



COUNTY KILDARE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Message from the Chairperson

As Chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2017 Annual Report. The Report details the key actions of the Committee.

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 2017, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work while also addressing local issues.

The JPC held four meetings during 2017 including its Annual Public Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017 in the Municipal District of Naas. Public meetings offer an excellent opportunity for local communities to participate and engage in relation to general policing matters affecting the policing of the County of Kildare and in particular policing matters affecting their area.

I wish to record my appreciation to the Chief Superintendent and the local authority for their valued contributions and to each member of the JPC for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the JPC and to Kildare County Council for the administration of the committee.

Councillor Martin Miley

Chairperson of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

Introduction

The following is a report on the work of the County Kildare Joint Policing Committee for 2017:

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”.



Picture courtesy of the Kildare Nationalist: Annual Public Meeting 3th Dec. 2017 - Superintendent Martin Walker, Cllr, Aoife Breslin, Vice Chairperson JPC, Peter Carey, Chief Executive KCC, Superintendent Gerard Wall, Sonya Kavanagh Director of Service KCC, Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche, Cllr. Martin Miley Jnr., Chairperson of County Kildare JPC.

Membership of County Kildare JPC 2017: (33 Members)

There are Thirty Three members of County Kildare Joint Policing Committee. Fifteen Local Authority members, seven Oireachtas members, two members of An Garda Síochána, two Local Authority Officials and seven 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
Ide Cussen MCC
Mark Lynch MCC
Anthony Larkin MCC
Suzanne Doyle MCC

Oireachtas Elected Members (7)

Deputy Catherine Murphy
Deputy Fiona O' Loughlin
Deputy Sean O' Feaghail
Deputy Martin Heydon
Deputy Bernard Durkan,
Deputy James Lawless
Deputy Frank O' Rourke

Local Authority Officials (2)

Peter Carey, Chief Executive KCC
Peter Minnock, Director of Services

An Garda Síochána (2)

Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche
Superintendent Declan McCarthy

Community/Voluntary (7)

*Monica Byrne, Kildare Older Persons Council,
Michael Farrell , Comhairle na nOg
Conor O' Leary, Muintir na Tire
Stephen 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 2017;

- 1. Monday 6^h March 2017**
- 2. Monday 29th May 2017**
- 3. Monday 11th September 2017**
- 4. Monday 4th December 2017– Annual Public Meeting**

Policing Report

Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche at each of the Kildare JPC Meetings presented an overview of the key policing priorities for the Kildare Divisions, including quarterly crime analysis, crime prevention and community policing measures.

1. Resources

Chief Superintendent Roche confirmed that Garda resources in Kildare have dramatically improved over the past few years with a increase from 301 in 2014 to 356 now.. This increase in resources has led to an increase in crime detection and in particular Public Order and drug offences, it has also resulted in more Gardaí walking the streets and operating checkpoints.

2. Community Policing Plan

The new Community Policing Plan in Kildare was launched at the May meeting. The aim of the plan is to provide better community policing and engagement, and a point of constant point of contact will be created 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. This model is intended to generate and further better relationships as well as reducing the vulnerability and

isolation of vulnerable people. This approach is in some degree a return to traditional policing methods, adapting to ever changing and diverse society, while utilising modern technologies available to the Gardaí, including the Kildare Facebook page. Each Garda involved is to have responsibility for a small area of policing (SAP) which contains between 70-120 households.

Local Information meetings between an Garda Síochána and Municipal Districts

An Garda Síochána continued to meet with members of each Municipal District on a quarterly basis throughout 2017. 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 public property damage. The members of each Municipal District noted the importance of these meetings being held “in committee”. The members all stated that the formats of these meetings are beneficial as they are an informal exchange of information at a local level.

Community Based CCTV Grant Scheme

The Community Based CCTV Grant Scheme is being rolled out by The Department of Justice and Equality and is intended to contribute to the achievement of the JPCs goal to facilitate and support Kildare as a safer place to live and work in.

This scheme is intended to support local communities who wish to install and maintain CCTV security systems in their area, with the aim of increasing public safety and to deter illegal or anti-social behaviour.

A Working Group, the CCTV grant Scheme sub-committee were formed in May 2017 to develop a policy on community based CCTV Schemes and this policy was approved by County Kildare JPC on the 11th September 2017.

The End.