

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON  
MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNCILLORS: VINCENT BLAKE, GERRY WALSH, SHAY CULLEN, T. FORTUNE,  
MARY KAVANAGH, MARY MCDONALD AND JOE BEHAN, S. MATTHEWS

**OIREACHTAS MEMBERS**

DEPUTY PAT CASEY, TD  
DEPUTY JOHN BRADY, TD

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

MR. JOHN J. SMITH, MR. SEAN MALONE, MR. BRENDAN GILROY MS. ALICE  
O'DONNELL.

**GARDA REPRESENTATIVES**

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN P. QUIRKE, SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK WARD,  
SUPERINTENDENT PAUL HOGAN AND INSPECTOR BRIAN O'KEEFFE

**OFFICIALS WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

MR. FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**APOLOGIES**

COUNCILLOR JAMES RUTTLE, CHAIRMAN  
COUNCILLORS EDWARD TIMMINS, GAIL DUNNE, TOMMY ANNESLEY, IRENE  
WINTERS, DAIRE NOLAN, GERRY O'NEILL, MICHAEL O'CONNOR.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

MR. GARVAN HICKEY, HOUSING DEPARTMENT  
MS. TRIONA IRVING, BRAY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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**Appointment of Acting Chairman:** In the absence of Councillor Jim Ruttle, Chair and Cllr. Irene Winters, Vice Chair, it was proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen, seconded by Cllr. M. McDonald and agreed that Cllr. S. Matthews chair the meeting.

**Welcome to Frank Curran Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council:** Cllr. S. Matthews, on behalf of the committee welcomed Mr. Frank Curran, CE both Wicklow

County Council and his first meeting of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee.

**1. Confirmation of minutes of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017.**

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Shay Cullen and agreed to confirm minutes of Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 as circulated.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes / actions agreed**

There were no matters arising not included in the agenda. Chief Superintendent S. Quirke advised that the CCTV for Arklow had been officially moved on and that the system will assist in the reduction of criminal activity in the Arklow area.

**3. To receive presentation from Chief Superintendent John P. Quirke.**

Chief Superintendent J. Quirke gave a power point presentation on the Wicklow Division 2017 YTD figures (difference and % change) covering the following areas. He advised that there as an improvement in the garda figures and that there was a significant increase in garda resources of detective sergeants spread across the Arklow, Bray, Baltinglass and Greystones areas.

- Property Crime - Divisional Overview
- Robbery of an Establishment/Institution
- Robbery from a person
- Aggravated Burglary
- Burglary (not aggravated)
- Theft from a person
- Theft from Vehicle
- Theft of other property
- Theft/Unauthorised taking of vehicle
- Theft/Unauthorised taking of pedal cycle
- Theft from shop
- Crimes against the person - divisional overview
- Rape of a male or female
- Assault causing harm
- Minor assault
- Criminal damage
- Public order and other social code offences
- Possession of drugs for personal use
- Possession of drugs for sale or supply
- Cultivation or manufacture of drugs
- Traffic - Divisional overview
- Other issues.

The Chair thanked the Chief Superintendent for the presentation and a discussion took place wherein a number of points were made and views expressed in relation to the presentation.

Areas highlighted as a concern for the committee were as follows which were responded to by the Chief Superintendent relating to:-

- Reduction in burglary figures
- Operation THOR
- Reporting of incidents by the public
- The Older Persons Register
- Compliment of Garda Resources
- Priorities for Community Gardai
- New probationary Gardai and Detective Sergeants welcomed
- Pay for new recruits
- Allocation of new recruits around the County
- Theft from vehicles
- Change in the pattern of crime in Delgany
- How a community can apply for CCTV
- Theft of equipment from yards and farms

In relation to resources the Chief Superintendent advised that there are 300 Garda Members in the Wicklow Division which includes management. This is up from 286. Of the 14 new recruits 9 will be based in Bray and 5 to Wicklow.

#### **4. Presentations: (1) Wicklow County Council and (2) Bray Municipal District: Anti Social Behaviour and proposals for tenancy sustainment/support 2018**

Ms. L. Gallagher advised of the very good work that was ongoing between the Wicklow County Council and the Garda and other local agencies and that the presentations of Ms. Triona Irving, Bray Municipal District and Mr. Garvan Hickey, Wicklow County Council will give an insight to the committee on the work that is ongoing outside of the JPC meetings.

