

***Minutes of Meeting of Joint Policing Committee
Held on Monday 13th March, 2017 at 11.30 a.m.
In the Council Chamber, Carricklawn, Wexford.***

Attendance:

Members of County Council: Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman.
Cllrs. P. Breen; G. Carthy; K. Codd Nolan;
A. Connick; W. Fitzharris;
J. Fleming; D. Hynes; R. Ireton; G. Lawlor;
J. Moore; B.A. Murphy;
M. Roche, J. Sullivan; O. Walsh;

Gardaí: Chief Superintendent John Roche
Divisional Traffic Inspector Syl Hipwell

County Council Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services.
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.
Mr. G. Mackey, Administrative Officer.

Oireachtas Members: Mr. Michael D’Arcy, TD.

Community Representatives: Mr. P. Redmond
Mr. P. Walsh
Ms. M. Quinn
Mr. D. MacPartlin

Apologies: Cllr. A. Kelly
Mr. James Browne, TD.
Ms. Anna Kehoe

1. Traffic/speed control measures in rural villages in the County:

The Divisional Traffic Inspector Syl Hipwell attended and invited questions from the Members with regard to speed control in rural villages in County Wexford. Members of the JPC raised a wide number of issues including the following:

- The procedure and criteria for bringing in speed controls in villages with particular emphasis on Our Lady’s Island and Clonroche
- It was noted that the speed control zone at Ferrycarrig Bridge is being reviewed
It was noted that at accidents both drivers would be breathalysed as a matter of course especially if there are injuries.
- The Gatso speed vans.
- Speed problems at the Carnew Road
- Flashing lights outside schools –most complaints are in relation to parents.

- Cllr. G. Lawlor proposed that the JPC write to the TII requesting the proposed increases in speed does not go ahead at Ferrycarrig Bridge, this was agreed by the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Roche.
- Traffic calming measures in urban areas
- Private speed vans are located in red zones - the zones of the Gatso vans are currently being reviewed
- Different speed limits on the N11 adjacent to the Gorey Bypass – it was agreed that this would be reviewed.
- The Chief Superintendent advised that collision zone locations are reviewed every year.
- Detection of the registration of motor cycle number plates – is this possible with the existing technology. It was noted that new technology will be able to detect these numbers.
- Schools/housing estates – the ramps haven't worked. A more co-ordinated system to feed information into the Gardai re speeding.
- Pick up points for school buses need to be reviewed
- Location of speed vans in Courtown
- The number of fatal and severe accidents that happen after midnight

2. Minutes of JPC Meeting 5th September, 2016:

On the proposal of Cllr. G. Carthy seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, the minutes of the 5th September 2016, as amended, were agreed and adopted.

Minutes of JPC Meeting 20th December, 2016:

On the proposal of M. D'Arcy, TD, seconded by P. Redmond, the minutes of the 20th December 2016, were agreed and adopted.

Matters arising

It was noted that the Policing Authority review of Garda Divisions was due to be finalised by May 2017.

Declan MacPartlin advised that a member of Wexford County Council would be welcome onto the Anti- Drug Task Force as opposed to the Drugs Task Force.

3. Report on meeting with Commissioner – Cllr. M. Whelan:

Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman, submitted a report to the meeting outlining the matters he had raised with the Garda Commissioner at a recent meeting in New Ross. A number of issues were raised including the following:

- Identity of those engaged in night hunting on farm land
- D. MacPartlin would greatly appreciate a member of WCC on the Drugs Task Force

- Training of Gardai dealing with victims of crime. The Chief Superintendent outlined how this was being dealt with by the Gardai at present whereby probationers received training in how to deal with victims of crime. In addition, briefing sessions were held every day to reinforce and emphasise to Gardai the need to deal properly with victims of crime. It was also advised that there was regional victim support office which contacts every victim and assists in attending court and other matters.
- Paul Walsh advised that the Victims Rights Alliance had come to fore in the last 3 to 4 years and that he is aware that there is constant training taking place with the Gardai and that the situation is improving and changing.
- Cllr. D. Hynes raised the issue of the difficulty for parents with children who are involved in drugs and that they would need help from the Gardai in dealing with this situation.
- Cllr. G. Carthy brought up the matter of security operation at Rosslare Europort and sought an update from the Chief Superintendent.

