

## **Cork City Joint Policing Committee**

### **Minutes of meeting**

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 2.00pm**

**Council Chamber, City Hall, Cork.**

#### **Present:**

Chief Supt. B. McPolin	An Garda Síochána
Ms. A. Doherty	Chief Executive, Cork City Council
Mr. P. Moynihan	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Cllr. C. O'Leary	Chairperson
Cllr. J. Buttimer	Cork City Council
Cllr. H. Cremin	Cork City Council
Cllr Thomas Moloney	Cork City Council
Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald	Cork City Council
Cllr. Mick Nugent	Cork City Council
Cllr. John Sheehan	Cork City Council
Cllr. Ted Tynan	Cork City Council
Ms. Mary Crilly	Public Participation Network
Dr. D. McAdam O'Connell	Public Participation Network
Mr J. Nolan	Public Participation Network

#### **In attendance:**

Supt. M. Comyns	An Garda Síochána
Inspector J Deasy	An Garda Síochána
Sgt. Tony Davis	An Garda Síochána
Sgt. Michael Conway	An Garda Síochána
Mr. Chris Dorgan	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Ms. Rebecca Loughry	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Mr. David O'Brien	Corporate & External Affairs, Cork City Council
Mr. Francis Freyne	Cork City Council

### **1. Welcome**

Chair Cllr Chris O Leary welcomed attendees and reminded the meeting that only Committee Members were entitled to address the meeting

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the JPC of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were considered and approved by the meeting

### **3. Mark the retirement of Superintendent John Quilter**

- The retirement of Superintendent John Quilter was recognised by Chief Supt. B. McPolin
- A. Doherty, Chief Executive, recognised the relationship between City Hall and Superintendent Quilter who will be missed.
- Laurence Owens wishes every success for the future.

#### **4. Presentations**

##### **Mr. Michael O'Donovan, Vintners Federation.**

Mr. Michael O'Donovan of the Vintners Federation gave a presentation on the work of the Vintners in. Mr. O'Donovan outlined the Vintners Federation and their work and highlighted some concerns of the Federation.

- Concerns regarding the growth of off trade and cheap alcohol and its impact on society. Consumption of alcohol should take place in the pub and cheaply priced alcohol getting in the way
- Concerns regarding events aimed at young people such as Rag Week and Christmas Week. Young people drinking at home and then hanging around premises giving a bad public order impression

Mr. O'Donovan spoke further about solutions to these issues and of some of the good work going on at the moment such as -

- The Ask Angela Campaign
- Cork receiving the purple flag for being a safe city
- Festival nights across the city to help spread the number of drinkers across the city
- Working relationships with Gardaí, City Council Hotels and Restaurants.

Mr. O' Donovan concluded by stating that 2019 is going to be a very busy year and that everyone should work together for common goals.

##### **Mr. David Lane, HSE**

Mr. Lane works as a manager for the Cork and Kerry addiction services and previously with Cork local drugs taskforce. Mr. Lane outlined his role within the city and his partnerships with Senior Gardaí and Cork City Council and some of the main problems addiction services are facing and work that they are doing.

- Two clinics, Arbour House and Heroin House
- 1500 people each year using the service with the primary problem being alcohol
- People generally don't present with a sole addiction but have more of a poly-drug use
- Drink Aware, industry sponsored approach
- Ask About Alcohol, HSE sponsored approach

Mr. Lane further detailed what future work and responses are required going forward in 2019 -

- More response is required in dealing with clients and addiction
- More financing and staff are required
- People need to be seen quickly and waiting lists reviewed
- Dual diagnosis in mental health and addiction, which to prioritise. Started dual diagnosis program.
- Homeless service to work with addiction service
- Bid for a stabilisation unit for people in chaotic situations, stabilise and detox with medical teams. Hope to be up and running by end of year.
- Task force hugely important to ongoing work.

**Following the presentations the following questions were raised.**

*Regarding the price of Alcohol, when is this issue going to be tackled?*

In response Mr. O'Donovan stated that the public health alcohol bill was recently passed and part of this relates to the price of alcohol. It will come into effect when Northern Ireland brings it into effect also.

Mr. Lane, in response, stated that there are three measures related to lowering alcohol consumption – minimum unit pricing, market and advertising. All these areas need to be addressed

*Regarding identification needed in order to purchase alcohol, majority of people don't have a drivers licence or Passport, can other forms of ID be considered?*

In response Mr. O'Donovan stated Garda ID is also acceptable.

*Are any resources being allocated to the drug issue on Grand Parade?*

In response Mr. Lane stated there is cooperation across the health service. Clinics are needed as well as getting out to the public. Areas that need addressing are needle exchanges, drug litter, awareness and advertising.

*Responsibility lies with the Publicans and Off-Licences, multi agency group needs to be set up to tackle the alcohol issues with the VFI.*

In response Mr. O'Donovan stated that the VFI works closely with the Gardaí prior to events such as Rag Week and that their meetings are never attended by a member of an 'off trade'.

*How many needle bins are there and what is the consultation process? Is there a link between establishing a needle bin and education on reduction?*

In response Mr. Lane stated that there are currently two bins in the city which are to be moved. Would like more bins and they are necessary. When a bin is initially installed it is used regularly. But as time goes by and the area becomes more utilised, users move on to more segregated areas and the bins fall into disuse.

*Regarding pubs with an early licence, gives terrible message to young people. Can anything be done to stop this practice?*

In response Mr. O'Donovan stated that the early morning hour's premises have centuries old licences and cater for people who work nights who should be catered for.

## **5. To consider the reports from the Local Policing District Management Committees**

Anglesea Street report – No Comments

Togher report – No comments

## **6. Reports**

### **Chief Executive, Cork City Council**

A. Doherty, Chief Executive, delivered her report outlining a number of points -

- Success of Glow and other Cork Celebrations
- Seafest will take place 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June
- Cruinniú na nÓg set of 15<sup>th</sup> June
- Cork City boundary transition update
- Environment update
- New Cork Communities and projects such as Shape Your City
- Summary of key statistics

### **Chief Superintendent, An Garda Síochána**

Chief Superintendent McPolin presented a report for An Garda Síochána for the Cork City Division on crime and traffic for 2018 -

- Property crime up 9%,
- Crimes against the person down 7%
- An overall decrease of 4% in rapes and sexual assaults reported.
- Public order up 8% and all criminal damage down 6%
- Drugs offences up 10% and weapons offences up 14%
- Total traffic collisions up 7% with driving under the influence down 7%

### **6. Updates to boundary extension issues for JPC structures.**

**Next Meeting of the JPC is set for Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. This meeting will be a public meeting.**