**Minutes of Meeting of Joint Policing Committee**

**13th September 2021, The Street, Wexford County Council**

**at 10.00 a.m.**

**Attendance:**

**Members of County Council:** Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman

Cllr. G. Carthy

Cllr. G. Laffan

Cllr. J. Sullivan

Cllr. B.A. Murphy

Cllr P. Breen

Cllr. B. Murphy

Cllr. F. O’Suilleabhain

**Gardaí:** Chief Superintendent A. Pettit

Superintendent J. McDonald (New Ross)

Superintendent J. Doyle (Wexford)

Inspector S. Clince (Enniscorthy)

Inspector G. Rowley

**County Council Officials:** Mr. D. Minogue, Co. Secretary

Ms. C. Godkin, Acting Director of Services

Mr. G. Mackey, Senior Executive Officer

Mr. C. Clancy, Administrative Officer

Ms. A M Laffan, Staff Officer

Mr. D Shaw, Clerical Officer

**Oireachtas Members:** Senator. M. Byrne

Deputy. J. Mythen

**Community Representatives:** Mr. P. Walsh

Mr. T. Clyne

Ms. M. Earle

Ms. M. Quinn

**Apologies:**  Mr. T. Enright, WCC Chief Executive

Deputy P. Kehoe

Cllr. P. Barden

Cllr. A. Browne

Cllr. M. Farrell

Cllr. J. Hegarty

Cllr. B. Murphy

Cllr. F Staples

Mr. D. Kennedy

Mr. T Byrne, FAB

Mr. D. McPartlin

**Also Present:**  Mr. K. Donohoe, FDYS

Mr. D. Codd, Road Safety Officer, WCC

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. He advised members of covid regulations and noted a time limit of 1 hour 55 minutes for the meeting. He added that due to the location of the meeting that it would not be possible to facilitate an in-committee meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit and Ms. Margaret Earle to the JPC and thanked their predecessors Chief Superintendent Denis Ferry and Mr. Jer O’Mahony and wished them both well on their new appointments.

Superintendent James Doyle introduced Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit to the members and several members welcomed him to the JPC.

The Chairman agreed to bring forward a presentation under agenda item 12 – ‘Roll out of Pop-Up Café FDYS’. Mr. Kieran Donohoe, CEO FDYS gave a presentation and provided an update on the FDYS Pop Up Café and answered questions from the members. Mr. Donohoe also noted a significant extension of youth services by WWETB in Bunclody.

**2. Confirmation of JPC Minutes of Meeting of 11th May 2021**

On the proposal of Cllr. B. A. Murphy seconded by Cllr. P. Breen the minutes of the meeting of 11th May 2021, were agreed and adopted.

1. **Matters Arising**

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

1. **Correspondence**

The following item of correspondence was noted:

* Letter of resignation from Mr. Declan MacPartlin (Wexford Drugs & Alchol Task Force). On behalf of the JPC the Chairman thanked Mr. McPartlin for his work on the committee and wished him well.

1. **Chairman’s update**

The Chairman noted the following updates:

* The Garda Youth Awards - An adjudication panel consisting of the JPC Chairman, members of An Garda Síochána and Wexford County Council Community staff met on 9th July to consider nominations received under the 2021 Garda Youth Awards. He added that Inspector G. Rowley will present further details on this later in the meeting.
* JPC Chair/Chief Executive meeting

1. **CCTV update**

Mr. D. Minogue provided an update to the members on proposals for CCTV funding applications in a number of areas across county Wexford and answered questions from the members. The Chairman advised the members that approval from the JPC is being sought for the projects below:

Wexford CCTV

Proposed by Cllr. G. Laffan and seconded by Cllr. G. Carty – unanimously approved by members.

Enniscorthy CCTV

Proposed by Cllr. B. A. Murphy and seconded by Deputy J. Mythen – unanimously approved by members.

Gorey CCTV

Proposed by Cllr. P. Breen and seconded by Cllr. F. O’ O’Suilleabhain – unanimously approved by members.

Bunclody CCTV

Proposed by Cllr. B. A. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. G. Laffan – unanimously approved by members.

