

## Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

### Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. in Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairman, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. David Kennedy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Mary Mescal, John Hayes.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Ger Egan, Thomastown Garda Station  
Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Barry Smith, Kilkenny Garda Station

Colette Byrne, Chief Executive, Kilkenny County Council  
Tim Butler, Director of Services, Kilkenny County Council  
Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council  
Catherine Cooney, Staff Officer, Kilkenny County Council

**Apologies:** Deputy John Paul Phelan, T.D., Deputy Bobby Aylward, T.D., Cllr. Melissa O'Neill.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairman - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

#### **Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings:**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Kilkenny County Council Joint Policing Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2017:

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick  
Seconded by: Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
And Resolved:

“That the minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby adopted.”

- (b) Minutes of Public Meeting of Kilkenny County Council Joint Policing Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2017:

Proposed by : Cllr. David Kennedy  
Seconded by: Cllr. Maurice Shortall

“That the minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby adopted.”

All Members of the Committee expressed their congratulations to Superintendent Derek Hughes and Superintendent Ger Egan on their recent promotion and requested that a letter of congratulations and thanks be issued to Chief Superintendent Pdraig Dunne for his service to the Committee.

**Item No. 2: Crime Statistics, Traffic and Road Safety Update by An Garda Síochána**

Superintendent Ger Egan gave the Committee an update outlining statistics for 2017 in relation to Crime and Road Safety and giving details of the following:

- Reduction in burglary incidents.
- Operation Storm.
- Road Traffic incidents.
- Increase in Garda visibility across the county, i.e. extra speed checkpoints.

Superintendent Derek Hughes stated that he welcomes the challenge of his new role and acknowledged that the issues in the City are different to those he has dealt with in the county areas. He is committed to keeping crime statistics low, ensuring a safe city, improving road safety, tackling drug related crimes and progressing the safer social initiative.

Mr. Tim Butler gave details on the Purple Flag which is the international accreditation for town centres in the evening and at night from 5.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. Mr. Butler agreed to arrange a meeting as soon as possible in order to progress this initiative and by achieving Purple Flag Status, Kilkenny will be seen as a safe place to come, socialise and live.

Queries were raised by Councillors in relation to the following:

- Withdrawal of squad cars from Traffic Corp in Thomastown
- Number of new recruits appointed to Kilkenny.
- Driver Feedback Signage.
- Garda Resources in Castlecomer.
- Sources of crimes and analysis of the causes of the crimes.
- Statistics on roadside drug testing.

Mr. Tim Butler and Superintendent Derek Hughes responded to all queries raised.

**Item No. 3: Animal Welfare Issues.**

Mr. Tim Butler stated that he is aware of a number of reported animal welfare incidents in the recent past and the Local Authority will continue to liaise with the Gardaí and the families involved in relation to these issues.

Superintendent Derek Hughes advised that there are a number of prosecutions in the courts in relation to animal cruelty in Kilkenny and confirmed that the Gardaí take all reports of animal cruelty very seriously.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes stated the Gardaí have the following 2 no. concerns:

1. Number of non-chipped horses. There needs to be a licensing regime in place.
2. 2 no. serious incidents where horses had to be put down as result of running around town late at night.

Councillors made contributions in relation to the following:

- Figure on how many horses are currently in the City.
- Policy in relation to video evidence of animal cruelty cases on phones.
- Number of seizures in the last 12 months.
- Prosecutions in relation to dangerous driving of horse drawn vehicles.
- Expenditure incurred by the Council in the seizure of horses.

Mr. Tim Butler and Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes responded to queries raised.

Following a discussion, it was:

Proposed by: Cllr. David Fitzgerald  
Seconded by: Cllr. David Kennedy  
And resolved

“that the JPC submit a request to the Department of Agriculture for an Official to attend the next JPC Meeting to brief the Committee on their role in relation to the care of horses”.

It was also requested that information be provided at the next meeting regarding the responsibility on horse owners under the Road Acts in respect of the control of horses on a public road.

#### **Item No. 4: Update on Community Text Alert Scheme**

Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, Kilkenny Garda Station, gave an update to the meeting on the Community Text Alert Scheme outlining the following:

- Awards night on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.
- 62 Groups in Kilkenny/Carlow Division.
- IFA property marking scheme.
- It is about education and awareness and getting the message out.
- Direct correlation in the reduction of crime.

Councillors paid tribute to all those involved in the operation of the scheme and made contributions in relation to:

- Send text to make people aware of IFA property marking scheme.
- Proceeds from the sale/auctioning of unclaimed stolen property.
- Annual charge for the monitoring of personal alarms.

#### **Item No. 5: Any Other Business**

Mr. John Hayes, Ferrybank Combined Residents Association, highlighted the existence of the Small Areas Policing (SAP) initiative headed up by Chief Superintendent Pat Leahy and focusing on community relations.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes advised that he was aware of the existence of the initiative and has spoken Chief Superintendent Leahy in respect of same.

Chief Superintendent Hayes also informed the meeting of the following:

- Invitation to Awards Night in Cilín Hill on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, at 7.00 p.m.
- New Victim of Crime Clinic in Kilkenny Garda Station.
- Details on the structure of the Local Policing Partnerships.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Kilkenny County Council Joint Policing Committee will take place on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting then concluded.