

Minutes of Meeting of Joint Policing Committee
Held on Monday 29th April 2019 In the Council Chamber, Carricklawn, Wexford.

Attendance

Members of County Council:

Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman.

Cllrs. P. Breen; K. Codd Nolan; A. Connick; J Fleming; G Lawlor; BA Murphy, J Browne T.D.

Gardaí:

Chief Superintendent P. McMenamin

Superintendent J. Doyle

Superintendent G. McGrath

Superintendent J. McDonald

Sergeant C. Matthews

Sergeant E Wildes,

Sergeant M Kennedy

County Council Officials

Mr. J. Carley, Director of Services

Ms. A. Byrne, Gorey Municipal District Manager

Mr. G. Mackey, A/SEO, Community

Ms. A McLoughlin, A/ County Secretary

Community Representatives

Mr. P Walsh

Ms. T Smith

Mr. D. MacPartlin

Mr. J Caulfield

Ms. H Rochford

Mr. R Sludds

Apologies: Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Mr. D McPartlin and Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Votes of Sympathy

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach Michael Whelan held a minutes silence and extended sympathy to Mr. Paul Walsh on the recent passing of his wife and to Mr. Pat Collins, County Secretary on the recent passing of his brother.

1. Minutes of JPC Meeting 9th July 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. K. Codd Nolan and seconded by Cllr A.Connick and agreed by all, the minutes of the meeting of 12th November 2018, were agreed and adopted.

2. Report from Local Policing Fora for Courtown / Riverchapel

Ms. A Byrne presented a report from the Local Policing Fora for Courtown / Riverchapel. She outlined the objectives and actions since the Fora was established in March 2017.

Ms. Byrne advised how the commitment to date from the agencies involved was very positive and the increased focus on this area in particular has led to progress. However she emphasised the need for a dedicated resource to ensure this work and progress continues.

The objectives of the Fora for 2019

- Continue to provide a forum for inter-agency information exchange and support capacity building in local community
- Explore possibility of securing dedicated development officer
- Provide meaningful support assistance to secure adequate community facilities in the area

There was a number of comments from the floor praising the work that this Fora has carried out to date and the importance of the co-operation of the various agencies in progressing the issues in the area.

3. Presentation from John Caulfield, Youth Worker, FDYS New Ross

Mr. Caulfield, FDYS informed the meeting of the work being carried out by FDYS New Ross in relation to providing a service to reach out to isolated young people in the area. He described the work he and his colleague Ms. Rochford carries out regarding this pilot service, where they make themselves available to young people around the town if they wish to talk to them. This particularly targets young people who are isolated, vulnerable and not engaging with services available for them. The service is promoted through social media. This service is only being provided in New Ross at the minute in County Wexford as a pilot.

The great work that the speakers are doing in New Ross was commended by a number of attendees at the meeting. Following a discussion on this service and the ways the council may help with its success on the proposal of Cllr M Whelan and seconded by Cllr A Connick it was agreed that FDYS would be invited to a meeting of New Ross Municipal District to discuss this matter again in an effort to ascertain how they could provide them support.

Mr. Sludds FDYS also briefed the meeting on some work he is involved in regarding young travellers. The Chairman thanked the representatives from FDYS for their presentation and the success thus far of their new scheme.

4. Discussion Re: Irishtown, New Ross

A discussion took place regarding anti-social behaviour that was taking place due to the gathering of a large number of youths around the top of the Irishtown, New Ross at the weekends.

Superintendent J McDonald advised the meeting of the work that the New Ross Garda had undertaken in relation to this issue. He noted it was more than a Garda matter and community engagement was also an important element of resolving this matter. He also advised that there was the risk that young people involved would commit a crime and end up in the Juvenile Diversion Scheme.

Some work had been carried out around community engagement and Mr. Sludds, FDYS advised that finding leaders in the community to influence the group as a whole around this matter may be beneficial.

Another aspect of this issue discussed was the possibility of having another area for these young people to congregate. It was decided that the agencies at the meeting would look for an integrated approach to this issue and it the work carried out by the Garda and Youth services was acknowledged.

5. Approval of the JPC to Submission to Garda Commissioner in respect of CCTV cameras at Courtown / Riverchapel, Enniscorthy and New Ross.

Sergeant Eddie Wildes, New Ross reported on the review and upgrades needed for the New Ross Community CCTV system. This includes a number of new locations and upgrading of existing cameras.

Sergeant M Kennedy reported on the plans for the new CCTV system proposed in Courtown / Riverchapel which was originally approved by the JPC in 2017 but the scheme she was reporting on was an expansion of this earlier submission report..

Sergeant C. Matthews reported on the review and the upgrade proposed for the Community CCTV in Enniscorthy. Similar to New Ross this includes upgrading existing cameras and putting cameras at additional location following a consultation process between Wexford County Council staff and Gardaí in Enniscorthy.

On the proposal of Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan, seconded by Cllr. J Fleming the JPC approved these three Community CCTV Schemes for submission to the Garda Commissioner for authorisation.

6. Chief Superintendent's Report

The Chief Superintendent then presented his report as circulated. (see attached). A number of questions were put to the superintendent surrounding these figures.

Superintendent G McGrath advised of some targeted work carried out in Enniscorthy which may be the reason why some of the figures are higher this year to date, in response to queries on same.

9. Correspondence

- Correspondence from TII regarding CCTV on M11Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme and the N25 New Ross Bypass PPP Scheme

The contents of this letter was noted by the members of the JPC.

- Correspondence from Assistant Garda Commissioner

The contents of this letter was noted by the members of the JPC. Chief Superintendent Mc Menamin advised the meeting that he hoped that they would receive a number of the recruits in the area that would be graduating from Templemore this year.

- Correspondence Re: Bunclody Town CCTV System

Cllr. BA Murphy advised that in order for this scheme to continue Wexford County Council would need to become Data Controller to comply with GDPR regulations. Ms. A McLoughlin advised that a report on the cameras for this scheme carried out by council staff confirmed the cameras are in good working condition. However there may be a need to move the server which is currently located in the local church at a cost of approx.. €5,000. Mr. Carley advised he would check out the suitability of the library as an alternative venue for this server.

10. A.O.B.

Cllr. M Whelan thanked everyone for their attendance and input over the past five years. He advised the date of the next meeting as 9th September 2019.

This concluded the business of the meeting.