

## Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting

7.00 p.m. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth

### Members in attendance:

Name:	Representing
Cllr. Fintan Brett (Chair)	Elected Member
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy	Elected Member
Cllr. Ivan Keatley	Elected Member
Cllr. Nuala Killeen	Elected Member
Cllr. Naoise Ó'Gearúil	Elected Member
Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin-Healy	Elected Member
Cllr. Anne Connolly	Elected Member
Cllr. Bill Clear	Elected Member
Dep. Réada Cronin	Oireachtas Member
Sonya Kavanagh	KCC
Marian Higgins	KCC
Chief Supt. John Scanlan	An Garda Síochána
Supt. Oliver Henry	An Garda Síochána
Conor O'Leary	Muintir na Tíre
Steven Joyce	SWRDATAF
Michael Corcoran	PPN
John Daly	PPN

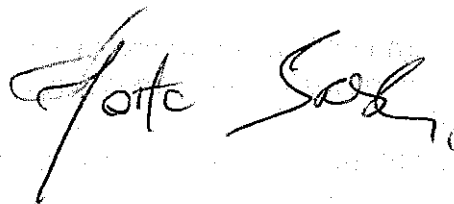
### Apologies received:

Emma Berney	CYPSC
Dep. Bernard Durkan	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Martin Heydon	Oireachtas Member
Sen. Fiona O'Loughlin	Oireachtas Member
Cllr. Colm Kenny	Elected Member
Cllr. Ciara Galvin	Elected Member

**KCC staff in attendance:** John Shannon, Administrative Officer and Colin Ennis, Clerical Officer – Economic, Community & Cultural Development.

**Also in attendance:** Senior personnel from An Garda Síochána, Kildare, members of the public and members of the press.

---



# Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting

7.00 p.m. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth

## 1. Minutes / Matters Arising:

The minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Naoise O’Cearúil, seconded by Michael Corcoran (no amendments).

## 2. Chairperson’s business:

- Councillor Brett advised that he had been notified of revised JPC guidelines and these would be circulated to the committee early in the new year.
- Cllr. Brett noted that the theme of tonight’s meeting is community policing, and this follows on from a very successful event held in Naas on October 18<sup>th</sup> at which Sgt. Jared Harris and Prof. Ian Marder were guest speakers. He introduced Prof. Johnny Connolly of Limerick University and Inspector Gavin Dunphy of Naas District, the speakers for the evening.

## 3. Policing report:

Chief Superintendent John Scanlan presented his policing report which compared crime statistics for Q3 2022 with Q3 2021. He prefaced his report by noting that figures were starting to come broadly into line with 2019 data, the last normal year before the Covid pandemic. Some points to note were the high figures for thefts from motor vehicles; thefts from shops were usually of alcohol; the overall increase in night-time economic activity leading to more public order offences; the increasing population of Kildare; 50% of failed intoxicant tests of drivers related to drugs other than alcohol; data for vehicle damage related to minor roads generally as motorways are very safe; very low numbers of recruits are training in Templemore; overall Garda numbers in Kildare have improved but additional resources are always being sought; most third-level students do not cause any problems for Gardaí; crime figures can be considered relatively low considering proximity to Dublin.

A number of questions were asked as follows and answered by the chief superintendent:

- Is it possible to open Maynooth Garda station on a 24-hour basis and/or replace the existing station altogether given the growing population?
- How will the new Garda operational model impact on the existing text alert and community alert groups?
- Would it be possible for community Gardaí to link in with the council’s cycling officer with a view to promoting sustainable transport options particularly for students and young people?
- Is it possible to identify the amount of vehicle collisions with pedestrians and cyclists withing the overall numbers?

## **Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting**

**7.00 p.m. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth**

- Is there an increase in the use of crack cocaine?
- Does the chief superintendent have a particular view of the number of administration-type tasks currently being undertaken by the Gardaí?
- Are Gardaí aware of the level of drug-dealing taking place at Kilcock and other rail stations?
- Are domestic violence incidents included in the overall figures being reported?
- Are the drugs offences figures correct as they seem low compared to apparent widespread abuse of drugs?

#### **4. Presentations:**

Dr. Johnny Connolly of the University of Limerick presented on the topic of policing and community safety and identified many of the issues affecting successful community engagement. He explained the background to the formation of the pilot community safety partnerships and the likely future of same.

Inspector Gavin Dunphy presented on some of the community policing initiatives that have been delivered in the division recently. These include provision of a dedicated community bus, upcoming countywide message alert service, pilot community CCTV system and a vulnerable persons register, among others.

Several points were made following the presentations:

- The proposed community safety partnerships should build on the existing strengths in the communities they will serve
- There will be a dedicated Office of Community Safety to oversee national policy
- The new arrangements should ensure no conflicts of interest arise in relation to any of the partner agencies being subject to formal investigation
- The final make-up of the partnerships is subject to legislation yet to be enacted
- It would be helpful if projects hoping to avail of community safety initiatives funding could be identified in advance of the 2023 scheme being announced
- Community policing needs to better deal with issues such as mental health and homelessness which are not criminal offences
- A proper funding model needs to be put in place
- Data sharing should become routine between the various agencies

#### **5. Update on Text Alert Scheme:**

Cllr. Brett advised discussions were ongoing with the supplier to roll out the new messaging service. An invitation will issue to all existing groups to attend a meeting in Naas on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to highlight the new system. Separately, Inspector Dunphy and the wider community police team will be meeting groups locally as required. A target date of 1<sup>st</sup> February has been agreed as a suitable launch date, subject to progress.

## **Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting**

**7.00 p.m. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth**

### **6. CCTV update:**

Supt. Oliver Henry advised that a contract had been signed for the pilot CCTV in Clane and a meeting was scheduled with the contractor for early in January.

### **8. Close:**

Cllr. Brett thanked Dr. Connolly for making himself available for the meeting and thanked all attendees for contributing to an interesting event.