

**Minutes of Joint Policing Committee Meeting held online  
Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

**In Attendance:** Cllr. John Crowe, Chairperson

Cllrs. Michael Begley, Pat Burke, Bill Chambers, Pat Daly, Mary Howard, Gabriel Keating, Joe Killeen, Pat McMahon, Paul Murphy, Ann Norton, Alan O Callaghan, P.J. Ryan.

Deputy Cathal Crowe

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne

Senator Roisin Garvey

Adrian Brooks IFA

Bill Slattery, Lahinch Development Association

Brian McManus Clare Youth Service

Dermot Hayes, Community Activist in Disability

Madeline McAleer, Public Participation Network

Mary Mather Leahy, Clare Older People

**Gardai**

Supt. Brendan McDonagh, Supt. John Galvin

**Officials**

Leonard Cleary, Annette Donnellan

**Apologies**

Chief Supt. Sean Colleran

**Welcome**

The meeting was held online and the Chairperson welcomed all those joining the JPC meeting. He outlined meeting protocol due to COVID regulations. A roll call was taken to confirm attendees.

**1. Draft Minutes of JPC meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Proposed: Cllr. Alan O Callaghan

Seconded: Cllr. Michael Begley

**2. Matters arising from Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Correspondence**

A. Donnellan outlined one piece of correspondence from the Office of the Garda Commissioner, in relation to attendance of Garda Commissioner at the October Clare JPC meeting.

#### **4. Presentation – Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2026**

Siobhan McNulty addressed the JPC and gave the background to the making of the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2026 (Strategy), including its circulation to regulatory agencies for review. The Chairperson thanked Siobhan for the presentation.

D. Hayes queried the involvement of residents' associations in the consultation process.

S. McNulty said that the Strategy related to Council housing stock and that other tenancies are protected by Rental Tenancy Agency Board. Deputy Wynne asked about the practicalities of bring tenants to meetings, getting information to them and engaging with them. S. McNulty outlined the COVID19 procedures and meeting with tenants.

M. McAleer asked the specific mention of Travellers in the Strategy be removed. S. McNulty replied that Travellers are recognized as a distinct ethnic group in the state. L. Cleary, in reply to M. McAleer, said that the Strategy gives a framework for Agencies, An Garda Siobhan, and Clare County Council, and acknowledged the comprehensive piece of work.

There was a general discussion (Deputy Crowe, Cllr. Begley, Cllr. Murphy, Cllr. Crowe, Senator Garvey, Bill Slattery, Cllr. Ryan) about illegal encampments, the health and safety of those living on the side of road, the effect of certain activities on other people living nearby, enforcement of 5km rule, capacity in halting sites, level of spend of allocated funds, and the need for a Minister to look after national sites and national policies to properly address the issue. S. McNulty said the strategy encompasses all races, creeds, nationalities, and that there is engagement with Department of Justice. There is a Traveller mediation service; that no one can be forced to attend mediation, and mediation has been refused. She stated that funding is based on projects, and that Clare County Council has spent in excess of the allocation of funds. In terms of capacity, out of 59 available there are 15 vacant with no current prospects of tenants due to compatibility issues

Cllr. Howard spoke about negative effect of the behaviour (drugs, drink, and violence) of some service users at a local hotel which provides shelter for women and children; she asked who was running the unit. S. McNulty provided the name of the company that acts on behalf of Clare County Council and also stated that she had not received reports of such behaviour.

## **5. Update by An Garda Síochána**

Supt. McDonagh provided the latest statistics to the JPC Committee comparing figures from 2019 to 2020.

Cllr. John Crowe thanked Supt. McDonagh for the presentation.

## **6. Questions from JPC members**

Senator Garvey noted speeding offences increased during 2020 and asked if it was due to COVID19? In reply Supt. McDonagh said that the statistics relate to local built-up areas and whilst there was less traffic on main road there was an increase if traffic in urban areas.

Speaking about the increase in barring order breaches, Senator Garvey asked if the figure could be split into gender, male or female. Supt. McDonagh said yes but due to GDPR this is not provided in the statistics data due to reasons of ease of identification. Supt. McDonagh said that if there is a barring order in place then the Gardai could make an arrest at the house. The perpetrators are brought to courts, held in custody, or other restrictions put on them. Supt. McDonagh spoke of the Call Back policy and that a special court can be arranged to deal with breaches of barring orders.

Deputy Wynne thanked Supt. McDonagh for the presentation. She noted the decrease in figures except for domestic violence. She asked if the statistics could be compared from 2018 to 2019, instead of the COVID year 2020; if they could be broken down into quarterly figures; if the decrease in burglaries during lockdown was COVID related; and if COVID was putting pressure on resources for the County? Supt. McDonagh said he would look at the breakdown of figures, the reduction in burglaries could be due to check points in place hampering the travelling community on the road. In terms of resources Supt. McDonagh said that additional Gardai are available due to COVID19 because some areas of work such as Courts service and special units were not running as normal.

Cllr. O'Callaghan thanked Supt. McDonagh for the presentation. He complemented An Garda Síochána on their work during COVID19 and how the check points were reasonable and handled with dignity. On a positive note he acknowledged that drug detection has increased. He encouraged people to speak up if they see something, and to not be afraid to contact Gardai to report it.

Cllr PJ Ryan thanked Supt. McDonagh and spoke about older people and Garda patrol cars in the areas. He asked if the patrol cars could turn on their blue lights, so residents know that it is the Guards that area driving around. Supt. McDonagh replied yes, the lights can be turned on unless it is an unmarked car with plain clothes Gardai carrying out operational work

## 7. Draft Amended Standing Orders JPC meetings

M. McAleer, representing the PPN expressed areas for inclusion in the Standing Orders. These related to advance circulation of documentation, time lines for requesting items to be added to the Agenda, and inviting the public to online meetings. In reply, L. Cleary said the Agenda, notice of meeting and documentation was circulated and that JPC members can suggest Agenda items and ask questions. He went on to say that the meetings are scheduled as per a national body which prescribes the number of JPC meetings. The JPC Standing Orders are in line with Council Standing Orders. In terms of this meeting, a practical and pragmatic approach on the wider public attendance was taken and that the public were well represented by elected members, the press, and community representatives.

Adoption of JPC Standing Orders 2021

**Proposed:** Cllr. PJ Ryan

**Seconded:** Bill Slattery

## 8. Draft JPC Annual Report 2020

Adoption of JPC Annual Report 2020

**Proposed:** Cllr. Michael Begley

**Seconded:** Bill Slattery

## 9. Proposed dates for JPC meetings 2021

8<sup>th</sup> February 2021,

12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (changed from 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021)

**Proposed:** Cllr. Paul Murphy

**Seconded:** Cllr. Michael Begley

## 10. Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting concluded.

Next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

  
John Crowe

Date: 12. 4 - 2021