



COUNTY KILDARE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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Message from the Chairperson

As Chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2018 Annual Report. The report details the main activities of the committee throughout the year.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation and co-operation on policing and crime issues between the Gardaí, the local authority, community representatives and elected public representatives. During 2018, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work while also addressing local issues.

The JPC held four meetings during 2018 including its Annual Public Meeting held on Monday 3rd December 2018 in Coláiste Lorcáin, Castledermot in the Municipal District of Athy. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to matters affecting the policing of County of Kildare and in particular policing matters affecting their area.

I wish to record my appreciation to Chief Superintendent Sutton and his Garda colleagues for their valued contributions and also to each member of the JPC for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC. I wish to acknowledge also the Community Section in Kildare County Council for the ongoing administration of the committee.

As this is my last Annual Report as Chairman, I wish to acknowledge the contributions and assistance of all who have made the Kildare JPC such a success over the last five years. I hope the next committee can build on the excellent start we have made.

Councillor Martin Miley

Chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

29th March 2019

Introduction

The following is a report on the work of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee for 2018:-

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee (JPC) aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected local representatives and also facilitate the participation of the community/voluntary sectors in this regard.

The function of the JPC is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, which states: “The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”.



Sonya Kavanagh (Director of Services, KCC), John Lonergan (Guest Speaker), Deputy Fiona O’Loughlin, Peter Carey (Chief Executive, KCC) and Deputy Martin Heydon at the 2018 Annual Public Meeting.



County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2018

Inspector Oliver Henry, Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton, Superintendent Gerry Wall, Cllr. Aoife Breslin (Vice-chair, JPC), Peter Carey (Chief Executive, KCC), and Cllr. Martin Miley (Chair, JPC) at the 2018 Annual Public Meeting.

Membership of County Kildare JPC 2018.

There are 34 members of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee: 15 Local Authority members; 8 Oireachtas members; 2 members of An Garda Síochána; 2 Local Authority officials and 7 members from the community/voluntary sector.

Local Authority Elected Members (15)

Martin Miley Jnr. MCC – Chairperson

Aoife Breslin MCC – Vice Chairperson

Padraig McEvoy MCC

Fintan Brett MCC

Ivan Keatley MCC

Morgan McCabe MCC

Paul Ward MCC

Carmel Kelly MCC

Michael Coleman MCC

Tim Durkan MCC

Anne Breen MCC

Íde Cussen MCC

Mark Lynch MCC

Anthony Larkin MCC

Suzanne Doyle MCC

Oireachtas Elected Members (8)

Deputy Catherine Murphy

Deputy Fiona O' Loughlin

Deputy Sean O' Fearghail

Deputy Martin Heydon

Deputy Bernard Durkan,

Deputy James Lawless

Deputy Frank O' Rourke

Senator Anthony Lawlor

Local Authority Officials (2)

Peter Carey, Chief Executive KCC

Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services

An Garda Síochána (2)

Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton

Superintendent Declan McCarthy

Community/Voluntary Sector (7)

Monica Byrne, Kildare Older Persons Council,

Michael Farrell, Comhairle na nÓg

Conor O' Leary, Muintir na Tíre

Steven Joyce, SW Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Patrick Balfe, Public Participation Network (PPN)

Emma Berney, Kildare Children & Young People's Services Committee

Sean Darcy, Celbridge Community Council

Meetings of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

The JPC Committee met four times in 2018 as follows:

1. Monday 5^h March 2018
2. Monday 11th June 2018
3. Monday 10th September 2018
4. Monday 3rd December 2018– Annual Public Meeting

Policing Report

Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton presented an overview of the key policing activities for the Kildare Divisions at each of the Kildare JPC Meetings, including quarterly crime analysis, crime prevention and community policing measures, road traffic statistics and details of Garda resources.

