

## Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting

3.00 p.m. Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Boardroom/Microsoft Teams

### Members in Attendance:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Cllr. Fintan Brett (Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Aoife Breslin	Elected Member
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy	Elected Member
Cllr. Bernard Caldwell	Elected Member
Cllr. Anne Connolly	Elected Member
Cllr. Ciara Galvin	Elected Member
Cllr. Brian Dooley	Elected Member
Cllr. Nuala Killeen	Elected Member
Cllr. Naoise Ó'Ceairúil	Elected Member
Cllr. Bill Clear	Elected Member
Cllr. Chris Pender	Elected Member
Sonya Kavanagh	KCC
Marian Higgins	KCC
Supt. Oliver Henry	An Garda Síochána
Michael Corcoran	PPN
John Daly	PPN
Conor O'Leary	Muintir Na Tíre
Emma Berney	CYPSC
Maura Littlewood	Comhairle na nÓg

<b>Apologies</b>	
Sen. Fiona O'Loughlin	Oireachtas Member
Steven Joyce	SWRDATAF

**An Garda Síochána:** Paul O'Reilly

**Kildare County Council - Dept. of Economic, Community & Cultural Development:** John Shannon, Administrative Officer and Colin Ennis, Clerical Officer.

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## **1. Minutes / Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Chris Pender, seconded by Michael Corcoran (no amendments).

## **2. Chairperson's business/correspondence:**

Cllr. Brett reminded the members of the recent emails sent out by the JPC administrator. These were in relation to Community Safety Innovation Fund 2023 Public Webinar Briefing Session, Understanding & Advocating on the Sale of Alcohol Bill, The Real Cost of the Sale of Alcohol Bill Report Launch & Briefing and Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme Briefings. He also advised the members that an application or funding under the Community Safety Innovation Fund had been prepared and submitted by Steven Joyce.

## **3. Policing Report:**

Superintendent Henry presented the policing report with relevant statistics comparing Q2 2022 with Q2 2023. Statistical details were given in relation to property crime; crime against the person; criminal damage and public order offenses; drugs and weapons offences; road traffic incidents and domestic violence data.

Supt. Henry confirmed that the report has reverted to the previous format by including both incident numbers and percentages, but a review is ongoing to ascertain if a standard reporting format can be developed across the various divisions. In general, he noted that crimes against persons are down in all three districts while crimes against property are up.

Cllr. Brett opened the discussion to the floor and several questions were asked in relation to the contents of the report and policing matters generally:

- Could the report give separate figures for crimes with domestic violence elements?
- Are the two new drugs units making a difference?
- What is covered in drunkenness offences?
- Community policing and prevention statistics would be useful.
- Is there any reason that the taking of bikes has doubled and would a publicity campaign be useful?
- Is it worthwhile to get community guards to give talks to premises about the new vaping laws coming in July?
- Was road design a factor in the recent Sallins by-pass accident?
- How will statistics be reported after the merger of divisions is completed?

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

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Superintendent Henry answered the questions raised and some of the points made were as follows:

- Supt. Henry didn't think separating out domestic violence crime figures would be an issue, with but will discuss this with the new Chief Superintendent.
- Supt. Henry will recommend community policing statistics and crime prevention statistics to be provided to the JPC.
- The drunkenness offences are usually bringing people in for their own safety and/or public order matters. Offences under bye-laws are not included.
- The University in Maynooth is a prime location for the taking of bikes.
- The possibility of community guards giving vaping talks to premises will be investigated.
- Guards have been in contact with area engineer regarding the Sallins traffic collision and will meet at the site.
- Policing report statistics to JPC will remain as per current format.

#### **4. Questions/Motions:**

##### **a) Procedure for answering of 999 emergency calls – Deputy Patricia Ryan**

The Garda CAD 2 command and control system should be going live at the end of the month. General calls for service will now be going to the control centre. Local queries will still be referred to and dealt with by members in stations locally. There was a question on what would happen if the call couldn't get through to the station. When this happens if stations are closed, calls will be diverted to district headquarters.

##### **b) Format of policing reports - Michael Corcoran PPN**

This is currently being reviewed to bring consistency to all reports.

##### **c) That a subcommittee be established to look to next year's round of funding under the Community Safety Innovation Fund - Steven Joyce**

As Steven was not present, it was agreed that this motion will be brought to the September meeting.

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

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### **5. CCTV update:**

Supt. Henry and Pádraig McEvoy updated the meeting on the status of the Clane Community Council CCTV project. They advised that the project is progressing well. Cllr. Connolly asked about safety procedures that are in place and what can be learned from other CCTV projects. Marian Higgins confirmed that J&N Security Consultants have already put in seven systems to date and have gained a lot of knowledge on GDPR procedures. Cllr. McEvoy estimated that if other any municipal district is considering a CCTV project, they would probably need a budget of circa €200,000 and this should be considered at LPT meetings annually.

### **6. Message Alert Update:**

The committee considered the report received from BeAlert on the roll-out of the new message alert system and there was a discussion about the service. There appeared to be a significant reliance on text messaging still and this had cost implications; the importance of having a date for the SMS messages to stop was highlighted.

John Daly, Conor O'Leary and Michael Corcoran suggested people were comfortable with texts and unsure on how to use the app and this needed to be addressed. Ideas were requested on how to promote the service. It was suggested that the sub-committee could meet again, and it would be useful to bring key group leaders to this meeting.

In response to a question, Supt. Henry confirmed all community Gardaí had been trained on the new system.

The meeting concluded.

**Next meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 3.00 p.m.