

## **County Kildare Joint Policing Committee**

**Draft Minutes of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee  
Monday 6 July 2015  
Council Chamber  
Kildare County Council.**

### **Present:**

Cllr. Martin Miley            Chairperson  
Cllr. Aoife Breslin,        Vice Chairperson  
Superintendent Declan McCarthy, An Garda Síochána  
Peter Minnock                    Director of Services  
Cllr. Fintan Brett  
Cllr. Ivan Keatley  
Cllr. Paul Ward  
Cllr. Tim Durkan  
Cllr. Anne Breen  
Cllr Padraig McEvoy  
Cllr. Ide Cussen  
Cllr. Willie Crowley  
Cllr. Mark Lynch  
Cllr. Anthony Larkin  
Cllr. Suzanne Doyle  
Deputy Anthony Lawlor  
Deputy Bernard Durkan  
Deputy Emmet Stagg  
Deputy Martin Heydon  
Conor O'Leary            Muintir na Tire  
Sean Darcy                Celbridge Community Council  
Emma Berney              Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee  
Monica Byrne              Kildare Older Persons Council

### **Apologies:**

Deputy Sean O' Fearghail  
Deputy Catherine Muphy  
Mayor Brendan Weld  
Cllr. James Lawless  
Mike Farrell,            Comhairle na nOg  
Steven Joyce              SW Regional Drugs Task Force

### **In attendance:**

Superintendent Gerry Wall    An Garda Síochána  
Inspector Mel Smyth          An Garda Síochána  
Sergeant Patrick Conway      An Garda Síochána

Sergeant Garry Madden  
Susan Bookle,  
JP Holligan  
Eileen Doyle

An Garda Síochána  
Kildare LCDC & ISP Director, Co-ordinator  
Community Section  
Community Section

### **Item 1 – Minutes of JPC meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The Chairperson Councillor Martin Miley welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes were formally adopted as proposed by Councillor Larkin and seconded by Councillor Breen subject to one amendment of Councillors Lynch and Larkin being included as present at the meeting on 16 February 2015.

### **Item 2 – Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Item 3 – Role of the JPC- Presentation by Garda National Joint Policing Committees Monitoring Office**

Sergeant Patrick Conway of the Garda National Joint Policing Committees Monitoring Office provided a comprehensive overview of the background, role and future operation of the County Joint Policing Committee (a copy of this presentation is attached). Sergeant Conway stressed the importance of the role of the Steering Group and stated that all meetings (except “in committee” meetings) are open to the public and he highlighted the importance of keeping the JPC focused on strategic issues.

The Chairperson thanked Sergeant Conway for his presentation.

### **Items 4 and 5 – Policing Plan and Garda Resources – Presentation by an Garda Síochána**

Superintendent Declan McCarthy presented a presentation on crime figures and Garda resources (a copy of the presentation is attached) Superintendent McCarthy responded to the members questions on rates of crime and a lengthy conversation took place in relation to Garda resources in Kildare which are currently running at a Garda/population ratio of 1:664. The Chairperson highlighted the lack of Garda personnel as being a major concern in County Kildare at this time and proposed that a letter issue to the Garda Commissioner calling for Garda resources to be deployed based on demographics and crime rates as promised in the National Policing Plan and seeking an opportunity for a deputation from the Committee to meet with her, this proposal was seconded by Councillor Cussen.

Superintendent Gerry Wall also responded to members queries on garda resources and need to make best use of these resources.

Inspector Mel Smyth responded to a request for more policing around the Square in Kildare town in response to claims of anti-social behaviour and he stated that extra garda surveillance would be carried out at this area.

The Chairperson thanked Superintendent McCarthy, Superintendent Wall and Inspector Mel Smyth.

#### **Item 6 – Profile of County Kildare**

Ms Susan Bookle, Kildare LCDC Co-ordinator & ISP Director made a presentation on the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 (copy attached). Ms Bookle informed the committee that the Local Government Reform Act 2014 established Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) to provide the mechanism for greater integration of economic and community development at local level. The LCDC and the Economic Strategic Policy Committee have to agree a six year local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the county.

The LECP is to set out, for a six year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development in the county.

The JCP guidelines 2014 set out that it is essential that JPCs are aware of the plans and activities being pursued through other relevant local structures, in particular Local Community Development Committees. JPC's should maximise their engagement with all such structures and relevant community based groups to co-ordinate appropriate partnership approaches.

