



South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee

Report of Meeting of South Dublin Joint Policing Committee

Meeting on Friday, 17 November 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the

Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting)

In attendance:

Committee Members: Cllr. Shane Moynihan (Chair), Cllr. Alan Edge (Mayor), Cllr. Yvonne Collins, Cllr. Mick Duff, Cllr. Louise Dunne, Cllr. Lilian Guéret, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, Cllr. Mark Lynch, Cllr. Lynn McCrave, Cllr. Derren Ó Brádaigh, Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin, Cllr. Shirley O'Hara, Cllr. Liona O'Toole, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan, Sean Crowe, TD, Emer Higgins, TD, Francis Noel Duffy, TD, John Lahart, TD, Paul Murphy, TD, Chief Superintendent Majella Armstrong (An Garda Síochána), Chief Superintendent Michael McNulty (An Garda Síochána), Chief Superintendent Bronagh O' Reilly (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Paul Dolan (An Garda Síochána), Inspector Paul Mayock (An Garda Síochána), Inspector Pat Duggan (An Garda Síochána), Inspector Aonghus Hussey (An Garda Síochána), Inspector David Mayne (An Garda Síochána), Sergeant John Coughlan (An Garda Síochána), John Conroy, Sue Dorgan (South Dublin Public Participation Network representatives), Trevor Bissett (Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Task Force), Grace Hill (Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force), Gemma Carton (Foroige), Elaine Leech (South Dublin County Council), Edel Clancy (South Dublin County Council) Maria Nugent (JPC Coordinator, South Dublin County Council)

Apologies: Noreen Byrne

Presenter: Garda Commissioner Drew Harris

In attendance/Council staff: Fionnuala Keane (SSO), Margaret Farrell (CO) and Rachel Keogh (CO)

Members of the Press: Maurice Garvey and William O Connor (The Echo)

The Chairperson, Cllr Shane Moynihan, opened the meeting at 9.30 a.m. Cllr. S Moynihan welcomed Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to the meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.

1. Presentation: Commissioner Drew Harris, An Garda Síochána

Commissioner D Harris delivered a presentation on The Policing Plan for 2023 and 2024

As part of the presentation, Commissioner D Harris spoke about the expansion of the Garda Liaison Network, successful seizures, arrests, and charges, additional funding for An Garda Síochána, new legislation, retention and recruitment of Gardai and available supports for staff. The strategy plan for the next 3 years is currently being developed with key stakeholders.

Commissioner D Harris responded to queries and comments from committee members. Questions and comments were received from S Dorgan, J Lahart, E Higgins, Cllr. L Dunne, G Hill, J Conroy, Cllr. M Duff, Cllr. M Lynch, Cllr. D O Brádaigh, Cllr. A Edge, Cllr. E O’Broin, S Crowe, Cllr. P Kearns, Cllr. L McCrave, Cllr. L O’Toole, and Cllr. S Moynihan.

Queries from members included Garda recruitment and retention and the lack of Gardai in all areas of the county, staff morale and available supports for members of An Garda Síochána, public wait times, scrambler legislation, antisocial behaviour, lack of Community Gardai and Drug Unit Gardai, protests surrounding international protection applicants and intimidation, drug dealing, drug debt intimidation, domestic violence, early intervention to prevent crime, the addition of new Community Safety Forums for new developments, upskilling and training for Gardai, gun crime, and the retention of the Irish language within AGS.

Cllr. S Moynihan thanked Commissioner Harris for his attendance and presentation.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 29th September 2023 were circulated, noted, and agreed as a true record of the previous meeting. They were proposed by Cllr M Duff and seconded by Cllr O Toole.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. Local Policing Fora Reports

West Tallaght Community Safety Forum:

Grace Hill delivered the report on behalf of the West Tallaght Community Safety Forum. The report was noted.

North Clondalkin Community Safety Forum:

The report was noted.

Dublin 12 report Community Safety Forum:

Cllr. Pamela Kearns delivered the report on behalf of the Dublin 12 Community Safety Forum. The report was noted.

5. Garda Síochána Reports

a) Issues raised by JPC Members

The report outlining the responses by An Garda Síochána to issues raised in advance by JPC members was circulated to members prior to the JPC meeting and noted.

b) DMR West (Clondalkin/Rathcoole/Lucan/Ronanstown)

Chief Superintendent M McNulty gave a report on the DMR West areas. The report included crime statistics, significant crimes, and community engagement.

There were comments and queries from Cllr. L O' Toole, E Higgins, Cllr. E O'Broin, Cllr. S O'Hara, Cllr. S Moynihan, S Crowe, and G Hill in relation to increased crime levels in Rathcoole, the need for high visibility policing, Garda Clinics for Adamstown, ASBOs issued in Clondalkin, increased patrols in Rathcoole, the decrease in burglaries, the increase in breaches of domestic violence orders in Lucan and Ronanstown, community engagement days, drug dealing, public orders, and increased patrols in Citywest, and Garda support during recovery month. Chief Superintendent M McNulty responded to the queries.

c) DMR South (Tallaght/Rathfarnham)

Chief Superintendent M Armstrong gave a report on the DMR South area. The report included crime statistics, significant crimes, drugs related intimidation, community engagement, and garda clinics in the community.

There were queries and comments from Cllr. M Duff, Cllr. M Lynch, and Grace Hill in relation to anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and reporting crimes over the phone. Chief Superintendent M Armstrong responded to these queries.

The various Garda reports were then noted by the Committee.

6. Drug Subcommittee Report

Gemma Carton delivered the report on behalf of the Drugs Sub-Committee. The sub-committee is looking for additional JPC members to join the committee.

The report was noted.

7. Correspondence

The relevant correspondence was circulated and noted.

8. Governance

N/A

9. Halloween

E Leech, Director of Services of the Housing, Social and Community Department, SDCC delivered the report on Halloween, various events which took place and issues that arose in relation to anti-social behaviour and bonfire materials to the committee. E Leech spoke about the various initiatives undertaken by South Dublin County Council to increase safety and minimise antisocial behaviour during the Halloween period.

There were contributions and comments from Cllr. L O'Toole and Cllr. M Duff in relation to antisocial behaviour, bonfire materials and enforcement.

The report was noted.

10. CCTV

E Leech sought approval from the Joint Policing Committee for a CCTV camera at Donomore Park to be included in the community-based CCTV scheme. This was proposed by Cllr. S Moynihan and seconded by Cllr. M Duff.

11. Any Other Business:

The JPC Committee discussed the need for additional safety measures in new developments and the new Community Safety Bill which is currently before the Seanad .

Contributions and comments were received from Cllr. L O'Toole, E Leech, Chief Superintendent M McNulty, Cllr. P Kearns, and Cllr. S Moynihan.

Cllr. S Moynihan proposed that a letter be drafted on behalf of the South Dublin JPC to the Minister for Justice outlining the views of the committee regarding the design of future Community Safety Partnerships. Cllr. S Moynihan, E Leech and M Nugent to draft this letter and bring back to the committee.

E Leech highlighted that there were recent interviews and that there will be 4 new Anti-Social and Community Safety Officers taking up position soon within the Housing Department's Estate Management team.

The schedule of meetings for 2024 was agreed.

Deputy S Crowe spoke about the importance of discouraging the use and purchase of scramblers. E Leech agreed to speak to the Communications Unit to promote the dangers of scramblers through the Council's social media pages.

Cllr. E O'Broin acknowledged the work of Inspector Liam Casey who has recently retired.

The meeting concluded at 11.27 a.m.