

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Áras Chill Dara – Council Chamber Monday 29th May 2017

Members Present:

Cllr. Martin Miley Jnr.
Cllr Aoife Breslin
Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche
Superintendent Declan McCarthy
Peter Carey
Sonya Kavanagh
Cllr. Fintan Brett
Cllr. Carmel Kelly
Cllr. Michael Coleman
Cllr. Anne Breen
Cllr. Carmel Kelly
Cllr. Anthony Larkin
Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy
Cllr. Morgan McCabe
Cllr. Paul Ward
Cllr Suzanne Doyle
Dep. Bernard Durkan
Dep. Fiona O' Loughlin
Steven Joyce
Emma Berney
Monica Byrne

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
Chief Executive, KCC
Director of Services

SW Regional Drugs Task Force
Kildare Children & Young People's Ser. Comm.
Kildare Older Persons Council

In attendance:

Superintendent Martin Walker
Superintendent Gerard Wall
Inspector Oliver Henry
Sergeant Eoin Phibbs
Sergeant Gavin Dunphy
Paul Creamor
Bashaf Kacagi
JP Holligan
Eileen Doyle

An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána
AGS Mapping Services
Georgian Police Force
Community Section
Community Section

Apologies:

Cllr. Tim Durkan
Cllr. Íde Cussen
Dep. Catherine Murphy
Dep. Martin Heydon
Dep. James Lawless
Conor O' Leary
Sean Darcy

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

The minutes from the last JPC meeting held on 6th March 2017 were formally adopted as proposed by Councillor Breen and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

Item 2 – Matters Arising

The Chairperson advised that Ms. Monica Byrne had been nominated by the Kildare Older Persons Council to the JPC and this appointment was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Breen. Monica Byrne thanked the committee for the appointment and stated that she was honoured to represent the Older Persons Council on the JPC.

The Chairperson welcomed Monica back to the JPC.

Item 3- Policing Report

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

Garda Resources: Garda numbers in Kildare are increasing but they remain well below target. The most recent figures show there are 330 Gardaí of all ranks attached to the Kildare Division.

Road traffic enforcement: including “Operation Surround” which took place on 31 March 2017 and also on the 28, 29 and 30 April 2017 resulting in checkpoints being operated throughout the county with a number of detections resulting from this.

Ethnic Liaison: Chief Superintendent Roche informed the meeting of the Respect through Understanding Conference which was held on 27 May 2017 and hosted by Mayor Ivan Keatley. The conference was aimed at fostering greater interaction and trust between Gardaí in Kildare and the Muslim community.

The Chairperson thanked Chief Superintendent Roche for the presentation.

Item 4 – New Community Policing Model

Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche informed the meeting of the new Community Policing Plan in Kildare Division, launched to provide better community policing in a number of communities. The new plan will take in nine of the county’s most populated areas: Naas, Clane, Newbridge, Athy, Kildare, Celbridge, Maynooth, Kilcock and Leixlip.

The Gardai will create a point of constant point of contact for quality of life incidents. A designated name liaison Garda will take ownership of community policing by actively engaging with local communities as part of community policing teams. Chief Superintendent Roche stated that he hoped that this

additional service will generate and further better relationships as well as reducing the vulnerability and isolation of vulnerable people. He also stated that this approach is in some degree a return to traditional policing methods, adapting to an ever changing and diverse society, while utilising modern technologies available to the Gardaí, including the Kildare Facebook page.

Sergeant Gavin Dunphy, the Community Policing Sergeant for the Kildare Division, told the meeting that each Garda involved would have responsibility for a relatively small area and would use bicycles among other things. Each small area of policing will contain between 70-120 households. Naas will have 33 of them, Leixlip 18, Maynooth and Celbridge, 9 each, Clane 6 and Kilcock will have 5. Paul Creamor of the Garda Mapping Section demonstrated the mapping and stated that an internet link will be provided to the public to see but Gardaí will be using further layers of technology to manage the system.

Kildare County Council Chief Executive, Peter Carey welcomed the development of this policing model and stated that this system brings clarity and simplicity and wished to commend the Chief Superintendent and his team.

The Chairperson Cllr. Martin Miley thanked the Gardaí for this new development and commended the Chief Superintendent and his team for “putting the Garda back into the heart of the community”

Item 5 – New Grant Aid Scheme for Community Based CCTV Systems

Inspector Oliver Henry informed the meeting on the new grant aid scheme for Community Based CCTV systems and it was agreed that a working group would be established to develop a Strategic Plan for how Kildare would avail of this scheme.

It was agreed that recommendations from this working group would be presented at the next meeting of the JPC in September.

The Chairperson thanked Inspector Henry for his presentation.

Item 6 – County Kildare JPC Annual Report 2016

The County Kildare JPC Annual Report was adopted as proposed by Councillor Ann Breen and seconded by Councillor Carmel Kelly

Item 7 – Date of next meeting

The next meeting is due to take place on Monday 4th September 2017.

The meeting concluded.