The Chief Superintendent and his colleagues responded to questions on the policing report from members of the committee at each meeting as required. The issue of Garda resources in County Kildare was a recurring theme throughout the year and the committee was pleased to note that there has been some improvement in 2018 in this regard.

Presentations

In addition to the Policing Reports, the JPC received several presentations and updates at each of its meetings. Some of the highlights are as follows:

March- Understanding how the Criminal Assets Bureau links with local Gardaí through the use of trained asset profilers.

June- An Garda Síochána role within the Kildare Age Friendly County Strategy 2016-2018.

September- Update on community-based CCTV schemes.

December: Guest speaker Mr. John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison (pictured).



Local information meetings between An Garda Síochána and Municipal Districts councillors

An Garda Síochána continued to meet with members of each of the five Municipal District on a quarterly basis throughout 2018. A common theme emerging from these meetings is that engagement at local level in this manner can and does eliminate problems such as anti-social behaviour and damage to public property. The members of each Municipal District noted the importance of these meetings being held “in committee”. The members believe that the formats of these meetings are beneficial as they are an informal exchange of information at a local level.

MD meetings dates 2018

Athy

19/02/18

21/05/18

17/09/18

19/11/18

Maynooth

02/03/18

01/06/18

07/09/18

02/11/18

Celbridge/Leixlip

16/02/18

18/05/18

21/09/18

16/11/18 (cancelled)

Naas

20/02/18

15/02/18

18/09/18

18/12/18

Kildare/Newbridge

21/02/18

16/05/18

19/11/18

19/12/18

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2016-2021

The plan was adopted in June 2016. The plan's primary goal is to support safer communities by focusing on nine strategic objectives to support enhanced policing and crime prevention.

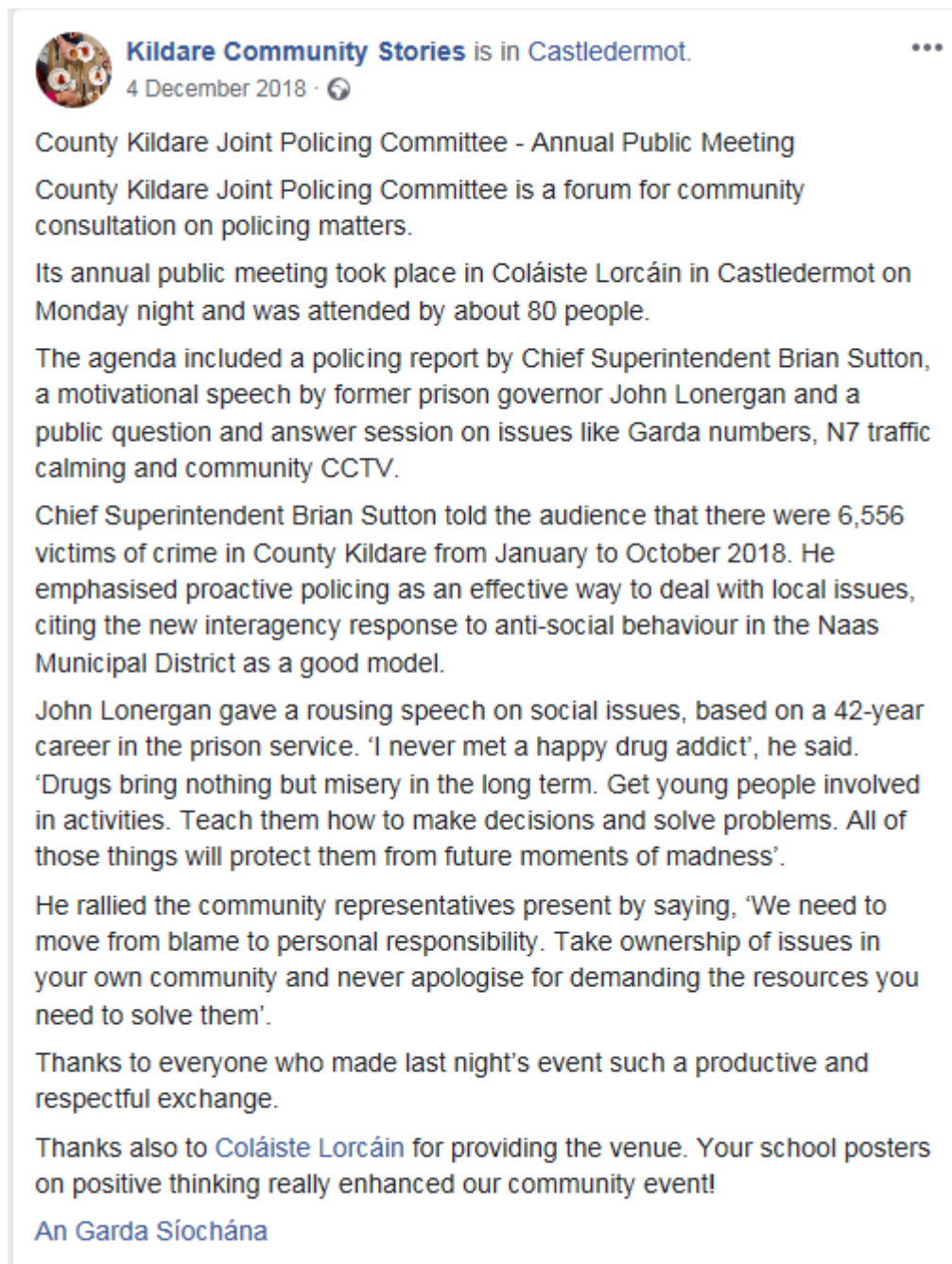
These objectives are:

