

**Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON  
MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNCILLOR JAMES RUTTLE, CHAIRMAN  
COUNCILLORS VINCENT BLAKE, GAIL DUNNE, TOM FORTUNE, TOMMY  
ANNESLEY, GERRY WALSH, SHAY CULLEN, STEVEN MATTHEWS, GERRY  
O'NEILL, MARY KAVANAGH, MARY MCDONALD, JOE BEHAN .

**OIREACHTAS MEMBERS**

DEPUTY ANDREW DOYLE, TD, DEPUTY JOHN BRADY, TD.

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

MR. SEAN MALONE AND MS. ANN LYONS

**GARDA REPRESENTATIVES**

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN P. QUIRKE, SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK WARD,  
SUPERINTENDENT PAUL HOGAN, SUPERINTENDENT GERARD MCGRATH.

**OFFICIALS WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

MR. BRYAN DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

MS. MAEVE SHANLEY, DRUGS TASK FORCE AND MR. RICHARD SHERIDAN,  
BRAY TOWN COUNCIL

**APOLOGIES**

MS. EVELYN CAWLEY AND MR. JOHN. J. SMITH.

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**1. Confirmation of minutes of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 5th September 2016**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. G. Walsh and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 as circulated.

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

There were no matters arising not included in the agenda.

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

Chief Superintendent Quirke gave a power point presentation on the Wicklow Division 2016 YTD figures (difference and % change) covering the following areas:

## Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- 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 which the Chief Superintendent responded to viz:

- Level of visibility of Gardai commended
- Figures illustrate great work being done however reservations in respect of Garda resources expressed.
- Query as to the stats in relation to domestic violence
- Query in relation to unauthorised parking; would a photo taken by a member of the public suffice to initiate a prosecution?
- Issue of drugs and possession of drugs within the community viewed as a growing problem. Drugs are being sold openly on the streets and purchased on line. Mixed with other drugs these are potentially lethal.
- View expressed that there is a serious emergence of crack cocaine in various areas of the County
- New recruitment process described as disappointing, collectively pressure should be kept on national government to recruit more gardai nationally.
- Reference made to the recent arrests via text alert and the work of the Gardai complimented for their swift action. The public play a very important role in this area
- Reference made to the traffic problems described as chaos around Glendalough, particularly on a Saturday or a Sunday, Garda presence is required

## Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- Proposal that a communication issue to the Minister with regard to the need for additional Garda resources
- View expressed that there is a lack of resources at community garda level and there needs to be a programme, or a plan put in place to report crime collectively and a way to address it.
- Drug issue in West Wicklow described as alarming. There has been great work done in West Wicklow, SWRD&ATF commended for the work that is carried out
- Reference made to Theft from shops, appears to have doubled

In responding to the issues raised Chief Superintendent Quirke acknowledged the challenges with regard to resources ad referred to the recent retirements. He thanked the committee for the acknowledgement with regard to the text alert and crime results and said that the system of text alerts is very beneficial to both the Gardai and the community and the response is very welcome.

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

L. Gallagher advised that the Wicklow County Council JPC 6 year Strategic Plan which was adopted by Wicklow County Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2016 following a stakeholder consultation workshop held earlier in the year provided for the setting up of four working groups under the following key four areas to advance the activities of the JPC and roll out the agreed objectives within the Plan.

Strategic Priority 1:	Policing Communities
Strategic Priority 2:	Tackling Crime in Rural Areas
Strategic Priority 3:	Tackling Drugs – Supply reduction
Strategic Priority 4:	Communication

As the JPC meets normally twice a year (with 2 public meetings in between ordinary meetings), it is envisaged that the working groups would meet and work outside of the JPC time frame implementing the objectives contained within the 6 year plan on an annual basis, relative to the specific working group and report/feed back into the JPC on the actions of the group.

The Chief Superintendent has assigned garda resources to each of the four working groups and Wicklow County Council has assigned the administrative support.

