

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON  
MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNCILLOR JAMES RUTTLE, CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLORS VINCENT BLAKE, PAT CASEY, TOM FORTUNE, TOMMY ANNESLEY, GERRY WALSH, IRENE WINTERS, SHAY CULLEN, STEVEN MATTHEWS, GERRY O'NEILL, JOHN BRADY, JOE BEHAN.

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

MR. SEAN MALONE, MR. JOHN SMITH, MS. ANN LYONS, MS. ANN HALPIN, MS. LIZ FERRIS, MS. EVELYN CAWLEY.

**GARDA REPRESENTATIVES**

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT PAT MANGAN, SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK WARD, SUPERINTENDENT PAUL HOGAN, INSPECTOR BRIAN O'KEEFFE, INSPECTOR GERRY CONNOLLY, SGT. SORCHA FITZPATRICK, GARDA TOMÁS BARRETT.

**OFFICIALS WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

MR. DES O'BRIEN, D/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MS. DEIRDRE WHITFIELD, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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**1. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015**

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed to confirm minutes of Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 as circulated.

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

L. Gallagher advised in relation to the matter of growing difficulties on the M11/N11 which had been raised at the last meeting and that a response had been received from the Director of Services, Transportation and Roads Infrastructure as follows:

*'TII have appointed consultants and are currently undertaking a "M11/N11 TEN-T Corridor Study" which covers the M11/N11 from its junction with the M50 to Coyne's Cross. One of the objectives of the study is to provide for the safe daily operation of the M11/N11 mainline and junctions and in the event of the occurrence of incidents. A meeting was convened in September 2015 by TII and included representatives from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co Co and Wicklow Co Co. The Transportation, Water and Environmental Services SPC has been advised of this as has the Road Safety Together Committee where the matter was raised by the Gardai. We will keep both committees apprised of progress.'*

Cllr. J. Brady requested that this response be circulated to all. This was agreed.

**3. Overview of Policing Achievements 2015**

Chief Superintendent P. Mangan gave a power point presentation on the Wicklow Division comparing 2014 YTD and 2015 YTD figures (difference and % change) covering the following areas:

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- 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 viz:

- Congratulations were extended to the gardai on the success of the Garda Youth Awards which were held recently in Newtownmountkennedy
- Query raised regarding the number of Gardai associated with the Drugs Unit and if there were plans to increase this number.
- An increase in the number of unauthorised taking of vehicles in Bray was noted.
- Query as to why it appeared that some educated young people were taking substances and experimenting with drugs. View expressed there needs to be more awareness and more education in this area
- View expressed that there should be a greater emphasis on community policing. Request put forward that the committee to communicate with the department to push forward with community gardai across the county.
- Noted that theft of property is up by 18%, reference made to theft from vehicles in rural areas and query as to whether the TUS ambassador project has made a difference. View expressed that rural crime is prevalent.
- Reference made to the number of community gardai in Arklow and that the situation should be looked at.
- Noted that drink driving cases are down, Gardai commended for their work in this area.

In response the Chief Superintendent advised that there have been a number of drugs seizures made through the drugs traffic unit. There have been ten new recruitments to the gardai in Wicklow in 2015 and it is anticipated that there will be more in 2016, as gardai are now being replaced and he will continue to push for this at management team level. He explained that burglary and unauthorised taking of vehicles was not a straightforward crime, with many vehicles stolen for a reason and brought to another location, outside of the county. He encouraged support from the community in combating crime advising that the gardai cannot work alone.

In relation to other types of theft, the Chief Superintendent advised that there had been an increase in people driving off without paying at petrol stations. He explained that it is the

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responsibility of the retailer to try to prevent this crime and that a prepay system would be best to reduce these instances. He advised, in relation to the Drugs Units, that there are 2 Gardai in Wicklow, 4 in Bray and 2 in Blessington.

The Chief Superintendent responded to a query raised with regard to sheep kills by uncontrolled dogs by advising that this was a difficult area to police. He explained that if there are stray dogs in an area, they should be reported to An Garda Síochána, who could then work to prevent attacks before they occur.

It was agreed that the issue of drugs and banned substances be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 4. Preparation of Annual work plan for 2016

L. Gallagher advised the meeting that guidelines had been issued in relation to the preparation of annual work plans by the JPC and that these guidelines state that the annual work plans should include consideration of how JPCs can enhance overall efforts to address key issues affecting community life. The annual work plan as well as linking to the LCD Plan must include relevant objectives from the Garda Annual Policing Plan applying to the local authority area. In this regard she advised that the Chairman and the Chief Superintendent had met and suggested possible areas that could be prioritised to focus on over the next 12 months as follows:-

- a. Policing Communities
- b. Tackling Crime in Rural Areas
- c. Drug Prevention
- d. Communication Strategy – Publicity of the role of the JPC

As the JPC meets twice a year, with another two public meetings held each year, it is envisaged that these working groups would work outside of the JPC timeframe and report back to JPC on their actions. An Garda Síochána will provide Garda resources to each committee and it is hoped that at least one elected member and one community representative would also be on each working group. Each group would appoint a Chair who would be responsible for calling meetings and driving the objectives and actions of the group. It would be open to the group to invite representatives from other agencies to participate in group discussion and contribute to the work of the group from time to time as appropriate.

Following a call for participants the committee members listed below put their names forward as shown below

Working group 1	Working Group 2	Working group 3	Working group 4
Policing Communities	Tackling crime in rural areas	Drug prevention	Communications strategy – publicity of the role of the JPC
Ann Lyons John Smith Cllr. T. Fortune Cllr. T. Annesley Cllr. J. Brady	Ann Halpin Sean Malone Cllr. V. Blake Cllr. S. Cullen Cllr. G. O Neill	Evelyn Cawley Cllr. G. Walsh Cllr. J. Brady Cllr. Daire Nolan	Cllr. I. Winters L. Gallagher

#### 5. Preparation of 6 Year Strategic Plan

L. Gallagher advised of the requirement for the JPC to prepare a 6 year Strategic Plan linked to the relevant objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan for the Council, the objectives for which are to be derived from the Local Community and Economic Plan and the policing plan for the area. Ms. Deirdre Whitfield outlined the current status of the LCD Plan and

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how the objectives of both plans link together. L. Gallagher advised that consultation in relation to the preparation of the policing plan will commence shortly and that it was hoped to hold a stakeholder workshop the first week in March. This was noted by the committee.

### **6. To discuss security cameras to monitor traffic movements**

Cllr. J. Ruttle advised that correspondence had been received from Deputy Billy Timmins in relation to the feasibility of installing cameras to monitor traffic movements at junctions off the M11 and the M9 and that this could be considered. Cllr. J. Ruttle referred to the pilot scheme initiated in the Laois area asked the Chief Superintendent for his views. In response the Chief Superintendent advised that there are CCTV and community cameras in certain areas which are used to monitor activity in/out of urban areas and can help with crime prevention. He explained that while the installation cost could be met on a once off basis, the maintenance and monitoring of such a system would require more resources. He advised of a burglary in Blessington which had been solved with the help of CCTV from a private trader in the area.

### **7. Any other business**

It was agreed that the next public meeting of the JPC would take place sometime in May. L. Gallagher advised that the last two public meetings had been held in Blessington and Kilcoole and asked for nominations as to where the next meeting should be held.

Mr. Sean Malone proposed that the next public meeting of the JPC would take place in Roundwood. This was agreed.

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

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

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