

## Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

### Minutes of Public Meeting held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at 6.30 p.m. in Friary Hall Complex, Callan Co. Kilkenny

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairperson, Cllr. Matt Doran, Cllr. Patrick McKee, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. David Kennedy, Cllr. Patrick O’Neill, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Mary Mescal.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Padraig Dunne, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Thomastown Garda Station  
Detective Sergeant Ger Egan, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Adrian Tobin, Callan Garda Station.

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

**Apologies:** Deputy John McGuinness, T.D., Deputy Bobby Aylward, T.D., Cllr. Tomás Breachnach.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairman - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Cllr. Doherty advised that no submissions/questions were received following the Public Advertisement of the Meeting. The following items were discussed:

#### **Item No. 1: Crime, Drugs and Public Order**

Queries were raised by Councillors in relation to the following issues:

- Animal Welfare – time committed by Gardaí, microchipping of horses, what advice can Gardaí give to local communities.
- Role of the Council in relation to Animal Welfare.
- Are there minimum standards for horse drawn vehicles?
- Enquire for Department of Agriculture if there are minimum standards for the keeping of any form of livestock.
- Statistics regarding prosecutions in relation to Animal Welfare.

Superintendent Padraig Dunne outlined statistics for 2015, 2016 and 2017 for responding by the Gardaí to reports of animal cruelty and stated that An Garda Síochána has a zero tolerance in relation to cruelty to animals. Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes advised that the issues in relation to the control of horses requires a multi agency approach and acknowledged the support of the Council and the Kilkenny Traveller Movement to the Gardaí in dealing with this issue. He further advised that this is a Work in Progress and meetings continue to be held with the Travelling Community to resolve the issues.

Mr. Tim Butler committed the Council's continued support to the Gardaí and agreed that a partnership approach is required. Mr. Butler also advised that the Department of Agricultural have minimum standards in place regarding the keeping of horses, maintain an Equine Register and have an inspection system.

**Item No. 2: Community Engagement**

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes informed the meeting that 9 no. community engagement meetings have been held to date in 2017. Each meeting was well attended.

This initiative got the support of all in attendance.

**Item No. 3: Road Safety.**

Superintendent Derek Hughes stated that no fatal accidents have occurred in the first quarter of 2017 and An Garda Síochána have engaged closely with the Council to put accident preventative measures in place at locations where fatal accidents have occurred.

In response to query regarding new legislation coming into force from midnight in relation to drug testing, Superintendent Hughes confirmed that all relevant personnel have received training in this area.

Mr. Tim Butler advised that Council staff have met with Gardaí at number of locations around the County and have a Road Safety Plan which has been developed in conjunction with An Garda Síochána. The Council carry out ongoing road safety works every year including improvement works to roundabouts in the City. Mr. Butler give further details on the larger Road Works Schemes currently in place.

Queries were raised by Councillors in relation to the following:

- Works at Dean Street/Kieran Street/Castlecomer Road
- Reduction of speed limits.
- N24 – Road Safety Measures.
- Details of how new legislation will operate.

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

**Item No. 4: Any Other Business**

Local Policing Partnerships

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes explained the background to the Local Policing Partnerships initiatives which is a new approach to policing in the community.

Chief Superintendent Hayes advised that it is intended to pilot this scheme in the Castlecomer Municipal District. A committee will be set up and supported by An Garda Síochána and will be made up of Councillors and independent people from each council area who will work to make the community safer by focusing on policing and community safety issues.

The meeting then concluded.