4. JPC Sub-Committees:

The Chairman and Members of the JPC discussed the recent sub-committee meetings held throughout the county and noted that the attendance was low. In some cases members had not given apologies and meetings could not go ahead due to the lack of a quorum.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Chairman that the meetings of the three separate sub-committees would now take place in the County Hall prior to the JPC Meeting.

5. Chief Superintendents Report:

The Chief Superintendent presented the 2016 crime statistics as compared to 2015 and the meeting noted the improvements that had taken place. The Chief Superintendent highlighted a number of factors which had contributed to the improved figures - new probationary Gardai, manpower plus funding.

He advised that domestic violence disputes are not included in the figures for offences against the person. It was agreed that domestic violence and abuse should be included in future reports.

Arising from the Chief Superintendent's presentation, JPC members congratulated the Chief Superintendent on the improved figures and raised a number of queries, including the following:

The need for accurate statistics in relation to domestic and sexual violence and the need for further refuge places for victims of domestic violence were highlighted. It was agreed that a representative from the Rape Crisis Centre be invited to attend the May 2017 meeting.

In response to a query on the drugs problem, the Chief Superintendent advised that information and support from the community is critical in assisting the Gardai in their fight against drugs.

In response to a query on thefts from cars, the Chief Superintendent advised that there was a mix of local criminals and criminals travelling from other parts of the country involved.

The cost and hours worked by Gatso vans and the Gardai in monitoring speed were queried. The Chief Superintendent advised the JPC of the appropriate figures.

6. A.O.B.

Mr. G. Mackey distributed a data document to the meeting and advised that this showed the data for 2015 with regard to the Gardai results for that year.

Cllr. B.A. Murphy advised that she had contacted the Gardai in Bunclody last summer regarding a missing person and that the service she had received could not have been better and she praised the Gardai for their help.

Cllr. R. Ireton brought up the distribution of methadone.

Cllr. K. Codd Nolan sought a copy of the Chief Superintendents' Report- it was agreed that this would be circulated.

7. Date of next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 8th May, 2017 including the meetings of the sub-committees prior to the JPC Meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an lá de 2017

Cathaoirleach

**Minutes of Meeting of Joint Policing Committee
Held on Monday 8th May, 2017 at 11.30 a.m.
In the Council Chamber, Carricklawn, Wexford.**

Attendance:

Members of County Council: Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman.
Cllrs. P. Breen; G. Carthy;
A. Connick; W. Fitzharris;
J. Fleming; D. Hynes; R. Ireton; A. Kelly;
G. Lawlor; J. Moore; B.A. Murphy;
M. Roche, J. Sullivan; O. Walsh;

Gardaí: Chief Superintendent John Roche

County Council Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.
Mr. G. Mackey, Administrative Officer.

Community Representatives: Mr. P. Walsh
Mr. D. MacPartlin
Mr. T. Byrne
Ms. J. Rice

Apologies: Mr. J. Browne, TD.
Mr. M. D'Arcy, TD.
Cllr. K. Codd Nolan
Mr. P. Redmond
Ms. M. Quinn
Ms. A. Kehoe
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services

The Chairman welcomed Joy L. Rice, Social Inclusion Representative, who will be replacing Declan Dunbar on the committee. He also welcomed Tina Smith, Community & Voluntary Rep and Annette Dupuy, PPN Support Officer, both of whom will be observing the meeting today. It was noted that Tina Smith will be ratified to join the Joint Policing Committee at the County Council Meeting in the afternoon.

