

Cork City Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of JPC Meeting 22 March 2021 @ 2.00 p.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

Present: (subject to confirmation)

Cllr. Colm Kelleher (Chairperson)	Cork City Council
Ms. A. Doherty	Chief Executive, Cork City Council
Ms. A Rodgers	Director of Services, Cork City Council
Chief Supt. Barry Mc Polin	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan	An Garda Síochána
Cllr. Damian Boylan	Cork City Council
Cllr. Derry Canty	Cork City Council
Cllr. Colm Kelleher	Cork City Council
Cllr. Henry Cremin	Cork City Council
Cllr. Ger Moloney	Cork City Council
Cllr. Joe Kavanagh (Lord Mayor)	Cork City Council
Cllr. John Maher	Cork City Council
Cllr. Mick Nugent	Cork City Council
Cllr Paudie Dineen	Cork City Council
Cllr Mary Rose Desmond	Cork City Council
Cllr Kenneth O Flynn	Cork City Council
Cllr Ted Tynan	Cork City Council
Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan	Cork City Council
Cllr. Thomas Moloney	Cork City Council
Deputy Donnacha O'Laoghaire	Dáil Éireann
Deputy Colm Burke	Dáil Éireann
Senator Jerry Buttimer	Seanad Éireann
Mary Crilly	Public Participation Network
Derry O Farrell	Public Participation Network

Also in attendance:

Mr. David O Brien	Community, Culture and Placemaking, Cork City Council
Mr. Chris Dorgan	Community, Culture and Placemaking, Cork City Council
Ms. Ruth Lynch	Community, Culture and Placemaking, Cork City Council
Supt. Colm Noonan	An Garda Síochána
Supt Michael Comyns	An Garda Síochána
Asst. Principal Liam Hallihan	An Garda Síochána

1. Welcome

Cllr Colm Kelleher (JPC Chair) welcomed the attendees, Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin, Cork City Council Chief Executive Ann Doherty and Adrienne Rodgers, Director of Services Community Culture and Placemaking

Cllr Kelleher reminded the committee that observers were present who do not have the capacity to engage in the meeting including members of the media, Gardai and members of the Oireachtas.

Members of staff of Cork City Council ICT department were also present for any technical issue that might arise.

The Chair further reminded members that

- The JPC is not entitled to consider matters relating to a specific criminal investigation or prosecution
- The JPC will not entertain localised issues that are more correctly dealt with in the Local Policing Forums
- Individuals shall not be discussed or named, and all should be treated with respect at this meeting.
- Members should always have their microphones be on mute except when they are speaking.

The Chair then invited Ruth Lynch (CCC) reminded members that there would be an opportunity for questions at the end of the presentation, one question per individual allowed and a strict two-minute limit on the time the individual has to place the question.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the JPC of 14th December 2020 were considered and approved by the meeting.

Prop. Cllr K. O Flynn **Sec.** Cllr D. Canty

4. Presentations

Presentation by Ann Doherty, Chief Executive, Cork City Council

Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week 2021 took place from Monday 1st March to Friday 5th March, 2021. All of the events throughout the week were free of charge and moved online this year.

Throughout the week there were panel discussions, networking sessions, Business Advice Clinics and workshops such as “Funding the Digitalisation of SMEs” (with Cork Smart Gateway).

This year, in addition to LEO Cork City's local events, there was also a very exciting and varied online programme of national events for anyone thinking of starting or growing a business."

Playful Paradigm play packs

Playful Paradigm play packs for older citizens delivered across city and county. Over 2,300 Play Packs were delivered in the city with a further 2,000 in the county to Cork's senior citizens as part of a joint initiative from Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Cork Healthy Cities, Cork Sports Partnership and the Cork Age Friendly City programme.

The new initiative, which is part of the URBACT Playful Paradigm project, seeks to provide enjoyment and fun to those who have been minimising their social contacts for the duration of the pandemic.

Following consultation with older adults across the city, the play packs were designed to include a range of games and activities including playing cards, a bird feeder and seeds. The play packs also contain helpful information on support services.

Cork Lifelong Learning Festival 2021

Chief Executive Ann Doherty announced that due to Covid restrictions the festival would take place online from Festival 22nd – 26th March.

Webinars will take place to introduce our new Learning Cities Awards, which celebrate learning across early years, primary and secondary school, further education, higher education and adult education (community and workplace learning) as well as highlighting exceptional and inspirational learning.

Cork Saint Patrick's Festival 2021

Organised by Cork City Council, the Cork St Patrick's Festival took place from Saturday March 13th to Wednesday March 17th and celebrated our national festival through word, film, music, projections, video and workshops.

"Meitheal" was the theme of the festival this year beginning on Saturday March 13th. Over 40 buildings across Cork City were lit in green this March - from Blackrock to Blarney and Ballincollig to Ballyvolane - as a sign that Cork still celebrates its national day, and that we are ready and waiting to welcome visitors to the Real Capital, when that day comes again.

