

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Áras Chill Dara – Council Chamber Monday 7th March 2016

Present:

Cllr. Martin Miley,	Chairperson
Cllr. Aoife Breslin,	Vice Chairperson
Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin,	An Garda Síochána
Peter Carey,	Chief Executive, KCC
Peter Minnock ,	Director of Services
Cllr. Paul Ward	
Cllr. Fintan Brett	
Cllr. Ivan Keatley	
Cllr. Tim Durkan	
Cllr. Anne Breen	
Cllr Padraig McEvoy	
Cllr. Ide Cussen	
Cllr. Anthony Larkin	
Cllr. Suzanne Doyle	
Cllr. Morgan McCabe	
Deputy Fiona O' Loughlin	
Conor O'Leary	Muintir na Tire
Monica Byrne	Kildare Older Persons Council
Steven Joyce	SW Regional Drugs Task Force
Emma Berney	Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee
Sean Darcy	Celbridge Community Council

Apologies:

Superintendent Declan McCarthy

In attendance:

Superintendent Martin Walker	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Gerard Wall	An Garda Síochána
Inspector Patsy Glennon	An Garda Síochána
Sergeant Garry Madden	An Garda Síochána
JP Holligan	Community Section
Eileen Doyle	Community Section

Item 1 – Minutes of the JPC meeting dated

The Chairperson, Councillor Martin Miley welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes were formally adopted as proposed by Councillor Ivan Keatley and seconded by Councillor Tim Durkan.

Item 2 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 3 – Condolences to the wife and family of the late Committee member Councillor Willie Crowley R.I.P.

The Chairperson on behalf of the committee extended sincere condolences to the wife and family of the late Committee member Councillor Willie Crowley and a minute silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Item 4 – Introduction of Councillor Morgan McCabe who has been co-opted on to the JPC

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor McCabe onto the Committee.

Item 5 - Annual Report 2015

The Annual Report was adopted by the committee as proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Breen.

Item 6 – Policing Report

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin presented the Policing Report in relation to crime figures in Kildare. (See report attached) Chief Superintendent McPolin also updated the committee on major investigations and murder trials. The committee were updated on Community Engagment projects undertaken by Superintendent Walker such as Text Alert and Business Watch. The committee were also informed about the Community Group work undertaken by Superintendent McCarthy who has met with the Kildare Age Alliance, whose Strategy document has a set of objectives aimed at the Garda service provision to older persons. The Gardai from Naas also met with the Naas Access Group where issues regarding parking in allocated disabled parking spaces were discussed and followed up. The Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant George Doherty delivered a number of crime prevention presentations in February and March 2016 and Sergeant Madden attended the Kildare Children and Youth Services Meeting and discussed ongoing matters. Local transition year students attended at Naas Garda Station for 3 days spending time with the Divisional C.P.D. unit and the students also visited the Garda College at Templemore. Superintendent Martin Walker liaised with the Regional Manager of the National Parks and Wildlife Service as they undertook anti-hare hunting patrols in various locations on Sunday 28th February 2016.

The Chairperson thanked Chief Supertintendent McPolin for his presentation.

Item 7 – “Criminal Justice v Health” Presentation from Anna Quigley, Citywide

Ms Anna Quigley from the Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign made a presentation to the committee on the discussion around the Decriminalisation Model which raises the distinction between decriminalisation and legislation with the focus on “Addicts we care, pushers beware” (see report attached). The impact of criminalisation rises, amongst other issues, stigma and discrimination for drug users and families. The committee were informed that decriminalisation provides a legal framework to deal with drug use as a social and public health issue rather than a criminal issue, there is an increasing trend towards decriminalisation with 25-30 countries across the world now adopting this model with no increase in overall levels of drug use as a result. Ms Quigley responded to questions from the committee and the Chairperson thanked Ms. Quigley for her presentation.

Item 8 – Update on Council out of hours response service

Mr Minnock informed the committee that Kildare County Council recommenced an “out of hours” response service from December 2015. In the absence of a nationally agreed pay structure, the service will initially be provided on an “ad hoc” basis as in that KCC staff are not being paid to be on call, but will endeavour to respond to the best of their ability. The critical point in terms of Health and Safety is the Councils’ instruction to their staff that they can only act under a “Blue Light” and therefore the ability to perform during hours of darkness is very much dependent on the co-operation of An Garda Síochána. Mr Minnock explained that he would update the members if there were to be any changes to this service.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Minnock for his presentation.

Item 9 – Any Other Business

The committee were circulated with the outcomes from the two workshops which were held in order to inform the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategy and requested for feedback of preferences/comments in order of priority on which items they wished to see included in the Six Year Strategy. It is planned to present the draft Strategy to the committee at the next meeting of the committee.

Item 10 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Monday 13th June 2016 at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Aras Chill Dara.

The meeting concluded.