

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Áras Chill Dara – Council Chamber Monday 11th June 2018

Members Present:

Cllr. Martin Miley Jnr.
Chief Superintendent Brian M Sutton
Superintendent Declan McCarthy
Peter Carey
Sonya Kavanagh
Cllr Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr. Fintan Brett
Cllr. Carmel Kelly
Cllr. Anthony Larkin
Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Mark Lynch
Cllr. Michael Coleman
Cllr. Suzanne Doyle
Dep. Bernard Durkan
Dep. Fiona O' Loughlin
Dep. Martin Heydon
Conor O' Leary
Steven Joyce
Emma Berney
Monica Byrne
Sean Darcy

Chairperson
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
Chief Executive, KCC
Director of Services

Muintir Na Tire
SW Regional Drugs Task Force
Kildare Children & Young People's Ser. Committee
Kildare Older Persons Council
Celbridge Community Council

In attendance:

Superintendent Martin Walker
Superintendent Gerard Wall
Inspector Oliver Henry
Sergeant Gavin Dunphy
Sergeant Eoin Phibbs
Noeleen T. Behan
Jacinta McPartlin
Eileen Doyle

An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána Inspectorate
Kildare County Council
Kildare County Council

Apologies:

Deputy Frank O' Rourke
Deputy Catherine Murphy
Deputy James Lawless
Cllr. Íde Cussen
Cllr. Anne Breen
Patrick Balfe

Item 1 – Minutes of the JPC meeting dated 12th March 2018

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. Noeleen Behan from An Garda Síochána Inspectorate to the meeting.

The minutes from the last JPC meeting held on 12th March 2018 were formally adopted as proposed by Councillor Brett and seconded by Councillor Kelly.

Item 2 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 3 - Policing Report

Chief Superintendent Brian M. Sutton presented the Policing Report. The report focused amongst other issues on:

Garda Resources in the Kildare Division – The situation regarding resources in Kildare is improving year on year, but the spread of gardaí around the country displays a clear imbalance as there are currently 1 garda as a portion of population per 620 persons in Kildare which is much lower than the national average.

Chief Superintendent Sutton also spoke on crime figures, drugs enforcement, roads policing and victim engagement. He also stated that he would look at adding additional resources to community policing towards the end of 2018 or early 2019.

Chief Superintendent Sutton responded to questions from the committee and the Chairperson thanked him for his presentation.

Item 4 – Presentation, An Garda Síochána role within the Kildare Age Friendly County Strategy 2016-2018

Sergeant Gavin Dunphy, Community Policing presented a brief insight into the context of the Strategy for Kildare advising that the population structure is changing with older people and fewer younger people. The over 65 age population will increase 250% by the year 2036 with the over 80 population to increase by 400% by the year 2041.

With this in mind one of the objectives of the Strategy aims to “ask our services to adapt and respond to the challenges facing the ageing demographic” An Garda Síochána as one of the stakeholders to the Strategy does this by

- Liaising with older people
- Help older persons in Kildare protect themselves from crime by increasing engagement with the Crime Prevention Unit.
- Engage with persons who are victims of crime because of age through the Divisional Victims Service Office.

Sergeant Dunphy informed the meeting that there is increased interaction by An Garda Síochána through the Small Areas of Policing, where Liaison Gardaí and Community Policing members engage through contact with people in their own homes and by the introduction of the “Vulnerable Persons Register” working in tandem with the Small Areas of Policing initiative.

Sergeant responded to questions from the committee and the Chairperson thanked him for his presentation.

Item 5 – updates from the Quarterly Municipal District meetings with An Garda Síochána

Councillor Suzanne Doyle spoke on behalf of the members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District and she stated that she could see the integration of An Garda Síochána within the community. At these meetings the members are informed of drug seizures, violent crime down to the more mundane things that affect communities. As a result of these meetings the members are much more aware of the need for safer communities when making policies for pathways, lighting etc. Councillor Doyle stated that these quarterly meetings were an excellent initiative and thanked An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Naoise O’ Cearúil spoke on behalf of the Maynooth Municipal District and he stated that the some of the issues that came up at these meetings include amongst others, the increase of drink driving amongst the younger population in particular and Councillor O’ Cearúil also acknowledged the lack of resources and again called for more resources for Kildare while thanking An Garda Síochána and all involved for attending these meetings.

