

COMHAIRLE CHONTE NA GAILLIMHE

**Minutes of the Galway County Joint Policing Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway on Monday, 17th May, 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: Chief Supt. Thomás Curley
Supt. Damien O'Flannachain
Insp. Declan Rocke
Insp Georgina Lohan
Sgt. Sinead Cunniffe
Garda Karen Maloney

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

Oifigigh: Mr. Alan Farrell, A/Director of Service
Ms. Ita Martyn, Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services.

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

Apologies: Cllr. Gerry King
Cllr. Shelly Herterich
Sgt. M. Walsh
Deputy Noel Grealish

Cllr. Cuddy welcomed all to the JPC virtual meeting.

Item No. 1 – Minutes of the JPC Meeting held on 8th February, 2021:

On the proposal of M. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney, it was agreed the Minutes of Meeting held on 8th February, 2021 be adopted.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

M. Ward said that the Volunteers in Tuam were doing huge work in cleaning up the Town and this work should be acknowledged.

Report from An Garda Síochána

Chief Supt. Curley outlined the Garda Report for the period January to April 2021 in comparison to the same period in 2020. He also gave a breakdown of figures in accordance to the different fraud types. He said there were 136 incidents of fraud.

Deputy Connolly queried the steps that were being taken with incidents of Domestic Violence.

Deputy Connolly sought clarification regarding the provision of Irish speaking Gardai in Gaeltacht Areas.

2. Update from Galway County Council Sub-Committees.

Cllr. Byrne queried the use of CCTV for litter enforcement purposes.

He questioned what progress had been made by Galway County Council to implement the Bye-Laws.

A. Farrell replied that the Department of Environment was in the process of developing legislation that would enable the use of CCTV for Litter Pollution.

A. Dolan advised that the Waste Pollution Bye laws were adopted in 2019 but with the Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible to implement the door to door inspections. A Working Group was set up to implement the Bye- laws and a report was sent to the Data Commissioner for approval. She added that two Enforcement Officers were being appointed.

Cllr Herterich-Quinn. welcomed Cllr. King as Chair of Sub Committee of Education and Awareness.

Cllr. Roche queried the delay with GDPR and he advised that funding should be secured in order to proceed when approval is received.

A. Dolan replied that applications were made in the last two years for funding on the Anti Dumping initiative. She advised that cameras were purchased and that a budget is in place to purchase more cameras.

A. Farrell advised that while resources are limited in this area he understood that the Director of Services for Environment had secured funding for staff as outlined by Ms. Dolan and this would assist enforcement.

Cllr. Maher told the meeting that An Garda Síochána and Galway County Council were working together regarding illegal dumping. He advised that a case was taken to Court and a fine of 1,000 was issued.

Cllr. Charity stated that clarification was required and he added that Waterford County Council were using CCTV.

Cllr. Herterich-Quinn recommended that a local campaign would help to raise awareness and she advised that Clare County Council operate a “Green Dog Walkers” to encourage owners to clean up after their dogs.

Cllr. Carroll, added that the CE Scheme plays a major role in the up-keep of the town of Oranmore and approach roads and he suggested that this be rolled-out across the County.

A. MacDonncha suggested implementing an Education Campaign & Galway County Council Pickups.

Cllr. King said it should not be up to Galway County Council to pick up litter. The onus is on the person to pick-up and he agreed that education was important.

G. Larkin, voiced the same concerns and he stated that funding was a requirement to deal with the issue and he suggested that a depot for the collection of rubbish be set-up in each Municipal District.

Cllr. Farag-McHugh told the meeting that there was a huge issue with illegal dumping on private lands.

A. Dolan stated that illegal dumping was a big issue and Galway County Council will run Awareness Campaigns throughout the year. She advised that there was a conviction but that

was in relation to anti-social behavior in a housing estate and Galway County Council is waiting on a report from the Data Commissioner.

A. Farrell told the meeting that in relation to query regarding a number of issues in relation to the use of CCTV for illegal dumping and waste management issues Galway County Council is awaiting the final report. He stated that Waterford County Council has got a final report from the Data Commissioner on the use of CCTV.

He acknowledged the work of the Community Employment Schemes, Community Wardens Environment Staff and Green Schools.

A. Mac Donnacha said that an e-mail address and phone number be provided at bottle banks.

Report from An Garda Síochána

Chief Supt. Curley outlined the Garda Report for the period January to December 2020. In comparison to the same period in 2019. He also gave a breakdown of figures in accordance to the different fraud types.