1. Presentation by the Rape Crisis Centre on domestic violence:

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee. Mr. G. Mackey advised that a Group titled MEND (Men Ending Domestic Abuse) will take part in the presentation at the next meeting. He also circulated a document for training with regard to domestic abuse which will be hosted by the MEND Group.

2. Minutes of JPC Meeting 13th March, 2017:

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Moore seconded by Cllr. D. Hynes, the minutes of the 13th March, 2017, were agreed and adopted.

Mr. D. MacPartlin raised the issue of inconsistent speed limits at Gorey and asked when this change will take place.

It was noted that the Gardai have recommended to the TII that the speed limits be changed. It was agreed to write to the TII to notify them of this anomaly.

3. JPC Sub-Committees – verbal report from the Chairman of each Sub-Committee:

Report on the Crime Prevention & Community Safety Sub-Committee

Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman, is also the Chairman of the Crime Prevention & Community Safety Sub Committee. He noted that the Crime Prevention Officer Sgt. B. Moore attended the meeting of the sub-committee. Sgt. Moore advised that a working definition of Crime Prevention is “reducing opportunities to carry out crime.”

Sgt. Moore reported that he had been visiting nursing homes recently to give security advice to elderly people. Any community alert groups that wish to do so can contact Sgt. Moore, Crime Prevention Officer, at Wexford Garda Station.

The Gardai have agreed to review the operation of the Community Text Alert Scheme.

Discussion also took place on victim support and it was recommended that Marie McDonald of the Victim Rights Alliance, be invited to address a meeting of the JPC.

Inspector S. Hipwell, who is responsible for the Community Gardai, also attended the sub-committee meeting. He advised that Officers were being trained to use bikes to patrol local communities.

Report on the Reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Committee

It was noted that this meeting did not proceed due to the lack of a quorum. This is the second occasion that this has occurred and at this point no Chairman has been elected to this sub-committee.

Councillors A. Connick and W. Fitzharris gave their apologies for their non attendance.

Joy Rice, Social Inclusion Rep, told the meeting that she had made the journey from Courtown to attend the sub-committee meeting. She was of the opinion that if members

of the sub-committee were not attending that they should give their apologies in advance and if the meeting was not going ahead the other committee members should be advised not to travel.

It was agreed that members of the Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Committee would make a serious effort to attend the next meeting.

Report on the Misuse of Alcohol Drugs and Related Crime Sub-Committee

Cllr. R. Ireton is the Chair of this sub-committee and he advised that this was the second meeting that they had held and that attendance had been very good. He advised that the sub-committee will be writing to the Minister for Justice to enquire about the progress of new legislation governing alcohol and drugs.

Concerns were raised about the amount of drugs coming through An Post and it was agreed that the Officers from the customs and An Post would attend the next meeting of the sub-committee.

Bye-laws to control drinking in public places were also discussed. It was noted that not all areas of the County are covered by the existing bye-laws and that this should be dealt with as soon as possible.

The committee also sought information regarding the number of Gardai looking after drug enforcement in the County.

They also noted the effect that drugs is having on many families throughout the County.

4. Chief Superintendents Report:

The Chief Superintendent presented the up to date crime statistics for 2017 as attached.

The Chief Superintendent also addressed the national investigation on penalty points which is currently taking place. He advised the JPC that he himself and the national investigating team had checked the Dräger account for the Wexford Division and looked at the number of breath tests that had taken place between 2010 to date.

The Dräger account for that period was 41,793, while the PULSE count for the same period was 43,766 leaving a discrepancy of over 1900, which is 4.4% over the 7 year period. The Chief Superintendent is satisfied that the discrepancy is accounted for by margins of human error. The Chief Superintendent also advised that he had been interviewed together with the Traffic Inspector and Officers by the Policing Authority last week as part of the investigation.

The Chief Superintendent also reported that disabled access to the Garda Station in Gorey is now in place and that the Community Reps and Gardai are reviewing the Text Alert scheme under the direction of Inspection Denis Whelan.