Councillor Carmel Kelly spoke on behalf of the Naas Municipal District and she stated that these meetings provided an opportunity to deal with local issues at local level before they may escalate and matters can be discussed openly and frankly. She praised the Community Garda on their level of interaction and involvement within the community and stated that it was a big help to be able to know and engage with local Gardaí at these meetings. Councillor Kelly thanked An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Ivan Keatley spoke on behalf of the Athy Municipal District and he found these meetings useful on a pragmatic level where matters can be discussed frankly with an open exchange of views. Councillor Keatley thanked An Garda Síochána.

Councillor Michael Coleman spoke on behalf of the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District and stated that these meetings were a two Way Street for means of information and that it was important that both councillors and residents work together with An Garda Síochána. Councillor Coleman thanked An Garda Síochána.

The Chairperson thanked the members for their reports.

Item 6 – Approval of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2017

The County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report was approved by as proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

Item 7 – Update on Community Based CCTV Grant Scheme

Ms Kavanagh informed the meeting that as the members were aware, the LGMA (Local Government Management Association) had written to the Department of Justice asking them to suspend the Community CCTV Scheme pending clarification around Data Protection issues. It had recently been confirmed that the Data Protection Commissioner's Office has been in contact with the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána about the Community CCTV Scheme.

They clarified that their existing guidance on CCTV is in effect now out of date as of the commencement of the new Act. On this basis they would be reviewing guidance for CCTV and that would involve consultation with stakeholders. They also stated that they would be investigating Community CCTV Schemes; most likely during Q3 2018.

Despite the pending investigation they pointed out that in principle they are not questioning the integrity of the Community CCTV Scheme but that the adoption of the Data Controller role is onerous and also now attracts mandatory actions before the Scheme progresses. They emphasised the mandatory requirement under GDPR (Article 35) that requires that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) be conducted for use of CCTV on this scale.

The suggestion has now been made that a lead Local Authority could carry out a DPIA in consultation with the relevant practitioners, which involved consultation with the Data Protection Commission, Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána. The DPIA, if approved, could in effect be used by the rest of the Local Authority Sector then to continue the Scheme.

Ms. Kavanagh informed the meeting that she was currently following up on this particular issue to see if another Local Authority has started this work.

Ms. Kavanagh responded to questions from the members of the committee. The members re-iterated that funding has been put aside by community groups who are anxiously awaiting the progress of this scheme. Mr Carey also spoke on the matter stating that all involved were committed to progressing this scheme as a matter of priority.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Kavanagh for her report.

Item 8 – Correspondence

Correspondence - from the charity Victim Support at Court (V-Sac) who are currently recruiting volunteers for the role of Court Accompaniment in Naas and other circuit courts throughout the country. V-Sac are asking if some of the member of the JPC may have an interest in volunteering or perhaps would know someone that would be suitable. - The correspondence was noted.

Correspondence - from the Department of Health in relation to a Public Consultation on Possession of Illegal Drugs for Personal Use - The correspondence was noted.

Correspondence - from Kildare Division Community Policing informing the committee about the "KNOW YOUR PATCH" initiative. The main thrust behind this initiative is to provide people and their communities with a familiar face within An Garda Síochána where people have a constant point of contact for quality of life incidents. – The correspondence was noted.

Item 9 –Any Other Business

The Chairperson informed the committee that An Garda Síochána had brought forward a proposal to change the time of the JPC meeting. This item will be considered at the next meeting of the Steering Committee with a view to bringing forward a proposal to the September meeting.

Item 10 – Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th September 2018.

The meeting concluded.