

Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 27^h June, 2018 at 3.30 p.m. Council Chamber, County Hall, Kilkenny

PRESENT: Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairperson, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, John Hayes.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Kilkenny Garda Station
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Kilkenny Garda Station
Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, Kilkenny Garda Station
Sergeant Aidan Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny Garda Station.

Brian Tyrrell, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council
Teresa Mahon, A/ Staff Officer, Kilkenny County Council

Apologies: Deputy Bobby Aylward, T.D. Deputy John Paul Phelan, Ms Colette Byrne, Chief Executive, Tim Butler, Director of Services, Anne Marie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, Superintendent Ger Egan, Thomastown Garda Station, Inspector Anthony Farrell, Kilkenny Garda Station, Cllr. Melissa O’Neill

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairperson - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She offered sympathies to Sam Matthews on the recent passing of his Father. A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings:

Minutes of Meeting of Kilkenny County Council Joint Policing Committee held on 25th April, 2018:

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Malone
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
And Agreed:

“That the minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby adopted.”

Item No. 2: Safer Socialising

Garda Aidan Fitzpatrick from Community Policing Unit explained that safer socialising operation commenced at the start of May and the increased Garda visibility in the City is having the intended effect.

All Members present congratulated the Gardaí on the initiative. The presence of the Garda van on the Parade, the increased Gardaí presence around the main streets and the way the Gardaí are engaging with young people was recognised as positive for the City.

It was also requested that the additional resources and Gardaí presence in Castlecomer continue.

Superintendent Derek Hughes confirmed that the operation would continue every weekend and on the Sunday's of Bank Holiday in particular.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes stated that the ethos of the Gardaí was one of engagement and visibility. He said 'Safer Socialising' included personal responsibility

Garda Aidan Fitzpatrick – from the Community Policing Unit - gave a presentation around the dangers young people face when they are out socialising, and explained the multi discipline approach aimed at Transitions year students.

All Members of the Committee commented on the presentation and all recognised the benefits of the programme. All agreed that parents must play a role and suggested a similar presentation could be made to parent groups to help them support their teenage children.

Item No 3.

Crime Statistics:

Superintendent Derek Hughes stated that figures for 'theft from person' this year are down 36% on last year, and thefts from vehicles are down almost a third on the same period in 2017. This is as of a direct result from increase garda visibility in the City. He explained that there has been an increase in the detection and investigation of assaults, coinciding with an increased garda presence

4. Criminal Assets Bureau: Presentation

The Criminal Assets Bureau gave a presentation to the Committee, explaining their role as a state body working locally, nationally and internationally to recover the proceeds of crime. Their statutory objectives are

(i) the identification of assets, wherever situated, of persons which derive or suspected to derive, directly or indirectly, from criminal conduct.

(ii) the taking of appropriate action under the law to deprive or deny those persons of the assets or the benefit of such assets, in whole or in part, as may be appropriate, and

(iii) the pursuit of any investigation or the doing of any work in relation to any proceedings arising from the objectives mentioned above.

They went on to explain that they need the local people and communities to report people who might be benefitting from the proceeds of crime

All Members of the Committee thanked CAB for the presentation and asked questions about resources available to CAB, the local Garda Asset Profilers, collection rates and the disposal of the proceeds of successful prosecutions

All questions were answered by CAB.

5. Agree date and venue for Public meeting.

It was agreed that the date of the public meeting will be Monday 24th September 2018 @ 7.30 pm in Urlingford.

6. AOB

The following matters were raised under any other business;

- A request for an update on the control of horses- Superintendent Dominic Hayes confirmed that he was continuing to work with the Council to indentify the most appropriate areas for the bylaws.
- Horse welfare programme-confirmation that there is an agreement with Department of Agriculture to run a programme in Kilkenny/Carlow area.
- Possibility of CCTV around the War Memorial – confirmation that this would be looked at but it is complicated by the size of the memorial.
- Vulnerable people being targeted in the lobbies of financial institutions because of fewer staff being physically present. Superintendent Derek Hughes confirmed that there is a plan to bring all the Mangers of financial institutions in Kilkenny to meet the Gardaí and talk about their responsibilities to their customers in particular vulnerable customers. Members asked that Post Offices be included.
- Parking around James Street, Castle Road and laneways around the City. Gardaí are ensuring a present in these areas.
- Check points and the manner in which they are carried out.
- Recent retirements of Gardaí and replacements. Chief Superintendent Hayes confirmed that he has to make a business case for replacements.
- Text alert areas were discussed, trying to get the last few rural areas on board.
- CCTV for exits coming off motorways. Chief Superintendent Hayes confirmed that there was no funding in place at the moment.
- Accident black spots, Chief Superintendent Hayes confirmed that reports are completed by Gardaí and forwarded to TII.
- It was agreed that the committee would extend an invitation to the New Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to attend a future meeting of the JPC.

Next Meeting Scheduled for 10th October 2018 at 2.00pm in Council Chambers.