He also advised that the prospect of re-opening Garda Stations is slim given that all 3 closed Garda Stations in Co. Wexford had been sold by the OPW.

Members of the JPC thanked the Chief Superintendent for his presentation and noted the downturn in crime. They also thanked him for his report on the Wexford Division's Breath Test figures on the Dräger/PULSE accounts.

Arising from the Chief Superintendents presentation JPC Members raised a number of queries including the following:

- The types of orders that can be applied for to the Court for victims of domestic violence – it was agreed that the Chief Superintendent would bring information to the next meeting in this regard.
- With regard to the Dräger machines he advised that the machines are calibrated every six months and that the internal figure is downloaded at that point.
- He advised that there is close supervision on the ground of the Breath Test figures.
- He also noted that alcohol and drug use are a factor in domestic violence
- Discussion also took place on the drug figures – the Chief Superintendent clarified that only experienced Officers are deployed to the Drug Squad.
- The Chief Superintendent clarified that persons carrying out assault in their own homes are subject to being arrested for assault
- It was also noted that drink driving figures are increasing and that the drug driving testing is starting tomorrow, 9th May 2017. The Gardai are awaiting an internal policy and will start the training at that point for their Officers in the Traffic Division.
- Speeding is now detected by in-car videos in patrol cars and speed is logged at the front and rear of the Garda vehicles. Speeding is certainly a problem with regard to accidents - the Chief Superintendent is of the opinion that the solution is down to education but also down to personal responsibility of the driver.
- The abuse of elderly people by their own children or neighbours over inheritance of money was raised. The Chief Superintendent advised that the extraction of money from elderly people is the reason for the Crime Protection Officer visiting nursing homes, which had been raised earlier in the meeting - the Gardai are aware that money is being taken without consent from some elderly people.

He advised that if the Members of the JPC came across this issue they should refer the matter to the Gardai and gave assurances that, if reported, these matters will be investigated.

He also advised that the numbers for domestic violence applying to the Courts for orders would be available from the Courts service and not the Gardai. He

further advised that the Gardai as a matter of course will call back to families where there has been a report of domestic violence and a Safety Plan is put in place.

Finally, he noted that many people are in fear of applying for an order to the Court.

5. A.O.B.

Cllr. G. Lawlor raised the issue of parking at Wexford Park and advised that an ambulance had been denied access to Whiterock View due to parked cars blocking the roads.

Following discussion the Chief Superintendent made a commitment that extra cones would be allocated to the residents of Whiterock View and Pineridge to deal with parking problems during games in Wexford Park.

The Chief Executive advised the meeting that correspondence had been received from the Policing Authority regarding the Policing Plan. The Chair of the JPC and the Chief Executive have been invited to a conference on the Policing Plan which will take place in Dublin in June 2017.

6. Date of next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place at 11.30 a.m. on 10th July, 2017. It was also agreed that documents for the meeting would be circulated on MinutePad, in particular the Chief Superintendents Report.

It was further agreed that the meetings of the sub-committees will take place at 10.30 a.m. on 10th July, 2017.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an lá de 2017

Cathaoirleach

***Minutes of Meeting of Joint Policing Committee
Held on Monday 9th October, 2017 at 11.30 a.m.
In the Council Chamber, Carricklawn, Wexford.***

Attendance:

Members of County Council: Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman.
Cllrs. P. Breen; G. Carthy; K. Codd Nolan;
A. Connick; J. Fleming; D. Hynes; R. Ireton;
G. Lawlor; J. Moore; B.A. Murphy; J. Sullivan;

Gardaí: Chief Superintendent John Roche

County Council Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary
Mr. G. Mackey, Administrative Officer.

Community Representatives: Mr. T. Byrne.
Ms. T. Smith
Ms. M. Quinn
Ms. J.L. Rice

Apologies: Cllr. O. Walsh
James Browne, TD
Paul Walsh
Cllr. Willie Fitzharris

1. Minutes of JPC Meeting 10th July 2017:

On the proposal of Cllr. B. A. Murphy seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy, the minutes of the meeting of 10th July, 2017, were agreed and adopted.