1. Garda resources.
2. Crime prevention – assignment of Gardaí to specialist posts such as Community Gardaí, drugs specialists etc.
3. Anti-social behaviour and street crime.
4. Misuse of drugs, alcohol and related crime.
5. Wildlife protection and cruelty to animals.
6. To increase public safety of newly designed roads and developments across Kildare – An Garda Síochána and Kildare County Council working in partnership.
7. To liaise with older people in the county through the Older Person's Council.
8. To strengthen the relationship between An Garda Síochána and the local community.
9. To support the local implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation and co-operation on policing and crime issues between the Gardaí, the local authority, community representatives and elected public representatives.

APPENDIX

Copy of report on 2018 Annual Public Meeting from Facebook



Kildare Community Stories is in Castledermot. 4 December 2018 · 🌐

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee - Annual Public Meeting

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee is a forum for community consultation on policing matters.

Its annual public meeting took place in Coláiste Lorcáin in Castledermot on Monday night and was attended by about 80 people.

The agenda included a policing report by Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton, a motivational speech by former prison governor John Lonergan and a public question and answer session on issues like Garda numbers, N7 traffic calming and community CCTV.

Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton told the audience that there were 6,556 victims of crime in County Kildare from January to October 2018. He emphasised proactive policing as an effective way to deal with local issues, citing the new interagency response to anti-social behaviour in the Naas Municipal District as a good model.

John Lonergan gave a rousing speech on social issues, based on a 42-year career in the prison service. 'I never met a happy drug addict', he said. 'Drugs bring nothing but misery in the long term. Get young people involved in activities. Teach them how to make decisions and solve problems. All of those things will protect them from future moments of madness'.

He rallied the community representatives present by saying, 'We need to move from blame to personal responsibility. Take ownership of issues in your own community and never apologise for demanding the resources you need to solve them'.

Thanks to everyone who made last night's event such a productive and respectful exchange.

Thanks also to Coláiste Lorcáin for providing the venue. Your school posters on positive thinking really enhanced our community event!

An Garda Síochána

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/kildarecommunitystories/>

Video Link: <https://www.facebook.com/kildarecommunitystories/videos/1175097319309203/>

