states that it is not an offence to attend these events, however it is an offence to organise them. Unfortunately AGS do not have a direction to intervene in the moment unless individuals engage in public order offences and in the interest of public safety.
In regards to public transport – it is an offence not to wear a mask on public transport.
- Decrease in drugs for supply.
- Increase in drug drivers offences.
- Responses to anti-social behaviour is being coordinated between stations to provide a more coherent response across the city.

Domestic Violence in the South Central Area

- It was reported that there was an increase in incidences of domestic violence and breaches of Protection Orders. Gardaí continue to encourage people to avail of these protection orders.
- A process of reengagement and risk assessment has been successful.
- Pro-arrest policy is in order for breaches of orders.
- Strong links have been developed with Support Services in the area.
- Discussion focused on the DAC (Domestic Abuse Coordinator) teams that deal with DV in other areas.
- Gardaí in DMR West area are in the process of rolling out this scheme and are in contact with support services in the area.
- The DMR South are implementing support networks as stated by the other DMR's today and they have looked towards the Domestic Violence Coordination Team in DMR North as an example.

4)Anti-social Behaviour

Dublin City Council Estate Management Reports from: -

1. Ballyfermot Area Office
2. Crumlin Area Office
3. South West Inner City Area Office

Order: Report noted.

The following issues were raised and a response was given by Dublin City Council

Officials: -

- Has COVID had an impact on the response to anti-social activity?
Estate Management continues, but DCC court cases have been delayed in the courts due to COVID.

5)Work Plan Review

Order : Report Noted

6)A. O. B.

- 1) Correspondence

Order: Noted

- 2) Draft Schedule for JPC Meetings for 2021.

Order: Agreed

Councillor Daithi Doolan

Chairperson

Report Number: 25/2021.