2. Annual Report 2016:

The 2016 Annual Report had been circulated to the Members of the Joint Policing Committee for consideration. On the proposal of Cllr. A. Connick seconded by Cllr. G. Carthy the 2016 Annual Report was adopted.

It was noted that copies of the report will be uploaded onto the Council's website, and sent to the Minister for Justice and Equality, the Policing Authority and the Garda Commissioner.

Further to a request by Cllr. J. Sullivan, it was agreed that future Annual Reports would include local Garda crime statistics.

3. Sub-Committees of Joint Policing Committee – verbal report from the Chairman of each sub-committee:

Report on the Misuse of Alcohol, Drugs and related Crime Sub-Committee –

Cllr. R. Ireton, Chair of the Committee, reported that Draft Bye-Laws in respect of drinking in public places are being drafted at present and it is hoped that a meeting will be held early in the New Year will deal with the detail of the bye-laws.

The sub-committee will bring the draft bye-laws to the JPC and then to the full Council following approval from the JPC. It is expected that the draft bye-laws will cover all the towns and villages in County Wexford.

It was agreed to ask Padraig O’Gorman, Housing Officer, to talk about housing and emergency accommodation in particular and the long term effect of emergency accommodation on addiction.

Report on the Reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Committee –

Cllr. G. Carthy advised that only 4 members of the sub-committee had attended the meeting but advised that Margaret Quinn updated the meeting about the text alert scheme and that a protocol between the Gardai and the Local Authority was agreed.

Report on the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Sub-Committee –

Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman, reported that the IFA had presented details of the “theft stop” initiative and it is hoped that leaflets will be left in the motor tax office for circulation to the general public. It is hoped that this initiative will help reduce rural crime. Community policing was also discussed.

Report on the Courtown/Riverchapel Community Forum –

Cllr. R. Ireton advised that installation of CCTV cameras in Courtown/Riverchapel would be a great asset to the Gardai and Joy Rice advised that grant aid of 60% would come from central government with 40% from Wexford County Council.

She also advised that the Forum had installed notice boards in the community to give information to people with regard to JPC initiatives. She also advised that 2 public meetings had been held with local people to hear their concerns with regard to policing.

4. CCTV:

The County Secretary circulated a report with regard to proposed CCTV installations and improvements in various locations throughout County Wexford. He advised that the Department of Justice has a 3 year funding programme for CCTV in place, which will part-fund the hardware – the balance of the funding is expected to be provided by Wexford County Council.

The sites proposed in the report are furthest advanced at this point but it will be open to other locations throughout the County to prepare applications for CCTV over the coming 3 years. Applications for funding will be channeled through the Municipal Districts. Garda approval and the approval of the Joint Policing Committee is also required for the proposed locations of CCTV cameras. The report was proposed by Cllr. R. Ireton, seconded by Cllr. A. Connick and agreed by all.

A number of questions regarding the data protection issues for the release of CCTV footage to the Gardai were discussed. The County Secretary advised that the system in place complies with the law and works well. Chief Superintendent agreed that the current system works well.

The Chief Superintendent advised that the Gardai are looking for cameras on the off ramps from motorways and have been in contact with the Road Safety Authority in that respect.

5. Chief Superintendents Report:

The Chief Superintendent gave his report on the crime figures for the Wexford Division. The figures show consolidated figures up to the end of September 2017. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Chief Superintendent also advised the Joint Policing Committee about community projects which were being carried out by probationary officers and set out a list of the projects being dealt with at present which include the following:

- Cromwellsfort
- Oznam House
- Syrian Refugees
- Suicide awareness in secondary schools
- Roma community in Enniscorthy
- Coolcotts Community Centre
- Delightful dollies in Enniscorthy
- Special Olympics

The Chief Superintendent also reported on the open day in Gorey Garda Station which was attended by a large number of members of the public.

