

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

Draft Minutes of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Monday 5 October 2015 Council Chamber Kildare County Council.

Present:

Cllr. Martin Miley, Chairperson
Cllr. Aoife Breslin, Vice Chairperson
Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin, An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Declan McCarthy, An Garda Síochána
Peter Carey, Chief Executive, KCC
Peter Minnock, Director of Services
Cllr. Fintan Brett
Cllr. Ivan Keatley
Cllr. Tim Durkan
Cllr. Anne Breen
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr. Ide Cussen
Cllr. Willie Crowley
Cllr. Mark Lynch
Cllr. Anthony Larkin
Cllr. Suzanne Doyle
Deputy Anthony Lawlor
Deputy Bernard Durkan
Deputy Emmet Stagg
Deputy Sean O' Fearghail
Conor O'Leary Muintir na Tire
Sean Darcy Celbridge Community Council
Emma Berney Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee
Monica Byrne Kildare Older Persons Council
Steven Joyce SW Regional Drugs Task Force

Apologies:

Deputy Catherine Muphy
Deputy Martin Heydon
Deputy Jack Wall
Cllr. James Lawless
Cllr. Paul Ward
Cllr. Frank O' Rourke
Mike Farrell, Comhairle na nOg

In attendance:

Mayor Brendan Weld	
Superintendent Martin Walker	An Garda Síochána
Sergeant Garry Madden	An Garda Síochána
Mick Kane	Transportation Section
Michael Kenny	Planning Section
Pauric Buggy	Community Section
Eimear McGinn	Libraries Section
Trina Coyne	Libraries Section
JP Holligan	Community Section
Eileen Doyle	Community Section

Item 1 – Minutes of the JPC meeting dated 6th July 2015

The Chairperson Councillor Martin Miley welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes were formally adopted as proposed by Councillor Breen and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

Item 2 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 3 & 4 – Policing Report and Garda Resources

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin presented a report on Crime figures in Kildare including offences against the person, property offences, and other offences including possession of drugs, possession of drugs for sale/supply and also public order offences. Chief Superintendent McPolin responded to questions in relation to rural crime and burglary related offences in the Kildare Garda Division.

Chief Superintendent McPolin presented a report on Garda resources in Kildare and informed the committee that the ratio of Garda to population is 1:697. A discussion ensued which focused on suggestions from the committee on how the situation could be improved. Concerns were expressed that resources were simply not adequate in the county. Several suggestions were made such as employing retired members of the force, or even civilians, to carry out many of the administrative functions of the force. Deputy Emmet Stagg said he believed all transfer applications into the county would be agreed to. Chief Superintendent McPolin updated the meeting that after many years of a recruiting embargo, there was now a new influx of recruits both into the force and into Kildare.

The Chairperson thanked Chief Superintendent McPolin for these reports.

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Item 5 – Report on illegal trade/poaching in wildlife product in the general Kildare area

Superintendent Martin Walker presented a presentation “Animal Cruelty a New Dimension” Superintendent Walker informed the meeting that illegal hunting is the fourth most valuable form of criminal activity in the world and

that illegal shooting is a lot more widespread in Kildare than is generally believed. The activity comes in a number of forms – in some cases it is deer who are shot in the West Wicklow area, and in other areas hares are hunted with dogs. In some cases, particularly in the case of deer, the meat makes its way into the food chain, and in other instances, it is nothing more than the thrill of the hunt, where the dead animal is of limited use to the perpetrators. Superintendent Walker explained that it was a problem to be found in more rural parts of the county, and in our neighbouring county and that West Wicklow has the highest concentration of deer in Europe. He outlined the role of Operation Bambi, an ongoing Garda operation to combat illegal hunting, which is worth an estimated €20 billion per annum. Superintendent Walker emphasised that illegal hunting often went hand in hand with other illegality and he said he felt that the way forward was to educate children and to enable them to be “the conscience of our community”

The Chairperson thanked Superintendent Walker for this presentation.

Item 6 – Update on CCTV system in County Kildare

Superintendent Declan McCarthy presented an update on the CCTV system in County Kildare which is utilised in relation to crime prevention and in the management of road traffic. Superintendent McCarthy outlined the salient points therein and responded to questions from the committee.

The Chairperson thanked Superintendent McCarthy for this report.

Item 7 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 6.00 p.m on Monday 7th of December 2015 at Solas Bhríde in Kildare Town and will be the annual public meeting.

Item 8 – County Kildare Six Year Strategic Plan - “Safer Communities”

The meeting concluded and the committee then commenced work on the County Kildare Six Year Strategic Plan, in a workshop format.