

**Minutes of Meeting of Joint Policing Committee  
Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 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; J. Sullivan
- Gardaí:** Chief Superintendent P. McMEnamin  
Superintendent J. Doyle  
Superintendent G. McGrath  
Superintendent J. McDonald
- County Council Officials:** Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive  
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services  
Mr. G. Mackey, A/SEO, Community  
Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary
- Community Representatives:** Mr. D. Doyle  
Ms. M. Quinn  
Mr. D. MacPartlin
- Apologies:** Cllr. B.A. Murphy

At the outset Cathaoirleach Michael Whelan welcomed the new Chief Superintendent Paddy McMEnamin to his first JPC Meeting in Wexford. Superintendent J. Doyle introduced the new Chief Superintendent. He advised that he is a native of Tyrone and that most of his service has been in the inner city of Dublin. He went on to add that the Chief Superintendent has a vast range of knowledge of policing. Superintendent Doyle asked that the JPC support the work of the new Chief Superintendent over the years ahead.

The Members of the JPC then introduced themselves to the Chief Superintendent. The Chief Executive, Tom Enright, welcomed Chief Superintendent McMEnamin and mentioned that the Council has a very close and good working relationship with the Gardaí and he hopes that will continue.

In response Chief Superintendent McMEnamin thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members of the JPC for their kind words of welcome and advised that, despite his service in the inner city, he has strong connections with the rural areas and experience of working in rural districts. The Chief Superintendent stated that it is his wish to keep a good working relationship with the Council alive during his stay in Wexford.

## **1. Minutes of JPC Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018:**

On the proposal of Cllr. R. Ireton seconded by Cllr. P. Breen and agreed by all, the minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, were agreed and adopted.

Discussion then took place with regard to the effect of a hard border for the port in Rosslare and the difficulties that would be caused for the Port if a hard Brexit takes place. The Chief Superintendent advised that Rosslare requires policing with or without Brexit and added that it may be necessary to review the policy of policing if there is a hard border.

## **2. Updates from Sub-Committees:**

The Cathaoirleach initiated a discussion on the sub-committees system currently in place – he noted that the system had not worked well and would need to be reviewed going forward.

The practical option is to review the 6-Year Plan ad with a view to completing any of the objectives set out in the Plan between now and the May 2019 Local Elections. Moving forward, the new JPC sub-committees are likely to be operated in each of the four Districts.

The Chair of the Alcohol and Drugs Sub-Committee, Cllr. R. Ireton, advised that things were in hand and that they need people to carry out work. He further advised the meeting that they had reviewed the bye-laws at this morning's meeting and they are at an advanced stage.

It was agreed that the position with regard to the plans/reports should be included as an agenda item at the next meeting. It was agreed to invite the District Managers to the next full meeting of the JPC to give a written report about the progress to-date of the 6-year plan.

It was also agreed that the Community Forum in Courtown should submit a report via the Gorey District Manager.

## **3. Community/PPN Representatives 2019-2024:**

The County Secretary advised that there had been difficulties with regard to filling of community seats on the JPC in 2014, which impacted on the work of the JPC. Accordingly, it was agreed that Community Organisations currently sitting on the JPC should put procedures in place early in 2019 to have nominees in place to serve on the new JPC.

It is likely that the first meeting of the new JPC will be in September 2019 and it is hoped that all members, including community representatives, are in place for that meeting.

Mr. D. Doyle advised that the PPN Coordinator Annette Dupuy would set this in train.

#### **4. CCTV:**

The County Secretary circulated a report on the current state of play of CCTV within County Wexford, as attached. The JPC noted the Report and a wide ranging discussion then took place. The Chief Superintendent advised that the Gardai will support any CCTV initiatives where possible and advised that the system for permission to download CCTV footage in place at present is working very well.

The Cathaoirleach then asked that the Council write to TII to enquire as to whether or not CCTV cameras are included in the Enniscorthy and New Ross By-Passes and the off ramps of same.

#### **5. Chief Superintendents Report:**

The Chief Superintendent then presented his report as circulated.

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

- The inclusion of sexual assault statistics in the Chief Superintendents report if possible
- The reasons and analysis for serious vehicle collisions
- The current ban on Garda overtime and its impact on the ability to investigate crime
- The increase in public order offences in New Ross and the reason for same
- Congratulations to the Gardai for great work on traffic and doing everything possible to keep the number of road deaths down
- Whether illegal drugs are included in testing as part of figures for under the influence
- The need for more Gardai rather than payment of overtime to existing Garda Staff
- The issue of allegations of sexual abuse against people who have been exonerated by the court
- The impact of drink and drugs on assaults including domestic assaults
- The statistics on the number of people being taken in under the Mental Health acts.

The Chief Superintendent responded to the issues and questions raised.

#### **6. Correspondence**

A letter from the Drugs Task Force was read out by the Cathaoirleach and it was agreed to circulate a copy of the letter to the Members of the JPC.

A letter from the SPC regarding broken bottles in the playground in Enniscorthy was also circulated to the Members and it was noted that this problem has now died down.

The report on conviction rates from the Courts Service which had been requested at a previous meeting was then read out and it was agreed to circulate this letter to the Members of the JPC.

Mr. G. Mackey, Chief Officer of the Community Department then circulated and presented the Community Resilience Plan to the JPC. The intention of the Plan is to identify vulnerable people who require help and assistance during weather emergencies with regard to prescriptions, dialysis and other issues.

Margaret Quinn advised that Muintir na Tire volunteers had manned the phoned at the previous storm and snow emergencies and put people in touch with the relevant authorities. She asked that Muintir na Tire be included in the Plan. Mr. G. Mackey agreed that the Plan, as presented, is a work in progress and he would be delighted to include Muintir na Tire as part of the team working on this initiative.

#### **7. Any Other Business:**

- Following on from the letter from the Courts Service with regard to anti-social behavior a question was asked whether anti-social behavior could be introduced into the law. The Chief Superintendent answered that normally anti-social behavior is dealt with under the Public Order Act and also the Juvenile Diversion Scheme and the Adult Scheme.
- The ongoing problem of anti-social behavior in both Council and private houses was discussed.
- The need for stronger alliance between the Gardai and the Housing Section in respect of sharing information re anti-social behavior problems.
- D. MacPartlin congratulated the new Commissioner of the Gardai and wished him well in his future. He asked that this be communicated to the new Commissioner and ask him to do his best to increase resources for Wexford.
- The County Secretary then circulated proposed dates for the JPC Meetings in 2019 as follows:

11<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
8<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2019

These dates were agreed by the meeting.

Finally the Cathaoirleach Michael Whelan wished the Chief Superintendent the best of success in his new job in Wexford.

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