He reported on the Gardai moving from the old Garda Station in Roche's Road, Wexford after 70 years. 140 Gardai including retired Gardai marched to their new premises in The Folly. He particularly noted the spontaneous applause from the local residents which meant a lot to the Gardai in terms of the support of the local people of Wexford.

The Chief Superintendent gave details of the divisional strength which has increased over recent years, which he feels is reflected in the crime figures.

Arising from the Chief Superintendents presentation Members of the Joint Policing Committee raised a number of queries including the following:

- The inclusion of sexual assault and domestic violence statistics as part of the presentation to the JPC Meeting.
- The divide of burglaries with 70% in the urban area and 30% in the rural area
- The cultivation of cannabis takes place all over the County
- The community projects which allows the Gardai to engage and received cultural education from their links with the community
- The staff complement of the Drugs Task Force
- The Chief Superintendent stated that there are 6 officers permanently on the Drugs Task Force at present. This number will be increased in the near future - a decision will be made over the next few weeks with regard to the numbers and locations of the officers.
- Community Programme to be extended to Gorey
- The Chief Superintendent advised that it is hoped that a number of senior probationary officers will take part in community programmes in the Gorey District
- Threats to parents of drug users
- Drug use now cheaper than drink
- The effect of internal CCTV on theft from shops
- Reporting of road traffic information to the RSA
- Policing and crime in Bunclody and the need for extra Gardai
- The number of Polish speakers in the Gardai - the Chief Superintendent advised that one of his officers spoke Polish and another spoke Romanian. He also advised that interpreters were used where necessary
- Joy Rice thanked the Gardai for their involvement in the mini world cup in Courtown/Riverchapel – the Gardai were mentors of the teams; that trophies and medals were presented to children and there was a huge community involvement. It is hoped that it will become an annual event
- The Open Day in Gorey – the Chief Superintendent advised that there was a lot of work in planning the Open Day which was a huge success. It is hoped to have further Open Days in the future.
- The Cathaoirleach then asked that the next meeting of the JPC be held in the new Garda Station IN Wexford and the Chief Superintendent agreed to this.

6. Proposed dates for JPC Meetings in 2018:

The dates as submitted to the meeting were agreed as follows:

- 12th February 2018 at 11.30 a.m.
- 14th May 2018 at 11.30 a.m.
- 9th July 2018 at 11.30 a.m.
- 8th October 2018 at 11.30 a.m.

7. A.O.B.

On the proposal of Cllr. B.A. Murphy seconded by Cllr. G. Lawlor it was agreed to go “In Committee” to allow discussion of a sensitive nature. Cllr. B.A. Murphy raised the issue of a car chase in Bunclody which was a cause of great concern. She asked what was the policy of the Gardai with regard to car chases. The Chief Superintendent advised that a stinger can be used in certain circumstances but that there are health and safety issues in its use.

He also advised that there is a Garda Working Group currently examining policy and training to cover such items as who decides/controls car chases, which, by their nature, are fraught with danger. This will probably be referred to G.S.O.C. in due course – a lot of factors have to be taken into consideration.

Cllr. D. Hynes raised the issues of intimidation of parents with regard to drug debts owed by their children, which had been highlighted earlier in the meeting. He asked if the Garda Confidential Line was effective. He also raised the issue of a new Vape Shop based close to a local school – the Director agreed to check with the Planning Department if this was covered by any Planning regulations.

Finally the Cathaoirleach advised that the Victims Alliance would present to the next meeting of the JPC in February 2018 - unfortunately Marie McDonald of the Victim’s Right Alliance was unavailable to deliver a presentation to today’s meeting.

Cllr. G. Lawlor also asked that the Rape Crisis Centre be asked to make a presentation to the JPC in due course.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

County Secretary

Daingithe ar an lá de 2017

Cathaoirleach