

Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th July, 2015 at 3.30 p.m. in Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

PRESENT: Cllr. Patrick McKee, Chairman, Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Patrick O’Neill, Cllr. Maurice Shortall.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Kilkenny Garda Station
Superintendent Padraic Dunne, Kilkenny Garda station
Superintendent Mick Gibbons, Thomastown Garda Station
Inspector Liam Connolly, Kilkenny Garda Station

Mary Mescal, Ossory Youth.
John Burke (Iverk Show), Piltown.

Michael Delahunty, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council
Catherine Cooney, Staff Officer, Kilkenny County Council

Apologies: Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Joe Malone.

Cllr. Patrick McKee, Chairman - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

Item No. 1: Welcome newly appointed Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes.

Chairman introduced and welcomed the new appointed Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes and wished him well in his new post. Cllr. McKee also welcomed to the Committee Mary Mescal, Ossory Youth and John Burke, Piltown who have been appointed under the Public Participation Network.

Following his introduction Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes thanked Cllr. McKee and the Committee for their good wishes and gave the Committee a brief background on his career to date. He complimented Superintendent Padraic Dunne and his team on their hard work and commitment and advised that his priorities centred around the following:

- “People must be safe in their homes”.
- Protection of Kilkenny’s reputation in relation to Public Order.
- Initiatives in relation to dealing with illicit drug use.
- Policing of Roads.
- Engaging with Communities in relation to crime prevention.

Item No. 2: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd February, 2014.

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Fidelis Doherty
Seconded by: Cllr. Maurice Shortall
And Resolved:

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

Item No. 3: Garda Presentation on new Community Policing Strategy for Kilkenny City.

Superintendent Padraic Dunne gave a presentation to the meeting outlining the details of the new Community Policing Strategy for Kilkenny City. Following the presentation, Members thanked Superintendent Dunne who responded to number of queries raised in relation to:

- Roll out of the scheme county wide.
- Mechanism by which communities can get involved.
- Report to the Joint Policing Committee on the effectiveness of the Strategy over time.

Item No. 4: Garda Presentation/Update on Text Alert Schemes.

Inspector Liam Connolly gave a presentation to the meeting on the progress of the Community Text Alert Schemes which explained the purpose of the Schemes, how the schemes are set up, text alert providers, number of schemes currently in operation in Kilkenny, etc.

Members expressed their appreciation for the presentation and the operation of the schemes and Inspector Connolly and Superintendent Mick Gibbons responded to a number of queries raised in relation to the operation of the scheme on a county wide basis.

Cllr. Patrick McKee advised the Committee that a meeting specifically devoted to the Text Alert Scheme will be held in early September, a location to be decided.

Item No. 5: Anti-Social Behaviour Issues.

Sulkies

Cllr. Patrick McKee raised an issue regarding the ongoing presence of sulkies in the Riverside Drive/Sycamores and Nore Linear Park area. In response, Superintendent Padraic Dunne reassured the members of the Committee that An Garda Síochána take any complaints received very seriously and the Gardaí in collaboration with the Local Authority, are looking at other solutions, apart from the Bye Laws, in order to resolve this problem. Also, he advised that the Gardaí will arrange to meet with the Local Authority to draw up protocols to ensure that the Bye Laws can be enforced properly and effectively.

Item Nos. 6 & 7: Suicide Prevention and Domestic Violence Policies.

Cllr. Patrick McKee stated that the Steering Group decided that Suicide Prevention and Domestic Violence are two issues to be reviewed by the Joint Policing Committee on an ongoing basis with a view to developing a policy in relation to same.

Cllr. McKee further stated that there are two significant days arising in the coming months in relation to both these items: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and World Suicide Prevention Day and it is his intention to hold events on both these days and he would appreciate any assistance Members can give him to organise the events.

Item No.8 Any Other Business

The following issues were raised by Members to which the members of the Gardaí responded:

- Cllr. Fidelis Doherty:
Traffic management plan put in place recently following a fatal accident in Thomastown area.
- Cllr. Eamon Aylward and Cllr. Tomás Breathnach:
Criteria used in deciding the location of speed vans and the possibility of local representatives having an input into same.
- Cllr. Maurice Shortall: Reported figures for the reduction of number of burglaries.
- Cllr. Michael McCarthy: Possibility of additional Garda resources being assigned to rural areas in the future.
- Cllr. Ger Frisby: Illegal parking in the south of the County.
- Cllr. David Fitzgerald: Commended the role of the Gardaí in the care and attention given to An Taoiseach and Government Members who visited Carlow/Kilkenny during the recent Bye Election Campaign.

Cllr. Patrick McKee expressed his appreciation to everyone for their attendance and involvement in the Meeting and advised that the next meeting will be held in September.

The meeting then concluded.