

Report on Joint Policing Committee meeting of 5th December 2022

1. GCCN Members Present

Tommy Flaherty, John Cleary, Cameron Keighron

Apologies Nichola Tierney, John Rabbitte

2. Minutes of last meeting,

- Were agreed. (See attached minutes)

3. Key issues discussed

New Format

The new Chief Super Roche, said that the format he would be following in future was that he would not be issuing a written report prior to the meeting which had been practice prior to this as it could be leaked. He said the report would be issued after the meeting. Most Councillors and Tommy Flaherty said that this was not acceptable, Tommy Flaherty highlighted that during his time on the JPC he had not heard of any leaks. After debate it was agreed that a written report would be given prior to the next meeting.

In another new departure the Garda Analyst briefed the JPC on the garda report and questions followed.

Highlights were:-

- Increase in Drink Driving
- Increase in Drug Driving
- Use of Mobile Phones up 11%
- Non wearing of seatbelts up 7%
- Speeding up 6%
- Property Crime up 45%
- Burglary down 7%
- Overall all types of Fraud were down
- Domestic abuse was similar to last year
- Public Order offences were up 6%
- Minor Assault down 2%
- Assault causing harm up 31%
- Drug Seizures €1.4 million.
- New approach to dealing with Domestic violence. The Chief Super stated that it was to be an arrest first basis.

Questions asked by reps on this report

- Tommy Flaherty
 - asked that hate crime be added to the report as he had requested this at the last meeting. It was agreed that it would.
 - Welcomed the new approach to domestic violence.
 - Said that the increase in Assault causing harm increase was worrying and the increase of such assaults appearing on social media was a concern.

Feedback from the Gardai on questions

- Drug detections would be a priority
- Non wearing of seat belts was hard to detect due to people seeing the Garda and then putting them on.
- Patrol cars never stop but Garda have to prioritise when calls come in so it is not always possible to have immediate assistance.
- On domestic violence that Gardai have reached a target of 82% call back within a week of reporting.

- New Garda coming on stream will not keep pace with those leaving and this will cause problems going forward.

As the Garda report took nearly two hours with the new format the agenda had to be cut and a proposal was made to add extra time to deal with questions received from members. Please see attached appendix of questions asked and answers received at end of this report.

The Chairperson said that the cllrs meet in each ward and that a lot of issues could be dealt with if the Garda came to these meetings, the Chief Super said that it could be a mini JPC. Tommy Flaherty interjected and said that GCCN reps were part of the JPC and that we should also be at these meetings.

In response to the questions from Cllr Donal Lyons, the Chief Super replied that they were operation and he would not be responding.

In response to the questions asked by Tommy Flaherty, he highlighted the continued parking on footpaths by Cars/vans and of busses outside of schools. City council said that they would investigate this.

Presentation from Galway City Council Tourism Officer on Night time Economy was deferred to Monday 12th December at 10am. This will be by Zoom.

Update on the JPC Workplan 2022 was deferred to the next meeting

Dates of meetings in 2023

Monday 20th March at 11.00am

Monday 19th June 2023 at 11.00am

Monday 16th October at 11.00am

Monday 4th December 2023 at 11.00am

Public meeting

Monday 21st November 2023 at 7pm at Knocknacarra Community centre. Tommy Flaherty said that the last meeting were held in Knocknacarra and Eastside and the next one should be city centre.

Issues for GCCN

- Watch out for dilution of the JPC by meetings outside of the JPC.

Report by Tommy Flaherty

APPX “A”

Questions received from Cllr. Donal Lyons:

1. Can the Chief Superintendent give an update with regard to the number of Garda patrol cars/vans to be replaced in this division because of them reaching their mileage limits?

Response received from An Garda Síochána: Response will issue at the meeting on Monday.

2. Given the new policing model in this division, the number of patrol cars, vans required to provide a satisfactory Garda presence in the division?

Response received from An Garda Síochána: Response will issue at the meeting on Monday.

3. The number of Garda patrol cars/vans that have not been replaced and what efforts are being made to address this issue to having new patrol cars provided by Garda Headquarters?

Response received from An Garda Síochána: Response will issue at the meeting on Monday.

Questions received from Tommy Flaherty, GCCN:

1. At previous meetings, the issue of illegal parking has been brought up. Galway City Community Network is of the belief that “Making Way Day” is not just for one day only and we ask that the Gardai and Galway City Council work to ensure that illegal parking i.e., on footpaths, at corners and on double yellow lines within the estates around the city and outside schools be enforced. We ask that a publicity campaign in relation to this be undertaken and that the law then be enforced to ensure the safety of those that use our footpaths.

Response received from Galway City Council: From January to November (2022) inclusive, the total number of Tickets issued for ‘illegal parking on Footpaths’ has reached 1578, a 16% increase on the same term in 2021. 2 For the same term above Jan-Nov (2022), Tickets issued for ‘Parking on Double yellow lines’ was 2310, a 27% increase on 2021. Galway City Council will continue to enforce illegal parking on footpaths, at corners and on double yellow lines within the estates around the city and outside schools subject to available resources. The Road Safety Authority in association with An Garda Síochána conducted a publicity campaign in February 2022 urging all drivers to park responsibly and not to park on footpaths or cycle lanes, as it poses a road safety risk to vulnerable road users and is an offence. Galway City Council will bring the request from Galway City Community Network to the attention of the Road Safety Authority in regard to the running of a future publicity campaign on this matter.

2. Galway City Community Reps have raised the issue of Red Eye cameras on a number of occasions over the past number of years, however, nothing concrete has come of this except for statements that it would be looked into. With the large number of complaints of running red lights we believe that these cameras which have been trialled in Dublin should be provided in Galway. We ask that an up-to-date report on the potential installation or investigation into the installation of these cameras be given to the next JPC Meeting

Response received from Galway City Council: The role of camera-based enforcement and its potential road safety benefits is being considered by the Department of Transport and transport agencies and Galway City Council is awaiting the outcome of this process. Support Action No. 67 of the recent Ireland’s Government Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030 provides for the development of camera based Gardaí enforcement at junctions. The lead Department in relation to this Action is the Department of Transport. Galway City Council as a local authority will not roll out such a proposal in isolation.