The Chairman noted that following this JPC approval a process will commence to procure the CCTV as outlined by Mr. D. Minogue with assistance of Mr. JJ Doheny, WCC Procurement Section.

1. **Interaction with Municipal Districts**

The Chairman presented the Municipal District Reports, the contents of which were noted by the members.

Cllr. G. Laffan left the meeting at this point.

1. **Chief Superintendent Report**

Chief Superintendent A. Pettit presented his report which included the following:

* Policing overview
* Preventative Policing (Policing demand, arrests & searches, crime patrolling & checkpoints, review of traffic policing, drugs summary and public order offences)
* Operational Policing (Burglary, property crime, thefts, robbery, assault, traffic collisions and sexual offences)
* Community engagement and covid-19

The members raised the following matters following the presentation:

* Cllr. B. A Murphy queried when the vacant Superintendent position in Enniscorthy is likely to be filled and enquired as to a replacement for Sergeant Heffernan in Bunclody when he retires in the next few weeks
* Cllr. B. A. Murphy also asked if the increase in sexual offences is driven by more attacks at home
* The Chairman and a number of members congratulated Garda Michael Lee and Garda Barry Hennessy on their Bronze Scott Medal award by Garda Commissioner Drew Harrison
* Cllr. P. Breen enquired as to whether the recent increase in port traffic at Rosslare Harbour has led to an increased demand on garda resources in the area
* Cllr. F. O’Suilleabhain requested localised breakdown of crime figures
* Deputy J. Mythen asked if a breakdown of staff is available by area/team as well by gender balance
* Mr. T. Clyne asked for an update on the Riverchapel & Courtown Policing Fora
* Mr. P. Walsh noted it would be useful to include the value of drugs confiscated on the presentation.

The Chief Superintendent answered the queries raised by the members and informed them that he expected some movement on filling the vacant Superintendent position in Enniscorthy in the next few weeks. With regards to Bunclody, he added that the Sergeant in Ferns will now cover Ferns and Bunclody but without the court responsibilities Sergeant Heffernan had.

With regards to the query on Rosslare Europort the Chief Superintendent noted that a request for additional resources had been made at regional level and is awaiting sanction.

It was noted that the figures showing increase in sexual offences included some historical cases.

The request for localised breakdown of crime figures will be looked at offline while the breakdown of staff by area/team cannot be released for operational reasons. The Chief Superintendent added that the Drugs Team and the Immigration Team had been strengthened and a regional Cyber Crime Unit has also been established. He noted adequate and satisfactory staffing levels in the division. Gender breakdown figures are not available locally but it was noted that they are improving nationally.

The Chief Superintendent agreed to include the value of drugs confiscated in his report in future.

The Chairman advised members that the previously agreed meeting of the Gorey Kilmuckridge Policing Fora had been postponed due to unavailability of Fora members and we are currently awaiting confirmation of the next meeting date.

1. **Garda Youth Awards**

Inspector G. Rowley provided members with an update on the Garda Youth Awards 2021 and thanked Wexford County Council for their support and funding for the awards.

1. **LA16 Fatal Collision Form Reporting Mechanism**

Mr. D. Codd outlined the requirements for Wexford County Council to complete the LA16’s along with the numbers returned to the Department for the first half of 2021 and thanked the Gardaí for their assistance with this.

1. **JPC Annual Report**

The Chairman informed the members that the 2020 JPC Annual Report was included in the pack circulated to them and added that this report will need to be approved by the members and then forwarded to the Policing Authority.

1. **JPC Annual Work Plan 2021**

The Chairman updated the members of a proposal to host a public meeting of the JPC which would include ‘Community Alert Schemes’ as the main theme, following a discussion the Chairman stated that the Members will be updated once the final details were agreed.

1. **AOB**

The Chairman requested to include an agenda item for discussion at both the next meeting of the JPC and the Municipal Districts scheduled meetings with local Gardaí – ‘Drug misuse in county Wexford. Cllr. G. Carty requested that the status of CCTV across the county is presented at the next JPC meeting.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting to be agreed.