

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

Thursday 14th June 2018 @ 6.00pm

The Annex, DLR County Council

Attendance:	
Cllr. Cormac Devlin	DLRCC
Cllr. Mary Hanafin (Chairperson)	DLRCC
Cllr. Michael Merrigan	DLRCC
Cllr. Barry Saul	DLRCC
Cllr. Chris Curran	DLRCC
Cllr. Liam Dockery	DLRCC
Cllr. Ossian Smyth	DLRCC
Cllr. Barry Ward	DLRCC
Cllr. Deirdre Donnelly	DLRCC
Cllr. John Kennedy	DLRCC
Cllr. Peter O'Brien	DLRCC
Cllr. Patricia Stewart	DLRCC
Cllr. Shay Brennan	DLRCC
Dearbhla Lawson	DLRCC
Helen Griffin	DLRCC
Jason O'Sullivan	DLRCC
Chief Superintendent Anne Marie Cagney	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Martin McGonnell	An Garda Síochána
Inspector Tom Condon	An Garda Síochána
Frank Cruise	Sandyford/Stepaside LPF
Richard Phillips	DLR Public Participation Network
Gay Wright	DLR Public Participation Network
Tony McCarthy	DLR Public Participation Network
Anne Harrington	DLR Public Participation Network
Guest Speaker: Detective Sargent Michael Smith (Cyber Division)	An Garda Síochána
Apologies:	
Cllr. Deirdre Kingston	DLRCC
Cllr. Lynsey McGovern	DLRCC
Deputy Catherine Martin	Member of the Oireachtas
Senator Gerry Horkan	Member of the Oireachtas
Gina Hogan	Loughlinstown LPF
Barry Cullen	DLR Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
Rev. Asa Bjork	Dún Laoghaire LPF

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a welcome to the members. It was noted that Cllr. Deirdre Kingston, Cllr. Lynsey McGovern, Deputy Catherine Martin, Senator Gerry Horkan, Gina Hogan, Barry Cullen and Rev. Asa Bjork had sent their apologies for the meeting.

2. Minutes from the JPC meeting on 7th of March 2018

The Minutes from the JPC Public Meeting which was held on 7th of March 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Michael Merrigan and seconded by Cllr. Cormac Devlin and unanimously agreed.

3. Cyber Crime Presentation

A presentation was made by Detective Sergeant Michael Smith from the An Garda Síochána Cyber Division in relation to Online Child Exploitation. The presentation was very well received by the committee

Chief Superintendent Anne Marie Cagney and Sergeant Michael Smith responded to questions on statistics, staffing, national and international investigation approaches, multi-agency approaches, victim supports, education from Cllr Hanafin, Cllr Donnelly, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Merrigan, Cllr Devlin, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Curran and Tony McCarthy

4. Local Police Forum Reports

Dearbhla Lawson presented the headlines from the combined LPF report. The Chair invited members to consider the LPF reports circulated.

Chief Superintendent Anne Marie Cagney, Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald and Dearbhla Lawson responded to queries raised by Cllr. Hanafin and Cllr. Merrigan relating to drug and anti-social issues in Dún Laoghaire/Monkstown. Cormac Devlin noted the success of visible Garda units and Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald advised that the Drug Unit had achieved considerable success in this area.

5. DLR JPC Annual Work Plan 2018 Updates

Dearbhla Lawson and Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald presented the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Annual Work Plan for 2018. Discussions were noted under the three Goals set out in the JPC Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021.

Cllr. Merrigan queried the Community CCTV scheme in relation to Data Protection requirements. Dearbhla Lawson confirmed that with the enactment of GDPR regulations, an Audit was underway by the Data Commissioner in relation to current arrangements and fit with requirements.

In relation to Domestic Violence service and supports, it was noted that Tusla is the responsible agency. It was also noted that an outline of the Domestic Violence Policy and response would be provided to a future JPC meeting.

6. Submitted Question

A Question was submitted by Cllr Donnelly

“That this committee urgently address the dangerous problem of cyclists speeding on footpaths in residential area”.

A response was provided regarding the Council's Transport policy which encourages sustainable and safe active modes of travel and to the specific the question asked.

It was clarified that currently under the Road Traffic Regulations 2015, cycling on a footpath is not listed as an offence. However, those cycling on pavements could be fined if they were found to be doing so “without reasonable consideration”. An Garda Síochána confirmed that there are no PULSE records of any fixed charge notices issued in the DMR region for the offence of 'Riding a bicycle without reasonable consideration' for the year to date.

It was also noted that there are a range of other offences possible under the Road Traffic (Fixed Charges Offences – Cyclists) Regulations 2015, where a fixed charge notice can be issued which include;

- Riding a bicycle without reasonable consideration
- Failing to stop for a school warden sign
- Failing to stop at traffic lights when the red lamp is lit
- Failing to stop at a stop line, barrier or half barrier at a railway level crossing, Swing bridge or lifting bridge, when the red lamps are flashing.
- Cycling in a pedestrianised street or area

A discussion ensued regarding cycling and Cllr. Ward and Cllr. Donnelly raised the issue of cycling on the Rock Road and speeding in residential areas. There was a discussion regarding cycling and the need for better consideration particularly in relation to speed and due care in residential areas.

Dearbhla Lawson responded to queries, and outlined that Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council promotes and supports the development of a safe cycling culture through the Implementation of appropriate infrastructure, education and promotional measures.

7. Presentation by An Garda Síochána on Current Policing Issues

Chief Superintendent Cagney presented a report on policing in the County, outlining the work done by Gardaí during summer period, the positive engagement between Gardaí and other agencies and provided up to date crime statistics.

Crime numbers overall fell in most categories, with large decreases being observed in categories such as burglaries, aggravated burglaries and theft from vehicles. The activities of Gardaí, including the Divisional Drug Unit has led to a significant increase in the detections in the category of Possession of Drugs for Sale or Supply. An Garda Síochána will continue to engage in Operations such as 'Operation THOR' and 'Operation Crossover' in an effort address rising rates of Robbery from the Person and Bicycle Thefts.

Chief Superintendent Cagney explained that she had received notice of a reduction of 8.9% in the 2018 Budget and explained that funding for additional operations will be looked at on a case by case basis, including Operation Imeacht, Operation Irene and Operation Runner. She welcomed 7 additional personnel to the division. She advised of a nationwide competition to recruit senior level officers and expects additional staff resources to be allocated locally.

A.O.B.

Sympathies were extended to 2 Gardaí injured in Ballyogan in the course of their duties.

Cllr. Hanafin thanked the Committee and welcomed the Chief Superintendent's commitment to the work carried out in the DMR region and welcomed the additional resources discussed.

Dates for Further JPC Meetings in 2018

The next meeting scheduled for 15th November 2018 6pm was amended to 20th November 2018 at 6pm by public notice. The Committee meeting is to be followed by a public meeting at 7pm.