

Cork City Joint Policing Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Introduction

Cork City's Joint Policing Committee was established in 2008 under the provisions of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. However, Cork City has had a Community Safety Framework in place since 2006, when Cork City Council and An Garda Síochána came together through RAPID to develop a community safety framework for the City's RAPID areas which aimed: -

- To cultivate a safe, quality environment for people to live in.
- To support agencies and communities to work together to make communities safer places to live and work in.

As a result of that framework, Community Safety Forums were set up in each of the City's RAPID areas. These are public meetings, held 3 times per year, which allow local people to raise issues of concern with the Gardaí and City Council in relation crime and community safety.

Safety Forums are held in: -

- North West Area (Gurranabraher Policing District)
- Mahon
- Anglesea Street (City Centre for the business sector and residents)
- Togher
- Mayfield and the Glen

The forums have proven very successful with a regular attendance. It has become apparent that people tend to attend meetings when issues in their area are current and do not attend when they have been solved. To encourage consistent interest in attending meetings in some of the more sprawling areas, meetings are held in more than one venue.

Underpinning the safety forum, Safety Units were established which bring together the Community Garda for the area and staff from each of the Local Authority's relevant departments to respond to the issues raised at the safety forums.

In 2010, we established District Management Committees in each of the four Garda Districts to oversee the management and coordination of our safety structures in each area; and to create a new safety mechanism to engage with communities where none existed. The pre-existing Neighbourhood Watch Committees Northside and Southside still continue to meet and now feed into their relevant District Management Committee.

Garda District Management Committees meetings 2017

Anglesea Street (City Centre) DMC met on the following dates in 2017

6 March 2017

29 May 2017

24 August 2017

4 December 2017

Ongoing issues relating to antisocial behaviour in the environs of the university speeding in residential areas continue to be raised and dealt with at a local level without the necessity to be actioned by the JPC. Marked improvement in antisocial behaviour around the university and greater cooperation between an Garda Síochána and Student authorities widely held to be responsible.

Gurrabraher (North West Area Policing District)

Local Policing District Fora Management Committee met on **23rd February** and forwarded the issue of Nash's Boreen to the meeting of the JPC. All other issues dealt with at a local level.

DMC met on **14th June** to discuss matters raised at safety forum of North West district.

Local Policing District Fora Management Committee met on 13th November. The issue of the unofficial halting site at Nash's Boreen and the opening of the road to traffic continue to be raised as an issue. Separate discussions are ongoing in this regard. The Cork County Council have been asked to attend the meeting to discuss the future of the road.

Mayfield District Management Committee

Mayfield District Management Committee met on the following dates in 2017

10.02.2017

26.02.2017

20.09.2017

17.12.2017

Items raised:

Attendances at forums are up following efforts to publicise them better in the community.

Mayfield The Glen and Ballyvolane. A large attendance was recorded. Drug abuse in the Glen and traffic, environmental and ASB issues were raised in all areas. Quad bikes ATVs and scooters causing a hazard in the Avonmore Park/Tarry Path area. A new table format was used at the forum which was well received.

Togher District Management Committee

Togher District Management Committee (DMC) met on the following dates in 2017

02.02.2017

15.06.2017

07.09.2017

Items raised:

Reports from Local Fora, i.e. Togher, Bishopstown, Douglas, Carrigaline, Crosshaven and Passage West.

Crime for Togher District.

Submissions regarding Garda Policing Plan 2018.

Replacement of Community Garda in Bishopstown Station.

Fresher's week – C.I.T. (house parties)

Pin mapping of illegal bonfires on Bonfire Night.

Recommendations on Strategic and Policy Matters for the JPC to Consider :

Provision of Garda Community Policing Bus for Togher District.

Traffic at Wilton Road and Wilton Gardens.

Opening hours of Douglas Garda Station.

Uniform manpower levels – Togher District

Replacement of Community Garda in Bishopstown Station.

Meeting of Cork City JPC

Cork City JPC met on the following dates in 2017

20.03.2017

16.06.2017

25.09.2017

18.12.2017

The 2017 JPC was characterised by the decision to invite, on a rotating basis, the chairs of the 4 DMC to address the JPC. At the March meeting of the JPC it was decided to extend an invitation to Josephine Feehily, Chairperson of The Policing Authority to address the meeting on the work of the authority

Ms. Feehily gave an overview and presentation on the following at the June 2017 JPC

- Overarching Role of Authority – to oversee the performance of the Garda Síochána in relation to policing services, to promote public awareness of policing matters and to promote and support the continuous improvements in policing in Ireland
- Meetings with the Garda Commissioner in public – 8th meeting in June 2017.
- Developing and publishing the Authority's own Strategy Statement which was laid before the Oireachtas in July 2016.

- Approving the Garda Strategy Statement – sent to the Tánaiste in July for her consent and laid before the Oireachtas
- Developing **Policing priorities** annually for approval by the Minister and laying before the Oireachtas.
- Community engagement and community confidence
- Local responsiveness and local accountability
- Policing Authority functions re JPCs
- Level of engagement between the Policing Authority and the ‘Rank and File Garda
- Civilianization
- Road collisions could be collected highlighting the amount of road collisions attributed to dangerous driving and dangerous parking
- Public attitude survey community trust in policing was high although victim trust was still low. She was encouraged by the significant increase of reported sexual crimes as she felt it indicated a greater willingness to come forward and report than had previously been the case.