

Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting
3.00 p.m. Monday 4th March 2019
Aras Chill Dara, Naas

Members in Attendance:

Name:	Representing:
Cllr. Martin Miley (Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Aoife Breslin (Vice Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy	Elected Member
Cllr. Michael Coleman	Elected Member
Cllr. Morgan McCabe	Elected Member
Cllr. Anne Breen	Elected Member
Cllr. Íde Cussen	Elected Member
Cllr. Anthony Larkin	Elected Member
Cllr. Suzanne Doyle	Elected Member
Peter Carey (Chief Executive)	Kildare County Council
Sonya Kavanagh (Director of Services)	Kildare County Council
Chief Supt. Brian Sutton	An Garda Síochána
Supt. Declan McCarthy	An Garda Síochána
Conor O'Leary	Muintir na Tíre
Steven Joyce	Southwest Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Sean D'Arcy	Celbridge Community Council

Apologies:	
Cllr. Tim Durkan	Elected Member
Cllr. Mark Lynch	Elected Member
Dept. Bernard Durkan	Oireachtas Member
Emma Berney	Tusla

Meeting Coordinator: John Shannon / Meeting Administrator: Ciara Gallagher

Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting
3.00 p.m. Monday 4th March 2019
Aras Chill Dara, Naas

Minutes / Matters Arising:

The chairman advised the meeting that the attendance of Ms. Helen Hall of the Policing Authority was not noted on the draft copy of the minutes of 3rd December 2018 previously circulated by email but was now included in the copies available to the meeting.

The minutes of the annual public meeting held on Monday 3rd December were adopted on proposal of Cllr. Anne Breen, seconded by Cllr. Padraig McEvoy.

Policing Report:

Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton presented the policing report for the period since the last meeting in December 2018. His report covered divisional Garda resources, overall crime statistics, drugs enforcement, roads policing and victims of crime. Additionally, the report gave an update on the computer-aided dispatch system (based in Harcourt Square in Dublin since December) and CS Sutton advised that all 999 calls are now routed through there.

The report was ratified on the proposal of Cllr. Padraig McEvoy and seconded by Cllr. Morgan McCabe.

Supt. Declan McCarthy further advised that the future use of the local text alert system was being examined in light of the new dispatch system.

A number of questions and issues were raised in response to the policing report as follows:-

Dangerous cycling on footpaths in the Naas area; if there is a regional aspect to low Garda numbers; can more than 10 new recruits be accommodated in the division; concerns over responses to 999 calls in view of changes to the dispatch system; Garda numbers in the North Kildare area; links between changes to the text alert system and a spike in burglaries; issues of drug abuse and begging in Newbridge; increased burglaries in Leixlip; if resources were being diverted to the border regions in advance of Brexit; the possibility of increasing Garda visibility in Celbridge; is there a breakdown between drivers and passengers for non-use of seat belts offences statistics.

A reply was given by Chief Supt. Sutton to each of the matters raised.

On the proposal of the chairman Cllr. Miley, it was agreed to write to both Commissioner Harris and the Minister for Justice regarding low Garda numbers in Co. Kildare generally.

Note: Policing report is available upon request.

Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting
3.00 p.m. Monday 4th March 2019
Aras Chill Dara, Naas

Drug Debt Intimidation

Supt. John Fitzgerald gave a report on this matter. A number of follow-up points were made regarding the issue: - concerns were expressed about persons being brought into the area from other regions; street-level drug dealing needs to be tackled; young persons were afraid of getting a criminal record if they reported a debt intimidation problem; there was a lack of drug treatment facilities in Co. Kildare; the Housing Strategic Policy Committee should consider the issue.

CS Sutton replied that any family or person threatened in relation to drug debt should always contact the Gardaí who would deal with it in a sympathetic manner. Supt. Fitzgerald emphasised that the Juvenile Diversion Programme is used to avoid formal court proceedings where possible.

Property Marking

Sgt. Gavin Dunphy gave a brief presentation on property theft recovery and the difficulties Gardaí have in returning recovered stolen property to owners due to the lack of satisfactory evidence of ownership. He introduced Mr. James O'Neill of the not-for-profit company Property Marking Ireland who gave a presentation on the benefits of property marking machines being used elsewhere in the country to discretely mark Eircodes on property. Mr. O'Neill has attended many JPC meetings previously and the uptake on purchase and use of the machines has been very high.

On the proposal of Cllr. Breslin, seconded by Cllr. Larkin, the committee agreed that this was a very worthwhile initiative and that individual municipal districts could invest in a machine if considered necessary.

NASA (No Alcohol or Substances Allowed)

Sgt. Dunphy explained this programme which is new to Co. Kildare but has been rolled out elsewhere. Essentially, transport providers sign up to a policy of refusing access to or use of their vehicles for under-18 events if drugs or alcohol are present. The Gardaí will link up with venues, transport companies and service providers to launch and monitor the initiative.

Road Safety

Declan Keogh, Kildare County Council road safety officer gave an update to the meeting on his activities which included details of school visits, joint campaigns with Gardaí and the Road Safety Working Group.

Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting
3.00 p.m. Monday 4th March 2019
Aras Chill Dara, Naas

Community CCTV

Tony Shanahan, Access to Information Officer gave a presentation to the meeting on the proposed roll-out of community CCTV schemes and how the schemes would be set up and funded. He noted the council's role as a lead agent and covered the particular issues around data protection that need to be considered by the council as a data controller. He confirmed that the JPC's CCTV sub-committee was preparing draft documents for use by community groups which would set out the processes and standards that would need to be followed for any schemes proposed.

A number of comments were made by committee members to acknowledge the progress being made and in particular to note the work of Ins. Oliver Henry in this area on his promotion.

AOB

Cllr. McCabe asked CS Sutton if he was aware of reports of attempted child abductions in the Newbridge area. Supt. Walker confirmed he was aware of such rumours but they were typically vague and no reports were made to Gardai.

Cllr. Cussen asked about the issue of spiking of drinks in public venues. Supt. McCarthy stated such incidents were very rare despite media coverage indicating otherwise.

Declan Keogh asked if the statistics for penalty points for speeding covered the M7 road works and if the points related only to Kildare drivers. Sgt. Henry confirmed these detections included the works area and was for all drivers and that very high enforcement was in place at this location in any case.

Kildare County Council Chief Executive Peter Carey made a presentation to Cllr. Martin Miley on the occasion of his last JPC meeting. Cllr. Miley in turn thanked all concerned in making the JPC in Co. Kildare such a success.

Next meeting: To be confirmed due to local elections 2019