

Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting

3.00 p.m. Monday 2nd September 2019
Aras Chill Dara, Naas

Attendees:

Name:	Representing:
Cllr. Fintan Brett (Chairperson)	Elected Member <i>FL Brett</i>
Cllr. Aoife Breslin (Vice Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy	Elected Member
Cllr. Brian Dooley	Elected Member
Cllr. Bernard Caldwell	Elected Member
Cllr. Chris Pender	Elected Member
Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin-Healy	Elected Member
Cllr. Anne Connolly	Elected Member
Dep. Catherine Murphy	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Bernard Durkan	Oireachtas Member
Sen. Anthony Lawlor	Oireachtas Member
Peter Carey	Kildare County Council
Sonya Kavanagh	Kildare County Council
Supt. Oliver Henry	An Garda Síochána
Conor O'Leary	Muintir na Tíre
Steven Joyce	SWRDATF
Emma Berney	CYPSC
Monica Cox	Kildare Older Persons Council
Michael Corcoran	Public Participation Network

Also in attendance:

Cathaoirleach Suzanne Doyle	Elected Member
Supt. Gerry Wall	An Garda Síochána

Apologies:

Chief Supt. John Scanlon	An Garda Síochána
Cllr. Ivan Keatley	Elected Member
Cllr. Nuala Killeen	Elected Member
Cllr. Bill Clear	Elected Member
Cllr. Vincent P. Martin	Elected Member
Dep. Fiona O'Loughlin	Oireachtas Member
Michael Farrell	Comhairle na nOg

Not in attendance:

Cllr. Tim Durkan	Elected Member
Cllr. Ciara Galvin	Elected Member
Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil	Elected Member
Dep. Frank O'Rourke	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Seán Ó'Fearghaíl	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Martin Heydon	Oireachtas Member
Dep. James Lawless	Oireachtas Member

Meeting Coordinator: John Shannon / Meeting Administrator: Ciara Gallagher

Cllr. Aoife Breslin, in her position as vice chairperson of the previous County Kildare Joint Policing committee, opened the meeting and asked for nominations for a new chairperson.

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Election of Chairperson: Cllr. Fintan Brett was nominated unchallenged and named chairperson of the JPC on the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy seconded by Cllr. Bernard Caldwell.

Cllr. Brett chaired the remainder of the meeting. His first point of business was the election of a vice-chairperson.

Election of Vice-Chairperson: Cllr. Aoife Breslin was nominated unchallenged and named vice-chairperson of the JPC on the proposal of Cllr. Bernard Caldwell seconded by Cllr. Brian Dooley.

Cllr. Brett thanked the former Kildare District Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton for his work on the JPC before his transfer. Cllr. Brett also thanked the former Kildare Joint Policing Committee for their commitment and hard work.

Minutes / Matters Arising:

The minutes of the second quarter meeting held on Monday 4th March 2019 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, seconded by Cllr. Aoife Breslin.

JPC Briefing:

Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services gave a short briefing on the role and functions of the joint policing committee for the benefit of the new members.

Policing Report (including New Divisional Areas):

Supt. Henry presented the policing report with relevant statistics up to the end of June this year. Statistical details were given in relation to property crime, crime against the person, criminal damage / public order offences, drugs / weapons offences and road traffic incidents.

There were a number of questions in relation to this report, all were answered by both Supt. Henry and Supt. Wall.

Supt. Gerry Wall (standing in for Chief. Supt. John Scanlon) gave an overview of the new Garda policing model which he stressed is in its infancy. The implications this model would have for Kildare are not yet fully known.

There were many questions from the committee in relation to this presentation and in particular to the retention of existing resources. Both Supt. Henry and Wall noted the concerns raised and advised the committee that a resource needs report had already been submitted to the new Chief Superintendent with regards to policing requirements in Kildare. They will provide more information to the committee as soon as it becomes available.

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Correspondence:

On the proposal of the chairperson the correspondence was taken as read.

Briefing and nomination of a chairperson to the Multi-Agency Drug Litter committee:

Steven Joyce gave a brief overview as to the origins of the Multi-Agency Drug Litter committee and a copy of the terms of reference was provided for all. On the proposal of Cllr. Aoife Breslin which was seconded by Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr. Chris Pender was nominated unchallenged as the chairperson of this committee.

Update on Property Marking machine and Text Alert Scheme:

Sgt. Gavin Dunphy confirmed that the property marking machine had been purchased and 10 Gardaí will be trained by the end of September and community reps will be trained thereafter. It is planned that the property marking scheme will be officially launched in November.

Sgt. Dunphy advised that a number of options are being considered for a newly structured Text Alert scheme to replace the current system which is significantly outdated. The proposed new system is based on the model already rolled out in Co. Monaghan. There were a number of questions from the floor regarding the need to keep the current community text alert groups engaged in the process and to ensure that an adequate budget for the revised scheme will be in place.

Community CCTV:

Sonya Kavanagh gave an update as to the progress of the CCTV sub-committee. It was noted that the current scheme is due to expire at the end of 2019 and a request has been sent to the Department of Justice and Equality to extend the timeframe for funding. It is hoped that a continuance of the scheme in some shape or form will be announced and Supt. Henry confirmed that a small number of community groups should be able to proceed with applications for the CCTV scheme in their area if funding is continued.

Ms. Kavanagh highlighted that the existing traffic management system live feed to An Garda Síochána in Naas station will likely be turned off due to concerns raised by the Data Protection Commissioner. There is a risk that if it is not turned off Kildare County Council could be in breach of GDPR and could face significant fines.

A number of committee members voiced concerns about the onerous conditions being placed on the community groups who wish to implement this scheme, in particular the 5 year cost of maintaining CCTV in their area until handover to the council.

Annual Public Meeting:

The annual public meeting will be held in Newbridge this year. It will be held on Monday 2nd December at 7.00 p.m. More details will be provided before the meeting.

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AOB:

- Cllr. Brett advised from now on paper copies of agendas, correspondence and presentations will not be provided unless specifically requested.
- Cllr. McEvoy asked that An Garda Síochána ensure that relevant Gardaí from the appropriate stations come to municipal district meetings where the municipal district encompasses more than one Garda district.
- Sonya Kavanagh proposed a vote by taken on whether to retain a 3.00 p.m. start for the regular quarterly meeting or return to the previous 6.00 p.m. start. An email vote will take place in advance of the annual public meeting.

Next meeting:

Annual Public Meeting, Monday 2nd December, 2019 – 7.00 p.m. – Newbridge.