

**Minutes of Meeting of Joint Policing Committee  
Held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 at 11.30 a.m.  
In the Council Chamber, Carricklawn, Wexford.**

**Attendance:**

**Members of County Council:** Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman.  
Cllrs. P. Breen; K. Codd Nolan; A. Connick;  
W. Fitzharris; J. Fleming; T. Forde; D. Hynes;  
R. Ireton; B.A. Murphy; M. Roche.

**Gardaí:** A/Chief Superintendent Jim Doyle

**County Council Officials:** Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services  
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary

**Community Representatives:** Mr. D. Doyle  
Ms. M. Quinn  
Mr. P. Walsh  
Ms. T. Smith

**Apologies:** Mr. T. Enright  
Mr. T. Byrne  
Cllr. G. Lawlor  
Cllr. J. Sullivan  
Mr. G. Mackey

At the outset the County Secretary explained that a presentation by the Victim Support Group that was scheduled to take place at the July 2018 meeting had been called off as the person giving the presentation had emigrated. It hoped that another presentation can be arranged in the future.

**1. Minutes of JPC Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018:**

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Ireton seconded by Cllr. W. Fitzharris, the minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, were agreed and adopted.

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting's minutes.

**2. Sub-Committee Plans 2018:**

Cllr. J. Fleming gave a brief report regarding rural crime arising from the Crime Prevention & Community Safety Sub-Committee which was held earlier in the day. Matters raised included support for crime victims and resilience of local communities; more policing around towns, villages and housing estates was also a matter of debate.

Following further discussion it was agreed that a meeting to discuss the future of the sub-committee system will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 11.30 a.m. The meeting will be attended by the Chairs of the Sub-Committees, the District Managers, the Gardaí, Director of Services and the County Secretary.

### 3. Chief Superintendents Report:

A/Chief Superintendent Jim Doyle made a presentation to the meeting which had been circulated previously. The Chief Superintendent advised that the figures being presented were operational figures only and that the official figures will come from the CSO at a later stage. This was noted by the meeting.

A/Chief Superintendent Jim Doyle advised that a new Chief Superintendent for Wexford Paddy McMenamin had been appointed. The A/Chief Superintendent knows him as a very hard working and honourable man and his appointment is a permanent one. He noted that the Chief Superintendent will attend at the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee and he wished him well in his endeavors. Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services, also wished the new Chief Superintendent well in his new appointment and this was echoed by the Cathaoirleach who looked forward to working with him.

In his presentation the A/Chief Superintendent highlighted the community activities which had taken place since the last meeting in May 2018, numbering 18 in all throughout the county. He particularly mentioned the success of the soccer league that had taken place in Courtown and advised that it is hoped to extend this community activity to other areas of the County in the future.

He also advised of an increase in the number of officers on the beat. He highlighted that e-crime and fraud will become more prevalent forms of crime in the future. He also advised that the Victims Office is in place now and that all victims are contacted. He personally checks the Pulse system every day to make sure that the victims are contacted.

The A/Chief Superintendent noted that there was a reduction in burglaries. He advised that this was down to the curfews imposed on leading criminals in the County and also that burglary had become less lucrative than it had been in the past.

He acknowledged that CCTV was a good help in dealing with theft from shops. He also notified the JPC that theft from vehicles was being dealt with - signage to alert people to the dangers of leaving their cars unattended with valuable items in full view should lead to a reduction in crime from vehicles. He noted that there are units in each District where plainclothes Gardai are visiting beaches to try to prevent such crimes taking place.

With regards to traffic he advised that the figures are improving in respect of the detection of people not using seat belts and drink driving; he hoped that there would be extra resources for roads policing over the coming months which will add to this improvement.

The Cathaoirleach wished the A/Chief Superintendent Jim Doyle all the best in the future and thanked him for his input while acting up for the Chief Superintendent.

Following the presentation a number of questions were raised by the Members of the JPC including the following:

- The non-inclusion of the Gorey District in the figures circulated – the A/Chief Superintendent advised that Gorey/Enniscorthy were grouped together in the one District, that there were 3 Districts in Wexford – Gorey/Enniscorthy, New Ross and Wexford.

