

# COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

## AN COMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA - JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

**Miontuairiscí an Chruinnithe a tionóladh Dé Luain, 26 Meán Fómhair 2022  
i Halla na Cathrach ag 2.30 p.m.  
*Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022  
in the Council Chamber, County Hall at 2.30 p.m.***

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**Chair:** Cllr. Martin Brett

**Present:** Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Pat Fitzpatrick, Pat Dunphy, Joe Malone, David FitzGerald, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael McCarthy.  
Chief Superintendent Pádraig Dunne  
Acting Superintendent B. Smith  
Superintendent Anthony Farrell, Thomastown Garda Station  
Detective Inspector O'Meara  
Sergeant Peter McConnan,  
Marion Acreman, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce  
Anthony Morrisson, Vintners Association  
Sean McKeown, A/Chief Executive,  
Tim Butler, Director of Services,  
Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer.

**Remotely:** Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, Fidelis Doherty, Joe Lyons, Eugene McGuinness

**Apologies:** Superintendent Derek Hughes, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill.

Cllr. Martin Brett, Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The Chairperson noted sympathies:  
To the family of the late Vicky Phelan.  
Recent fatality on our roads in Kilkenny.

**Item No. 1: Minutes of Kilkenny JPC Meeting**

Minutes of Kilkenny Joint Policing Committee meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 were:

**Proposed By:** Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick

**Seconded By:** Cllr. Pat Dunphy

**And Agreed:**

*"That the Minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby approved as accurate."*

## **Item No. 2: Crime Statistics update from An Garda Síochana**

Cllr. Martin Brett invited Detective Sergeant Brian Sheeran to present an overview on Crime Statistics for the Kilkenny/Thomastown Districts.

In his PowerPoint Presentation he gave an overview on the following since 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022:

- 5,722 crime incidents recorded within the Thomastown and Kilkenny District
- 7,580 calls for service responded to through the Regional Control Centre
- 1,152 arrests, 706 searches and 165 vehicles seized
- 14,344 Patrols, 1,876 checkpoints and 653 MIT checkpoint
- 93 Driving/in charge of vehicle under the influence
- 220 Possession and sale/supply of drugs
- 489 Public Order Offences
- 102 Burglary not aggravated
- 275 Theft from shops
- 91 Theft from MPV
- 162 Theft other
- 13 robberies
- 238 Assaults
- 319 Domestic Related Incidents
- 294 Fraud/Economic Crime Incidents
- 22 Traffic Collisions – 17 serious, 5 fatal

Detective Sergeant Brian Sheeran outlined areas where crime has increased or decreased when compared to 2021 and the years prior to COVID19.

Cllr. Martin Brett thanked Detective Sergeant Sheeran for the update on the crime statistics.

## **Item No. 3: Online Fraud.**

Sergeant Peter McConnon Crime Prevention Officer Waterford/Kilkenny Carlow Garda Division provided details on Online Fraud:

Online storage is increasing and is a safe way to hide illegal material or goods.

- Encryption is now the standard for social media Apps and for folders or devices that are used to commit or store evidence of criminality
- Business Email compromise in which a company is coerced into changing the payment methods for a supplier – often with an email from a senior person to an employee requesting them to make a payment to a new account or from a supplier (with a subtle change in the email address) stating that the bank account details are changed.
- Online Sextortion, where a victim performs sexual acts online with another party, believing them to be a beautiful female or a child of similar age. They are then blackmailed into doing more or paying bitcoins to stop the images being published
- Phishing email are still very prevalent where a person is fooled into believing there is a problem with an online account or with their bank credentials and they connect with a link, enter their logon details for the account, but are unaware the link is fraudulent. Their account is then cleaned out.

- Ransomware is a form of malware that gives criminals the ability to lock a computer from a remote location
- Displays a pop-up window demanding money to unlock computer

ADVICES:

- Be prepared - Know the risks and the benefits of connecting online and keep informed by being cyber aware.
- Be Aware – think before you click, don't open attachments from unknown sources
- Be suspicious – of unsolicited emails or requests for information. Stop, think, call.
- Systems and Protections: Backup separately, updated securely, Check regularly.
- Don't mix work and personal networks, activities or devices.
- Report any suspicious or criminal attacks to your local Garda Station
- #ThinkB4Uclick to Stay connected, Stay Secure and above all Stay Safe when online.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Joe Malone, Joe Lyons, Andrew McGuinness, Pat Dunphy, John Coonan, Tomás Breathnach and Martin Brett.

**Item 4. Active Travel Initiatives.**

It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

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

Under any other business the following was raised:

- Detailed Drug Report at a future meeting.
- Consider including Baseline statistics from 2019 to 2022 to allow comparison on reports.
- Garda resources in local towns and villages.
- The need for the sustainability of the drug initiative.
- Level of retail crime in Kilkenny City.
- Night time safety in Kilkenny City.

Cllr. Martin Brett thanked retiring Chief Superintendent Pdraig Dunne and wished him well in the future.

Cllr. Martin Brett concluded the meeting and thanked all for attending.

**Item 6. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next Joint Policing Committee meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

**Signed:**

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CHAIRPERSON

**Date:**

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