Ms Bookle's presentation included statistics from the AIRO research on Garda resources, levels of crime and roads traffic injuries in Kildare.

<http://www.kildarelcdc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Kildare-AIRO-LECP-Evidence-Baseline-Report-2015.pdf>

Mr Minnock stated that the County Kildare JPC Strategic Plan and the LECP would share similar objectives and linkages. Mr Minnock went on to state that the next meeting of the JPC would comprise a facilitated session where a consultation process for strategic proposals for the six year plan can begin.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Bookle for her presentation.

#### **Item 7 – Municipal District Information Meetings with an Garda Síochána**

Mr Minnock informed the meeting that a lot of policing engagement could happen at local level in an informal session and stated that meetings could be convened with the local gardai to attend at Municipal District level at the monthly meetings approximately three or four times a year. This would give an opportunity for tabling issues that are local to the district. It is envisaged that these meetings would commence immediately after the Municipal District monthly meetings and last for approximately one hour. As each Municipal District has three elected representatives on the JPC, then the issues discussed could feed back to the JPC meetings. The Chairperson agreed that such meetings would be beneficial and stated that this model has been practised in the Athy Municipal District and that as a lot of intensified work has to be undertaken at the JPC level, the benefits of local discussions have been immense. Superintendent McCarthy stated that he was familiar with this model and stated that it fostered better relationships and facilitated exchange of views in an informal setting. In response to a query about whether the community representatives would be invited to these meetings the

Chairperson stated that there would be no issues about the community representatives or indeed any committee member being invited to attend these sessions.

It was proposed by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor McEvoy that municipal information meetings take place immediately after the monthly Municipal District meetings with the first round of these meetings to commence in September 2015.

It was also proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Breen that the Vice-Chairperson sit on the JPC Steering Group Committee.

#### **Item 8 – Joint Policing Strategy**

Mr Minnock informed the committee that each JPC must make strategic work plans which link with other appropriate plans and strategies. In this regard County Kildare JPC must put in place a six year plan linked to the relevant objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The JPC plan should be confined to a limited number of strategic objectives to facilitate appropriate monitoring and review. The Plan should focus on areas where co-operative and collaborative actions can add most value to the existing work of relevant stakeholders. It is important that plans set specific and measurable objectives, identify lead individuals or agencies as well as others responsible for contributing to relevant actions, include relevant resource allocation and set out defined timescales. The next meeting of the JPC would comprise a facilitated session where a consultation process for strategic proposals for the six year plan can begin.

#### **Item 9 – Referrals and Correspondence**

The following referrals were considered by the committee:

- A referral from the Athy M.D. regarding the review of arrangements for the appropriate placement of the Gatso van at the N78 as there has been a tragic history of accidents here over the last 16 to 18 months. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Chief Superintendent seeking this.
- A referral from the Athy M.D. regarding policing along the inland waterways and a reply from Superintendent Martin Walker was received stating that patrols have been carried out on the Barrow Track, Athy over the past few months - Noted by the committee
- A referral from the Maynooth M.D. regarding Garda resources in Kildare and a reply received from the Office of the Garda Commissioner stating that new probationer Gardai were recently allocated to Divisions and the Kildare Division received an initial allocation of 5 Gardai in May 2015 and that consideration would be given to allocating additional Probationer Gardai to the Kildare Division on completion after their training - Noted by the committee.

The following correspondence was considered by the committee:

- Correspondence from Councillor Frank O' Rourke seeking an update on the CCTV roll out for Maynooth and then Celbridge and Leixlip. Superintendent Wall stated that he would report on this at the next meeting. A successful CCTV project has been operating in Athy and it was agreed that a report on Athy CCTV would be presented at the next meeting.
- Correspondence from Councillor Willie Crowley on the provision of mobile CCTV units throughout the county. It was agreed that this item could be considered as an item for consideration for the JPC six year Strategy Plan.
- Correspondence from Councillor Ide Cussen querying how to make submissions to the Garda Policing Plan and a reply was read from the Chief Superintendent stating that submissions with regard to the Garda Policing Plan may be made by interested parties to the Chief Superintendent of the Kildare Division, Naas Garda Station.

#### **Item 10 – Schedule of Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at 6.p.m on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The meeting concluded.

