

## **Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee**

### **Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 3.30 p.m. Garda Headquarters, Dominic Street, Kilkenny**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairman, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr David Kennedy, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Patrick McKee, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, , Breda McDonald, John Hayes.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Ger Egan, Thomastown Garda Station  
Inspector Anthony Farrell, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Barry Smith, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Aidan Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny Garda Station.  
Sergeant Laura Dragoi, Kilkenny Garda Station.

Colette Byrne, Chief Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council.  
Tim Butler, Director of Services, Kilkenny County Council  
Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council  
Teresa Mahon, A/ Staff Officer, Kilkenny County Council

**Apologies:** Deputy Bobby Aylward , T.D. Mary Mescal, Cllr, Pat O’Neill

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairperson - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She acknowledged all the Garda present. She thanked them for the tour of the station and the refreshments offered. She also used this opportunity to thank all who attended the recent public meeting in Glenmore Community Hall.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes – thanked everyone for coming and taking part in the tour of the station and the equipment. He reinforced the message around making Kilkenny a safe place.

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

Minutes of Meeting of Kilkenny County Council Joint Policing Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018:

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
Seconded by: Cllr. David Kennedy  
And Agreed:

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

#### **Item No. 2: Safer Socialising**

Superintendent Derek Hughes explained that safer socialising and the purple flag initiative had been discussed at previous meetings. The overall aim is to reduce public order incidents and assaults in the city. The **Purple Flag** is an international accreditation scheme for towns and city centres in the evening and at night. It is the “Gold Standard” for night time destinations and achieving this would be great benefit to Kilkenny. There is an initial judgement on application and it is reviewed every 2 years thereafter.

He introduced Sergeant Laura Dragoi to the Committee who outlined the actions been introduced to address safer socialising under “Operation City Safe”. These actions include:

- High visibility beats.
- Patrols and static points
- Strategic Visibility points
- Motor Cycle patrol approaching coaches arriving in City
- specific drop off a pick up point for coaches
- Patrol Van stationed on the Parade.

Operation City Safe will come into force this Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Sergeant Dragoi was thanked for her presentation by Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Cllr Fidelis Doherty and CEO Colette Byrne. Cllr Doherty expressed concern over bus drivers taking responsibility for people who are intoxicated on their vehicles. It was pointed out that during the ploughing match buses were not allowed let their passengers disembark if they were deemed to be under the influence of large amounts of alcohol.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes explained that the plan is all about visibility and engaging with people and businesses. He stated that people need to expect to be safe and the visibility of the patrols etc makes a huge difference.

Colette Byrne confirmed Kilkenny County Council’s support for the Purple Flag. The Guards, the Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Vintners must all work together to obtain the Purple Flag and to retain it for at least the next decade.

Members of the Committee including Cllr McKee, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr, David Kennedy, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Thomas Breathnach, Cllr Maurice Shortall and Cllr Michael McCarthy contributed to a discussion on the management of the buses, hot spots, mounted police and red jackets for security men. All are looking forward to the update on the scheme at the next JPC meeting.

### **Item No 3.**

#### **Youth Project Involvement.**

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes introduced Inspector Liam Connolly who has been involved with the Garda Youth Project since 2008. Inspector Connolly thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak about the Community based project. Funding came from the Local Authority and Statestreet. The Youth Project was founded in 2001 with the objection of reducing youth offending. He acknowledged the support and assistance of the Department of Justice especially Mary Mescal. He called on Paul Bolger to give a presentation on the Compass Garda Youth Diversion Project. Paul thanked everyone for the opportunity to explain what they do.

The purpose of the Project is to engage young people in activities that support the reduction of their risk in criminal or antisocial behaviour. The project is based in Desert Hall with County outreach. The

project is staffed by 2 Youth Justice Workers and referrals are made through the JLO and Community Policing through a Referral Assessment Committee. The criteria for referral is normally youths who are known to the Gardai and who are moderate to high risk of offending. The following are some of the interventions used: Focus on engagement and relationship ('Carrot approach'), Motivational interviewing, Behavioural actions and consequences, Social Capital, Trust and connections, Sports and outdoor activities, Restorative practice, Individual goal setting, work to learn programme and parenting support.

Paul concluded the presentation by thanking the Council and State Street for their financial support. He also thanked the Gardai, Community Policing and JLO for their great assistance with the project.

Members of the committee including Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Cllr McKee, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr, David Kennedy, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Thomas Breathnach, Cllr Maurice Shortall and Cllr Michael McCarthy asked questions in relation to the project and more details were provided including information on the success rate of the project. The work to learn programme was recognised as an integral part of the project and a question was asked about the Council providing support in this area. Tim Butler confirmed that the Council has a summer work programme but this is aimed at 3<sup>rd</sup> level students. He agreed to enter into discussion with the project in relation to its work experience.

#### **4. Animal Welfare Issues:**

Mr. Tim Butler explained that Mr. Sean McKeown could not attend the meeting today but he has reported that there have been no issues in Kilkenny in a while. Environment have identified areas of concerns in the City re sulkies. KCC are preparing bye-laws for area of concern. Consultation will be held with Chief Superintendent. Any revised bye-laws will require approval by the Council.

Confirmation was given that the existing Borough Council bye-laws for excluding horses in parks have still the same power under the 2014 Local Government Act.

Superintendent Dominic Hayes referred to Section 47 of the Control of Horses' Act which allows the identification of areas where horses can be excluded. Section 47 should include places where there has been a history of problems with horse cruelty and access to these areas should be restricted. He advised that there had been no recent horse deaths. Periodical announced inspection and unannounced inspections in areas where horses are been managed will continue.

Horses were removed in South Kilkenny and a file has been sent to the DPP.

Committee members including Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Cllr McKee, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr, David Kennedy, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Thomas Breathnach, Cllr Maurice Shortall and Cllr Michael McCarthy raised issues around barring someone from having horses, compiling a register of people who owned horses, chipping horses, pound services, signs for the bye-laws for residents around Linear Park and Riverside Drive, funding and the role of the Department of Agriculture.

Tim Butler agreed to look at the signs for the bye-laws to ensure they are in place. Issues in relation to Chipping, seizing horses and voluntary surrendering of horse are matters for Environment section and the Dept of Agriculture.

## **5. CCTV.**

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes confirmed that CCTV gives the public a feeling of safety and referred to a presentation previously given to the committee. The need to look at specific areas, costings and the improving technology was highlighted. In the long term it is hoped that there will be funding for 10 - 15 CCTV locations around the City but initially they are seeking funding for 3 – 4 areas. Gardai will require funding from the Local Authority.

The Council is still awaiting guidance from the Data Protection Commissioner in relation to community CCTV and data protection.

Committee members including Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Cllr McKee, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr, David Kennedy, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Thomas Breathnach, Cllr Maurice Shortall and Cllr Michael McCarthy contributed to the discussion and stated the making of funding available will have to be considered in advance of the 2019 Budget.

## **6. Crime Statistics**

Superintendent Derek Hughes gave a presentation on crime statistics for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year:

- Car Breaks-ins in the County up 43% on last year - strategy put in place to deal with the issue.
- Burglaries in City up by 5 on last year predominately on Commercial properties.
- One Burglary in Castlecomer in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter compared to 14 for the same period in 2017.
- In City and Callan area, theft from persons has reduced from 10 last year to 3 this year – 70% decrease
- The issuing of fixed charge penalty notices for parking on Castle Road and James Street has impacted positively in the area.

He further outlined a Garda initiative centred around the Robertshill, Fatima Place and Circular Road area, to address anti-social behaviour has seen a reduction of crime of 50% in the area.

Superintendent Ger Egan reported that burglaries in the Thomastown area are down 17% on last year. He outlined how the public and CCTV helped to identify a suspect of a robbery in Paulstown.

Inspector Anthony Farrell provided an update on traffic and traffic crime. A presentation will be given at the next meeting.

Kilkenny Gardai has been nominated for an award for work with older people.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes took the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful career of Inspector Joe Carton and wished him the very best on his retirement.

## **7. Agree date and venue for Public meeting.**

The date will be agreed at the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

The next meeting will take place in County Hall @ 3.30pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The meeting then concluded.