Chief Supt. Curley outlined the Garda Report for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st October 2020, in comparison to the 2019 year. He also gave a breakdown of figures in accordance to the different fraud types. In respect of fraud types, Chief Supt. Curley said there was 194 incidents of fraud across Galway since the start of the year.

Chief Supt. Curley advised there was a 48% increase in the sale and supply of drugs compared to 2019. He said there was a marked increase in in the volume and value of heroin which was linked to several successful Garda operations in the City and County in recent months. He said while the figures were high, he said it demonstrated that the Gardai were proactive and making more seizures, taking drugs out of circulation.

Cllr. Keaveney expressed concern over the increase in domestic violence – offence disclosed figures were up 39%. He suggested that a Forum should be set up to give support to victims of domestic violence. He complimented the Garda Siochaná on their work but he said their was a lack of Garda checkpoints in the third lockdown.

Deputy Catherine Connolly complimented the Garda Siochaná on their video and said it was a great public relations exercise. She enquired if an analysis was carried out by Gardai regarding progress in making a domestic violence complaint and what was the position in relation to filling of positions in the Gaeltacht area.

Cllr. Reddington welcomed the report he questioned if there were prosecutions for cyber bullying.

Cllr. Hoade acknowledged the work of the Gárdai on the frontline and expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Council Members. She enquired if there was any increase in resources in the County.

Cllr. Maher complimented the Gardai on the report and he advised the meeting that the problems with boy racers had reduced considerably since the last meeting.

Cllr. Reddington enquired if there were many Covid cases amongst the Gárdai.

Cllr. Cuddy advised that he had received numerous complaints regarding boyracers at Ruanmore.

Cllr. Carroll congratulated the Gárdai on the detection rate 1.5m drugs confiscated. He enquired if homes of smaller suppliers were being targeted by big suppliers.

Chief Supt. Curley advised that there were 2 Sergeants and 15 Gárdai dealing with Domestic Violence incidents.

He said that there was an excellent policy and procedure in place under operation Coillteach Enforcements/Call Backs . He said it was not possible to pursue a case unless the victim made a complaint.

He advised that there was a huge increase in drug seizures and he is continually asking people to pass on information. He said that they work closely with the National & Regional Authority. He added that never had there been as many checkpoints and Gárdai are out continuously checking house parties/rogue pubs enforcing all aspects of the guidelines Majority of public adhering to the restrictions.

Appointment of Inspector in Carraroe to deal with Gaeltacht area. Gárdai with sufficient Irish will be appointed to Gaeltacht areas. A regional Computer Unit has been set up. Encourage people to report any case.

Deputy Connolly questioned what analysis had been carried out in relation to Domestic Violence. Chief Supt. Curley replied stating that a Liason Garda deals with each individual case and encourages the victim to take out the different orders.

Deputy Connolly requested that the Garda report be presented in Irish also.

Chief Supt. Curley confirmed that any staff shortages within the Gárdai caused by Covid-19 was filled by Gárdai on overtime and extra students are attached to the Division. He advised that Gardai will be taking up positions in Letterfrack and Athenry and work is ongoing with the OPW to open stations for occupation. Regarding the issue of BoyRacers he would encourage the public to contact the Gárdai immediately if there is a problem and he advised that there is no increase in individuals carrying knives.

Cllr. Cuddy thanked Chief Superintendent Curley for his report.

Cllr. Herterich-Quinn expressed her gratitude to Deirdre Caulfield for all her work over the past year.

A. Farrell thanked the Committees for their work.

The following dates were agreed for the JPC Meetings:

17th May 2021

13th September 2021

8th November 2021 – Public Meeting

A.O.B.

Cllr. Charity told the meeting that there were complaints regarding speeding through the Clonboo Area and boyracers doing doughnuts in the Lough George Area.

Chief Supt. Curley advised that the public contact the Gárdai immediately and the Gárdai will attend to the area.

Cllr. King complimented the Gárdai for their work. He said there was a huge issue with vulnerable people during the pandemic.

Cllr. Roche expressed his appreciation to the Gárdai in their work.

Cllr. Hoade said that local radio was excellent for communication during the Covid-19 pademic and she complimented Sgt. Walsh on his informative newspaper article.

Next Meeting 13th September, 2021.

CRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN

Signed:

Cathairleach County Galway Joint Policing Committee

Date:
