

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Áras Chill Dara – Council Chamber Monday 6th March 2017

Members Present:

Cllr. Martin Miley Jnr.
Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche
Superintendent Declan McCarthy
Sonya Kavanagh
Cllr. Fintan Brett
Cllr. Carmel Kelly
Cllr. Michael Coleman
Cllr. Anne Breen
Cllr. Carmel Kelly
Cllr. Íde Cussen
Dep. Bernard Durkan
Steven Joyce
Sean Darcy
Mike Farrell
Conor O'Leary

Chairperson
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
Director of Services

SW Regional Drugs Task Force
Celbridge Community Council
Comhairle Na nÓg
Muintir Na Tíre

In attendance:

Superintendent Martin Walker
Superintendent Gerard Wall
Inspector Oliver Henry
Sergeant Garry Madden
Sergeant Gavin Dunphy
JP Holligan
Eileen Doyle

An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
Community Section
Community Section

Apologies:

Cllr. Aoife Breslin
Peter Carey
Emma Berney
Cllr. Tim Durkan
Dep. Catherine Murphy
Dep. Martin Heydon
Dep. Fiona O' Loughlin
Dep. Frank O' Rourke

Vice Chairperson
Chief Executive, KCC
Kildare CYSPC

Item 1 – Minutes of the JPC meeting dated 6th March 2017

The Chairperson, Councillor Martin Miley Jnr. welcomed Chief Superintendent Gerry Roche and Director Sonya Kavanagh to the Committee.

The minutes from the last JPC meeting held on 5th December 2016 were formally adopted as proposed by Councillor Anne Breen and seconded by Councillor Fintan Brett.

Item 2 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 3- Policing Report

Chief Superintendent Roche presented the Policing Report (report attached). The report focused on the following issues:

- Crime; including the crime statistics for offences against the person, property offences, burglary offences and road traffic offences. Chief Superintendent Roche also informed the meeting of major Garda Operations in the Division.
- Resources; Kildare Garda numbers have reached their highest levels yet since 2009.
- Community Policing and Community Engagement ; Sergeant Gavin Dunphy informed the committee of the Community Policing model in the Division following consultation in the communities based on the need to form Community Policing Teams which will be focused on problem solving. Sergeant Dunphy also informed the committee of the recent launch of the Garda Youth Diversion Project in Naas called the Anchor Programme.
- Drugs Unit; There will be an increased emphasis on drugs targeting in 2017.

Chief Superintendent Roche responded to questions from members of the committee.

The Chairperson thanked Chief Superintendent Roche for the presentation.

Item 4 – “Think before you Buy”

Philip Jennings, Co-ordinator, of Safer Blanchardstown who are the local Policing Forum based in Dublin 15, presented the four minute video which can be viewed at www.thinkbeforeyoubuy.ie with the central message “Remember it always harms someone THINK BEFORE YOU BUY “ This was developed as an initiative to expose the link between casual recreational drug use, the real money and the resulting devastating serious violence. This message raises awareness of the of the “real money link”, Mr Jennings sought the support of the JPC for the THINK BEFORE YOU BUY campaign which is due to be launched on 27th of April 2017.

There was also a brief input from Carmel Cushin of “Hope Cottage Kill” who deal with local Kildare families that are at the receiving end of drug related intimidation. Carmel outlined the work of Hope Cottage in dealing with the huge upsurge in intimidation of families.

The Chairperson thanked Philip for his presentation and Carmel for her work in Kill and on the proposal of Cllr. Breen and seconded by Cllr. Brett the committee agreed to support the THINK BEFORE YOU BUY CAMPAIGN.

Item 5 – Question from Councillor Íde Cussen

The following question from Councillor Íde Cussen was considered by the committee “to discuss the permeability policy/objectives in Kildare –Local Area Plans”

A report was received from Karen Kenny, Senior Executive Planner stating that ;

- It is government policy to encourage walking and cycling and to support the provision of good quality, safe and direct walking and cycling routes.
- Walking and cycling is considered to provide a good alternative to the car of local journeys.
- In many older neighbourhoods walking and cycling is not attractive due to severance that is “built-into” the environment for example by walls or other cul-de-sacs and this discourages people from walking and cycling.
- In order to support walking and cycling as viable options the National Transport Authority encourages the transformation of older neighbourhoods into permeable and connected ones by opening up connections between houses and key destinations such as shops, schools and public transport stops.
- The NTAs “*Permeability Best Practise Guidelines, 2013*” set out a clear approach to ensure that interventions are along strong desire lines, are along safe and well lit corridors and are designed to the highest standards.
- NTA policy is supported in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and in Local Area Plans.

A discussion ensued around the permeability policy and objectives and the Chairperson stated that the County Development Plan will be reviewed in two years time and there would be further opportunity for engagement of all interests.

Item 6 – Correspondence

The committee agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Cussen and seconded by Cllr. Breen to support the South Dublin County Joint Policing Committees proposal to have all scramblers and quad bikes registered at the point of sale. This approach has been supported by the South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee and they have asked for support from other Joint Policing Committees. They are writing to Frances Fitzgerald, The Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality seeking that this legislative change be made.

Item 7 and 8 – Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

There was no other business and the date of next meeting has been changed and will now be held on Monday 29th May 2017.

