

Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting

3.00 p.m. Monday 14th June 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

Members in Attendance:

Name:	Representing:
Cllr. Fintan Brett (Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Aoife Breslin (Vice Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy	Elected Member
Cllr. Tim Durkan	Elected Member
Cllr. Brian Dooley	Elected Member
Cllr. Nuala Killeen	Elected Member
Cllr. Bernard Caldwell	Elected Member
Cllr. Naoise Ó'Ceairúil	Elected Member
Cllr. Chris Pender	Elected Member
Cllr. Anne Connolly	Elected Member
Cllr. Colm Kenny	Elected Member
Dep. Reada Cronin	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Patricia Ryan	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Martin Heydon	Oireachtas Member
Sen. Fiona O'Loughlin	Oireachtas Member
Sen. Vincent Martin	Oireachtas Member
Peter Carey	KCC
Sonya Kavanagh	KCC
Conor O'Leary	Muintir na Tíre
Steven Joyce	SWRDATAF
Monica Cox	Kildare OPC
Michael Corcoran	PPN
John Daly	PPN
Apologies	
Chief Supt. John Scanlan	An Garda Síochána
Supt. Oliver Henry	An Garda Síochána
Dep. Catherine Murphy	Oireachtas Member
Emma Berney	CYPSC

An Garda Síochána: Supt. Eamon Curley, Supt. Martin Walker, Ins. John Fitzgerald, Ins. Jim Molloy, Ins. Paul Reilly, Sgt. Jane Ryan

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

Members of the press and public were also in attendance.

1. Minutes / Matters Arising:

The minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Monday 1st March 2021 were adopted on the proposal of Michael Corcoran seconded by Cllr. Naoise Ó Ceairúil.



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2. Chairperson's business:

Cllr. Brett advised that there would be an additional item on youth diversion programmes under A.O.B. (received too late for inclusion on agenda).

3. Correspondence:

Cllr. Brett confirmed three letters were received and circulated to members in response to the committee's letters regarding planned proceeds of crime legislation. Cllr. Brett noted, in particular, the possibility of funding from this source for the proposed new community safety partnerships.

4. Policing Report & Questions:

Supt. Eamon Curley (in place of Chief Superintendent Scanlan) presented the policing report with relevant statistics comparing Q1 2021 with Q1 2020. 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. As in previous reports since the Covid 19 pandemic began, incidents of crime are generally down when compared with the same pre-Covid quarter in 2020. The superintendent presented extensive further information regarding community policing activities and initiatives specific to operating under public health restrictions due to Covid 19.

Chief Executive Peter Carey thanked all Gardaí for their dedication in recent months.

There were several questions and points raised in relation to the report and policing generally:

- Was the superintendent aware of reports claiming domestic abuse calls to 999 had gone unanswered in some Garda divisions in 2019 and 2020 and was Kildare division affected?
- How is the new divisional cyber-crime unit operating?
- Has there been increased detection of knife crime amongst young people?
- Do the Gardaí need additional resources to fight drug-related crime?
- Is a local media campaign needed to deal with the increased incidence of fake text messaging?
- The incidents of street racing have been reduced thanks to Garda interventions.
- What was the background to the community bus initiative in Naas?
- How would Gardaí deal with the planned presence of e-scooters on the streets of Naas and Newbridge?
- Were Gardaí aware of increased anti-social behaviour around Market Square in Newbridge (possibly related to the Peter McVerry property in the area)?
- Are Gardaí aware of increased dog thefts in the county in recent months?

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- How is anti-social behaviour in the Ardrew/Dun Brinn area of Athy being dealt with?
- Are Gardaí satisfied with the current relaxation of restrictions with regard to outdoor dining and drinking?
- Is there any evidence of improper use of drones and how could it be handled?
- The Public Health Alcohol Act restricts many forms of alcohol advertising in or near public areas and should be enforced as necessary if required.
- Promotion of outdoor drinking is an issue and the alcohol bye-laws need to be enforced in all areas.

Supt. Curley, Supt. Walker and Inspector Reilly answered the questions raised in so far as possible and agreed to respond to some of the members queries at a later date.

5. Presentation from Conor O'Leary, Muintir na Tíre:

Conor gave a detailed presentation to the JPC on the background and activities of Muintir na Tíre and his role within the organisation. Several members thanked Conor for his work particularly in the areas of social isolation and elder abuse.

6. CCTV update:

Cllr. McEvoy advised that Clane Community Council was engaged in a process to recruit a CCTV system design specialist and a three-person team had been set up to select an appropriate advisor.

7. Community Text Alert Update:

Cllr. Brett confirmed that following unforeseen delays, the council would be going back to Etenders with a revised request for tenders for a dedicated messaging/text alert system.

9. Any other business:

Inspector Paul Reilly (on behalf of Insp. Brian Cagney) made a request that the committee would receive a presentation from InSync and Extern in relation to their youth activity and diversion programmes in Naas, Athy and North Kildare and the possibility of additional funding to expand these services countywide. Cllr. Brett indicated that he would speak with the five incoming municipal district chairpersons with a view to each MD receiving a presentation in the first instance.

Next meeting: Monday 6th September 2021 3.00 p.m.