With regard to the working groups it would be appropriate to invite a non member but relevant stakeholder to attend and contribute to the work of the working group. This will become clear from the objectives contained within the six year plan and from the stakeholders that participated in the stakeholder consultation process in March this year. For example the working group on Drug Prevention would find it appropriate to link in with both the ECRDTF (East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force) and the SWRDATAF (South West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task force), both were present at the stakeholder consultation workshop. The working group on Tackling crime in rural areas might wish

## Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

to link in with Muintir Na Tire for example or the Wicklow Uplands Council etc during the year.

It would also be appropriate to invite a non member to attend a JPC meeting and speak on a specific agenda item. It is envisaged that this will come via the work of the Working Groups. This applies in particular to representatives of statutory agencies or persons with specific expertise or local knowledge which would be of assistance to the JPC. Guideline 15.8, page 11, provides that *The Chairperson in consultation with the Steering Group of the JPC should manage any proposal to invite non-members to attend with reference to the strategic objectives in the JPC work plan, and facilitate any appropriate arrangements which may be required.* The same arrangements for non member participation may be applied in relation to the JPC working groups.

L. Gallagher advised that the working groups had held their inaugural meetings and appointed Chairs of the groups. It should be noted that the work of the groups will not take over or replace in any way the excellent informal arrangements/forums/meetings that are in place and working extremely well between an Garda Síochána and the Local Authority for a long period of time.

This was noted by the committee.

Communications Working Group: L. Gallagher provided the committee with an update on the communications which had issued since the last meeting i.e. :-

1. Photo and piece on the JPC Strategic Plan Workshop held in March, appeared in WCC Countywise, circulated to all homes in County Wicklow.
2. Report in the Local papers 'Crime figures fall across the districts' September, 2016
3. Notice of JPC public meeting, in local papers, October, 2016 and also on the local radio at prime time slots.
4. Launch of JPC 6 Year Strategic Plan, Roundwood, photo and piece in the local papers, November, 2016, Chairman of the committee, Cllr. J. Ruttle also carried out a radio interview.

Work will commence shortly on the preparation of a communications strategy as required by the guidelines.

### **5. Update on public meeting held in Roundwood on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016**

L. Gallagher updated the elected members of the issues raised at Public Meeting held in Roundwood on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016. The Committee noted that the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Six Year strategic plan, 2016 had been officially launched at the public meeting following which Superintendent Paul Hogan gave a presentation on policing relative to the area.

The following issues were raised as issues of concern at the public meeting:-

- Reduction in crime welcome
- Drink driving and driving while using drugs

## Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- Gardai resources in the area
- Illegal Dumping
- Incidents of Sheep kill and roaming dogs
- Cyclists on the Kilmacanogue/Glendalough Road and dangers posed
- IFA welcomed the plan and the level of support for the rural areas
- Control of dogs viewed as a serious issue to be tackled by all responsible agencies
- Sheep stealing raised as an issue
- Burglaries in the rural areas
- Morning after breathalizing
- Isolation in rural areas
- Speeding cars at Vartry Heights
- Cyclist Ireland not happy with blocking of road on the long hill
- Senior Alert Scheme encouraged

This was noted by the Committee.

### 6. To Agree schedule of meetings for 2017: The following meetings were agreed for 2016.

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Ordinary meeting
April - Dunlavin	-	Public meeting
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	-	Ordinary meeting
October ( <i>to be decided</i> )	-	Public meeting
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Ordinary meeting

It was agreed that the next public meeting of the JPC would be held in Dunlavin. It was suggested that the following public meeting be held in Arklow, and it was requested that a public meeting take place within Fassaroe Estate Bray.

### 7. Any other business

Superintendent Pat Ward reminded the committee of the Wicklow Garda Youth Awards taking place in the Grand Hotel, Wicklow on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and that details could be found on the facebook page Wicklow Garda Youth Awards.

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

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

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