**Ms. Triona Irving, Bray MD, gave a presentation to the meeting covering the following areas:-**

Working together within the Community

Establish contact and liaise with Residents in Local Authority Estates

- Set up Estate Management Committees
- Representative from Municipal District
- Representative from An Garda Siochana
- Attend meetings, share relevant information and listen to requests of residents/tenants

Engagement with Community Gardai

- Quarterly meetings between Council staff and Sergeant and members of Community Policing Team
- Discuss concerns and develop strategies where necessary to deal with recurring incidents

#### Engagement with Older Residents

- Ensure good lines of communication between tenants, Council staff and Gardai – particular emphasis on safety in home and surrounding area
- Arrange annual outing for residents
- Council contribution to Christmas Party Fund
- Check with tenants during cold/stormy weather

#### Housing Allocations

- Request Garda check on all prospective housing applicants prior to allocation of properties
- Discuss transfer requests for tenants where transfer is being considered on grounds of anti social behaviour
- Request Garda check on persons seeking Permission to Reside in Council properties

#### Dealing with Complaints

- Engaging/advising tenants of community mediation
- Arranging and facilitating meetings with Community Gardai and other appropriate agencies
- Request Garda attendance at meetings with tenants where complaint is of anti-social nature

#### Committees

- Bray Homeless Forum
- Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force
- Drug Awareness Forum
- SORAM

#### Roads & Infrastructure

- Advice on road markings, linings, public lighting etc
- Discussions in relation to laneways, parks & open spaces
- Graffiti Removal
- Traffic and traffic lights

#### Conclusion

- Good working relationships developed
- Acknowledgement of roles and responsibilities
- 1363 Social Housing Units
- 1082 housing applicants within Bray MD area

**Mr. Garvan Hickey, Housing Department Wicklow County Council gave a presentation to the committee covering the following areas:-**

## Anti-Social Behaviour

### Legislation

- Housing Act 1966 -Section 62 repealed S18 2014 Act
- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992
- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997
- Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998
- Housing Act 2009 S.I No. 449 of 2009 Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009
- Freedom of Information Act 1997 - Section 26 Allows public bodies to refuse to disclose information, which has been given to them in confidence.
- Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014

### Tenancy Agreement

- Section D – Conduct of Tenants/ Anti -Social Behaviour
- Tenants Handbook

### Anti Social Behaviour

- *Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is defined in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997(as amended by section 197(a) (i) of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 and The Housing Act 2009) and the 2014 Act as follows: -*
- The manufacture, production, preparation, importation, exportation, sale, supply possession for the purposes of sale or supply, or distribution of a controlled drug (within the meaning of the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 and 2007”,
- Any behaviour which causes or is likely to cause any significant or persistent danger, injury, damage, alarm, loss or fear to any person living, working or otherwise lawfully in or in the vicinity of a house provided by a housing authority under the Housing Acts 1966 to 2014 or Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, or a housing estate in which the house is situate or a site and, without prejudice to the foregoing, includes
- (i) Violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, harassment or serious obstruction of any person
- (II) Behaviour which causes any significant or persistent impairment of a person’s use or enjoyment of his or her home, or
- (iii) Damage to or defacement by writing or other marks of any property, including a person’s home.”

### Nature of Complaints

- Drugs - dealing and personal use in estates
- Alcohol Abuse
- Noise
- Dogs barking
- Rubbish
- Property Maintenance
- Violence
- Intimidation
- Solvent Abuse
- Boundary issues
- Parking disputes

### **Application of the Legislation**

- Every effort made to avoid legal action
- Only the most serious of cases will be brought before the Courts
- Mediation

### **WCC Process**

WCC process involves:

- Letter to tenants
- Tenancy Notifications
- Tenancy Warning Letter
- Tenancy Notifications
- Court Proceedings Possession Application

### **Profile of ASB Activity**

- ASB is not restricted to any particular area
- Following areas have estates with high levels of ASB:
  - Blessington
  - Carnew
  - Greystones
  - Rathnew
  - Rathdrum
  - Newtownmountkennedy

### **Resources**

- Anti Social Behaviour Strategy 2010
- Resource Issues in that One Tenant Liaison Officer for WCC functional area outside of Bray MD area
- Good working relationship with Gardai, CWOs and Social Workers throughout the county
- Role of WCC Revenue Collectors and Environment Wardens.