- Training for young drivers – the A/Chief Superintendent advised that there was a school programme in place and that there are briefings in the local cinema for young children in the Wexford District.
- Checking of car boot sales for stolen properties and the success in recovering these items – the A/Chief Superintendent advised that the Gardai visit car boot sales and look on Done Deal for stolen items but there is minimal success due to the lack of resources. They have had some success, however, and the public should not buy these bargain items.
- The A/Chief Superintendent advised that the new drink driving regulations should make a difference; he also advised that there is no room for complacency and that members of the public should not drink and drive.
- Drug testing – the A/Chief Superintendent advised that this is an ongoing process and that Gardai are being trained at present to do the testing for drugs.
- The reporting of crime was also raised and that a message needs to be got out to the public to report crimes as they become aware of them.
- The full time dog unit – the A/Chief Superintendent agreed that a full time dog unit would be very useful and a great benefit to Wexford but that normally Wexford gets in a dog unit from Cork; it is probably not feasible at present for Wexford to have its own dog unit due to lack of man power.
- Margaret Quinn, Muintir na Tire, advised from her experience there is a great apathy among the public to report stolen property. She noted that there are a number of things people can do:

First of all, to assist the Gardai to identify stolen property, all items of value should have a marking or identification on them and the owners of this property should take responsibility for both the markings and responsibility to report the items when stolen or missing.

Her message out to the public is to tighten up their personal security by the marking system and by reporting. The A/Chief Superintendent agreed with this analysis and advised that the communities of rural County Wexford are the eyes and ears of the Gardai in those areas.

#### **4. A.O.B.**

The Cathaoirleach gave a verbal report of a recent meeting with the Policing Authority that he attended with the Chief Executive as well as Chairpersons of JPC's and Superintendents from all over the Country.

A wide range of items were discussed at the meeting –

- CCTV,
- Resourcing JPC's and the need for a JPC budget,
- Remand for young people,
- Brexit and the hard border,
- Criminal opportunities arising from the opening of motorways such as the New Ross and Enniscorthy by-passes,
- the need to combat drugs crime by the use of weapons of disruption such as local road check points,
- designing out crime in local authority estates and keeping all areas visible.

The Cathaoirleach also noted that the Meath JPC had visited the Garda Barracks in Wexford on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and had been met by the Cathaoirleach and A/Chief Superintendent and given a tour of the new Garda Headquarters. He notified the meeting that in Meath they had problems with the Members attending the JPC and noted that the Meath Chronicle stated that the criminals in Wexford had better facilities than the Gardai in Meath.

Arising from the Cathaoirleach's report, the reintroduction of Community Gardai and the need for care on the road with regard to cyclists were also discussed.

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach the meeting went into committee, Cllr. M. Roche gave a detailed report on issues of anti-social behavior and crime which were brought up at a recent text alert scheme meeting. He also highlighted the fear people had of reporting these incidents to the County Council or to the Gardai.

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services and A/Chief Superintendent Jim Doyle both emphasised that items must be reported, that they cannot be investigated unless they are reported.

Wexford County Council is to check if there is a report available from the Courts Service regarding conviction rates in County Wexford for anti-social behavior.

A number of issues were then raised including the difficulty experienced by persons with COPD in taking a breath test, a full time Sergeant in Courtown, Sergeants in Bunclody, control of jet skis at beaches, the delay with putting in place of bollards in Taghmon, and an ongoing parking problem in Taghmon.

The A/Chief Superintendent advised that breath tests are mandatory and where a person cannot blow into the machine that the Gardai are obliged to take blood or urine tests as an alternative.

With regard to Sergeants in Bunclody the A/Chief Superintendent agreed to advise the incoming Chief Superintendent about this problem.

Margaret Quinn advised that there is a new meeting in Taghmon this week and that there is possibly a role there for the Housing Liaison Officer to assist with a number of problems in the area.

Cllr. W. Fitzharris advised that the Road Traffic Acts could be used to help the situation in Taghmon and that the response to the problems there will need to be dealt with in a proactive rather than reactive manner.

Mr. J. Carley, DOS, advised that there is a Housing Liaison Officer in Taghmon.

The Contact number for the new Anti Social Behaviour Unit is the normal WCC number.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**