

## Kildare Joint Policing Committee Minutes of Meeting

3.00 p.m. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
Council Chamber

### Members in Attendance:

Name:	Representing:
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Cllr. Fintan Brett (Chairperson)	Elected Member
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy	Elected Member
Cllr. Tim Durkan	Elected Member
Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin-Healy	Elected Member
Cllr. Anne Connolly	Elected Member
Cllr. Bernard Caldwell	Elected Member
Cllr. Chris Pender	Elected Member
Sonya Kavanagh	KCC
Marian Higgins	KCC
Supt. Oliver Henry	An Garda Síochána
Monica Cox	OPC
Maura Littlewood	Comhairle na nÓg
Steven Joyce	SWRDATAF
Michael Corcoran	PPN
Dep. Bernard Durkan	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Cathal Berry	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Patricia Ryan	Oireachtas Member
Dep. Readha Cronin	Oireachtas Member
Sen. Vincent Martin	Oireachtas Member
<b>Apologies</b>	
Chief Supt. John Scanlan	An Garda Síochána
Conor O'Leary	Muintir Na Tíre
Cllr. Nuala Killeen	Elected Member
Cllr. Aoife Breslin	Elected Member
Sen. Fiona O'Loughlin	Oireachtas Member

**An Garda Síochána:** Supt. Martin Walker, Supt. Georgina Gray, Ins. Tony Connaughton and Garda Helena Murphy.

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

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### 1. Minutes / Matters Arising:

The minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (with minor amendment agreed) were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Bernard Caldwell seconded by Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy.

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

1. Youth Diversion: Cllr. Brett advised the meeting that a funding structure for the three-year Garda Youth Diversion Programme via LPT had been agreed with all five municipal districts. The funding would be drawn down via the community section's grant application system and a yearly report on all projects funded would be provided to the JPC.
2. Additional community bus: Supt. Henry advised the meeting that the need for another bus would have to be assessed once a review of usage patterns of the existing bus had been completed. It was agreed that the review would be carried out as soon as possible so that the elected members could reallocate LPT funding already set aside if the additional bus was not being proceeded with.
3. Cllr. Brett advised the meeting that Monica Cox, Older Person's Council representative on the JPC had reached the end of her term and this would be her final meeting. On behalf of the JPC, he thanked Monica for her commitment and service and passed on a letter of thanks from the committee. It was noted that the selection of a replacement for Monica was a matter for the OPC.
4. Cllr. Brett noted that Ciara Gallagher had been promoted to another section of KCC and this would be her final JPC meeting also. He thanked Ciara for her excellent administration of the JPC for several years.

### **3. Correspondence:**

1. Cllr. Brett noted correspondence from Cork County Council recommending JPC's engage in a media campaign to highlight the dangers of phishing and cybercrime. Cllr. Brett noted the subject had been discussed many times and there was good information available on the subject generally.
2. Cllr. Brett noted that the JPC had received very late notification of funding for safety initiatives through the Community Safety Innovation Fund. While the existence of the fund was circulated as widely as possible, the JPC had failed in its efforts to get an extension to the June 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. Cllr. Brett noted this was particularly frustrating given the JPC had written to the Department of Justice in the matter previously.

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### 4. Policing Report:

Supt. Walker (in place of Chief Superintendent Scanlan) presented the policing report with relevant statistics comparing Q1 2022 with Q1 2021. 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.

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

- Recorded crime in most categories were up significantly which is a major cause for concern
- Was it possible to expand the report to clearly indicate issues such as cybercrime, suicides or online harassment?
- The numbers of drugs offences reported were reduced which seemed to run counter to everyday experience
- Monitoring of persons taking part in drugs rehabilitation programmes was required
- Drug debt intimidation was impacting many communities, including older persons
- Are pubs and clubs targeted, including undercover operations?
- Are most public order offences alcohol-related?
- Is Athy station sharing a vehicle with Kildare due to shortages?
- There should be funding available for respite for families dealing with intimidation issues
- It could be useful to arrange parenting skills/resilience-building courses (a possible project for the Community Safety Innovation Fund in 2023)
- What is current drug squad capacity in Kildare division?
- Could Gardaí liaise with the housing SPC to discuss drugs/social issues in certain locations?
- Is there a breakdown available of males/females in drug detections?

Supt. Walker and Supt. Henry answered the questions raised. Amongst the points they made were:

- The quarters were probably not comparable in real terms as Q1 2021 was still a Covid environment with reduced activity generally
- Most public order offences are alcohol-related
- There are supports available to assist those dealing with drug debt issues, but clearly many affected persons will struggle to report such matters
- There is no shortage of Garda vehicles in Athy station
- Clubs and pubs are routinely monitored for illegal drugs activities and the Ask Angela programme is being rolled out successfully
- Searches produced about a 10% success rate (recent examples given)
- The format of the report would be examined to see if some of the points raised could be incorporated
- Current Garda resources are good, with assistance from CAB as required

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- Larger gangs are being targeted both regionally and nationally
- TLOs should contact the local community policing sergeant to discuss issues
- Gardaí can opt to give cautions for first-time drugs offences
- There are two detective sergeants assigned to the drugs squad, with four Gardaí in Kildare and Naas and two in Leixlip.

### 5. Questions:

Cllr. Bill Clear (Disabled parking bays): Supt. Henry confirmed that Gardaí actively target these offences and occasionally use social media to highlight them.

Dep. Reada Cronin (Passports): Supt. Henry confirmed the demand for passports is impacting day-to-day station operations and the issue is being examined nationally.

Dep. Reada Cronin (Garda numbers): Supt. Walker confirmed new recruits are being allocated and that overall numbers are improving.

Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy (Annual Public Meeting): Cllr. Brett confirmed that the JPC steering committee took the decision to allow only presenters to speak at the APM and this was mainly on security grounds to ensure an orderly meeting.

Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy (Conflict of Interest): Cllr. Brett advised the JPC does not ask formally for conflicts of interest to be declared, but members should so declare if necessary. Supt. Henry confirmed that Gardaí would alert a more senior officer if any conflict arose in any investigation they were involved in.

Cllr. P McEvoy (Cloned numberplates) Supt. Walker confirmed this was an issue in some crimes and false plates were easily obtainable. Senator Martin indicated he was working on this issue separately.

Steven Joyce (Bursary for certificate in licensing law): Marian Higgins confirmed the JPC could fund attendance at the course if a candidate was nominated.

### 5. CCTV update:

Cllr. McEvoy briefed the meeting on the status of the Clane Community Council CCTV project. The anticipated total spend of the Clane project were leading to procurement issues and the project was being reviewed to ascertain if certain cost elements could be reduced. He indicated that there appeared to be a very limited number of suppliers working in the area which was making it difficult to obtain alternative pricing.

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### 7. Community Text Alert Update:

Cllr. Brett informed the meeting that following enquiries within An Garda Síochána, it was confirmed that there were no specific timelines for delivery of the proposed Garda messaging system. Accordingly, the council would now be able to proceed with its own message/text alert service previously tendered for. The council would arrange to meet with Muintir na Tíre as soon as possible to discuss roll out of the service.

### 8. Presentation:

Cllr. Brett informed the meeting that Maura Littlewood was unavailable to present as planned. However, Maura had confirmed her availability to present at the September meeting. In addition, she would be bringing members of Comhairle na nÓg to the meeting who would be presenting on gender equality issues.

**Next meeting:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 3.00 p.m.

*JK Brett*  
*5/9/2022*