Part of a Project with Fáilte Ireland a stunning display of words was projected on the walls of the R&H Hall Building, Kennedy Quay, each evening during the festival from 7-11pm. The projection featured the phrase "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine" in Irish and "In the shelter of each other, we live" in English. Events for the Festival included music, 'parade craft' activities, film and theatre.

Reopening of Douglas Library

There were 16,805 visits to Cork City Libraries between December 2 and 23rd compared to 51,434 in December 2019. Nevertheless, the libraries continued to support the communities they serve through creative online programming including a comprehensive and varied children's programme, a book launch in association with Focus Ireland, online sessions with local musicians and the Deaf Community Choir, promoting GLOW throughout the city with window installations of literary quotes. Douglas Library reopened on December 18 having been closed due to fire since August 31, 2019.

Key Statistics

In relation to Derelict Sites a total of €1,7396,40 was levied in the year to date with €163,231 paid at end Q4 2020.

At 31st December, 2020 the housing stock for rental purposes totalled 10,479 no. units of accommodation.

Regarding On Street Parking Fixed Charge Penalty notices the figures dropped from 42,458 tickets issued March 2019 – February 2020 to 19,869 tickets March 2020 - February 2021.

Regarding Litter fines there was a recorded drop from 427 issued from July to December 2019 to 238 July to December 2020 with a corresponding increase in fines paid from 368 July to December 2019 to 554 July to December 2020.

Chief Supt B McPolin in his presentation on Crime and Traffic statistics referred to

Property Crime:

An overall reduction of 50%, the most significant being a 100% reduction in theft from a person.

Crimes against the person:

Overall reduction of 42% with decrease of 47% and 43% respectively in minor assault and assault causing harm.

Rapes and Sexual Assault:

A 35% decrease in Sexual Assault (non-aggravated) and a 17% increase in rape of male or female.

Criminal Damage and Public Order:

23% decrease in all public order with a 28% decrease in all criminal damage

Drugs and Weapons:

80% increase of possession of drugs for sale or supply and 107% increase in possession of drugs for personal use. Possession of offensive weapon (not firearm) increased by 7%

Traffic:

Reductions across the board in traffic accidents with the largest decrease (62%) in traffic accidents with non-fatal injury

Arising from the presentations the following issues were raised by members:

Sen J Buttimer, in commending An Garda Síochana on maintaining public order and Cork City council specifically in relation to Parks enquired whether vaccination of an Garda

Síochana was being actively pursued. He reiterated his recommendation regarding signage to slow traffic on curraheen Road coming from the west.

Cllr Cremin recommended the immediate reintroduction of District Fora and the introduction of virtual meetings as a matter of urgency. This was echoed by Cllr M Nugent, specifically in relation to Ballyvolane.

Lord Mayor Cllr J Kavanagh supported the immediate vaccination of an Garda Síochána, requested information on litter management and asked Chief Supt. McPolin to clarify fines for antisocial behaviour.

Cllr K O'Flynn asked whether there were any restriction on an Garda Síochána attending residents association Zoom meetings.

Cllr T Tynan highlighted the risk to the public of increased discarding of masks in public places.

In relation to a recent report on women and safety PPN representative M Crilly highlighted 350 new cases per year of assault.

Cllr D Canty requested clarification on whether park Rangers would be re-introduced in the regional Park, Ballincollig.

Deputy D O Laoghaire addressed Chief Supt McPolin on whether reduced operation of courts was effecting prosecutions

Cllr T Fitzgerald asked for statistics on confiscation of Quadbikes and scramblers and legislation applying for next meeting.

Deputy C Burke raised the issue of planning in relation to accommodation for student residences.

Cllr I Bogue echoed the concerns raised by M Crilly, particularly in relation to public transport.

In response **Chief Supt McPolin** provided the following clarification;

1691 Fixed Charge Notices were issued between 1 January and 17 March in relation to Covid related issues, the most significant being 1314 in relation to the movement of people outside of their 5km zone, 278 in relation to dwellings and 73 in relation to house parties.

There are 719 gardai currently active in the city area including 3 superintendents and 265 reserve Gardaí. There was strict enforcement of drinking on the street legislation.

As there was no reduction in court sittings so the issue of reduction in prosecutions did not apply.

Chief Executive **Ann Doherty** confirmed the following:

Regarding illegal dumping Ms. Doherty advised the public to report all incidents and to advise Cork City Council of locations.

Redeploying of staff to Park ranger duties was not an option in the current year.

Director of Services Community Culture and Placemaking Adrienne Rodgers advised that the re-instatement of Community Fora in a virtual setting was being actively investigated and it was hoped to have these in place shortly.

That concluded the business of the meeting. The date for the next JPC Meeting is the 21nd of June 2021 at 2pm and would be a public meeting.