### **Sharing of Information - S15 1997**

- Specified Person
- Garda Siochana - (HQ Circular No.136/97 4<sup>th</sup> July 1997)
- Health Board
- Department of Social Welfare
- Approved Body

### **Next Steps**

- Development of structured meetings with Gardai
- Strengthening internal systems to ensure that the ASB history of tenants is taken into account in the allocation of housing and/or selling of property
- Continue to improve the design of dwellings and the layout of estates to assist with tackling ASB
- More mediated sessions between Tenants, Council Staff and Gardai
- Make greater use of Exclusion Orders
- Development of a co-ordinated approach to tackling ASB across the county essential if progress to be made

- Quality of life of many of our tenants compromised due to ASB on estates
- Where ASB has been tackled effectively, this has resulted in a significantly improved living environment for everyone
- Tenancy Sustainment
- Estate Development
- Updating of Anti Social Behaviour Strategy

### **Control of Horses**

- New Service Provider – HMS
- In 2016:
  - 65 Horses were seized
  - 2 were reclaimed by the owner
  - 8 were re-homed
  - 55 were euthanized

Following the presentations the committee paid tribute to the work being carried out by the staff of Bray MD and Wicklow County Council as well as an Garda Siochana in this area. The following issues were raised:

- Should be one estate development official for each Municipal District
- Reference made to the mediation service available in Bray MD and that this should be rolled out to the rest of the County.
- Issue of trespassing at Priestnewtown
- Vetting tenancies
- Statistics requested regarding warning letters issues and court cases
- Control of horses, why this is being dealt with in Housing as distinct from Environment, and view expressed that the uthanizing of 55 horses in 216 is unacceptable.

The Chief Executive commended the work being carried out by the staff of the Housing Sections in both Wicklow County Council and the Bray MD offices. In relation to the work of the Tenant Liaison Officer, he explained that the Housing Department had a compliment of some 43 staff that support the work of the housing section in its entirety and of the expected new recruitments across the various areas.

### **5. Update on the work of the four working groups: (1) Policing Communities; (2) Tackling Crime Rural Areas; (3) Drug Prevention; (4) Communications/Publicity/the role of the JPC.**

Ms. Lorraine Gallagher advised that these reports would be circulated to the Committee having regard to the time remaining at the meeting.

### **6. Update: Public meeting in Bray on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

Ms. Lorraine Gallagher advised of the issues raised at public meeting held in Bray on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 which were noted by the committee viz:-

- More visibility of Gardai on the ground, particularly around Halloween
- Dog fouling

- The work of An Garda Siochana commended and Gardai thanked for their work and professionalism at the 2017 Bray Air Show
- Call for crackdown on drug dealing
- Active text alert system in place and functioning well
- Garda reserves viewed as an excellent resource
- Attendee at the meeting gave their experience of how the crime of burglary had affected the home and paid tribute to the Gardai on how this crime had been handled
- Call for Wicklow County Council to be more actively involved in combating anti-social behaviour in Council estates
- Reference made to used needles being discarded in parks and the danger this posed to children playing outdoors.
- The question submitted prior to the meeting was read to the meeting and the Chief Superintendent undertook to examine the matter highlighted therein.

**7. To agree the schedule of meetings for 2018.**

The schedule of meetings as circulated was agreed (copy attached).

**8. Any other business**

None.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNCILLOR JAMES RUTTLE**  
**CHAIR.**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Proposed schedule of meetings for 2018</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting Type and location</b>
February	Monday 5th	10.00 am	Ordinary Meeting, Wicklow County Council Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow.
April	To be confirmed	Normally 8.00 p.m.	Venue to be confirmed
July	Monday 2nd	10.00 am	Ordinary Meeting, Wicklow County Council Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow.
October	To be confirmed	Normally 8.00 p.m.	Venue to be confirmed
December	Monday 3rd	10.00 am.	Ordinary Meeting, Wicklow County Council Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow.