

Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February, 2018 at 1.30 p.m. in Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

PRESENT: Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairman, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Melissa O’Neill, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Mary Mescal, 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.

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: Colette Byrne, Deputy John McGuinness, Deputy John Paul Phelan, T.D., Deputy Bobby Aylward, T.D.

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

Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings:

Minutes of Meeting of Kilkenny County Council Joint Policing Committee held on 7th December, 2017:

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness
Seconded by: Cllr. Michael McCarthy
And Agreed:

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

Item No. 2: CCTV

Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, gave an update to the meeting in relation to applications by communities for CCTV systems and advised that community groups going ahead with CCTV applications must adhere to the proper process. Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes assured communities of the support of the Gardaí in taking on the task of installing a CCTV system.

Anne Maria Walsh informed the meeting that the Council will be reviewing its CCTV Policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations coming into force on 25th May, 2018 and will be liaising with the Gardaí in relation to same. Going forward a written request will need to be submitted for access to CCTV footage.

Members of the committee made comments regarding the following:

- CCTV in St. Kieran's Cemetery, Kilkenny.
- CCTV for the WW1 War Memorial at the Peace Park, Kilkenny City.
- Organising an CCTV Information Day for communities.

Following a discussion it was agreed to hold the next Joint Policing Committee in Kilkenny Garda Station where the Members of the Committee will receive a tour of the facilities in the Station to include the operation of the CCTV System.

Item No. 3: 2017 End of Year Crime Statistics, Traffic and Road Safety Update by An Garda Siochána.

Superintendent Derek Hughes gave a presentation on the end of year statistics for 2017 and set out the parameters for 2018 including the Purple Flag Status for Kilkenny City.

Superintendent Ger Egan also gave a similar presentation for the Thomastown Area.

Superintendent Hughes and Superintendent Egan responded to queries raised by Committee Members in relation to the following:

- Victim Support.
- Garda checkpoints.
- Highlighting the statistics to the general public.
- Location of speed vans.
- School bus service in severe weather.

Inspector Anthony Farrell made a presentation on Traffic and Road Safety statistics for 2017 which included the following:

- Road Policing Operations Plan 2017.
- Fatal Collisions Details.
- Statistical Traffic Analysis 2017.
- Four Pillars of Garda Traffic Strategy.
- Community Engagement Fora.

Mr. Tim Butler stated that the Council will be seeking increased investment in the road infrastructure in the coming years in an effort to improve road safety. Other measures will also be undertaken such as low cost safety measures and improvements to junctions.

Item No. 4: Safer Socialising.

Superintendent Derek Hughes gave an update on the Purple Flag initiative. Members of the Committee made comments regarding bus loads of people being brought into the City from the country areas at the weekends, responsibility of the bus drivers and community engagement.

Item No. 5: Annual Report 2017.

Anne Maria Walsh informed the meeting that it is a statutory duty of the Joint Policing Committee to prepare an Annual Report. It is intended to submit this report to the Council for approval at the March Monthly Meeting.

Item No. 6: Public Meeting/s 2018.

The Committee agreed to hold a public meeting in Urlingford in September/October of 2018 and the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee will be held on Wednesday, 25th April, 2018, at 3.30p.m. in Kilkenny Garda Station, Dominic Street, Kilkenny.

The meeting then concluded.