

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON
MONDAY 3rd JULY 2017**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR JAMES RUTTLE, CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLORS: VINCENT BLAKE, GAIL DUNNE, TOMMY ANNESLEY, GERRY WALSH, SHAY CULLEN, STEVEN MATTHEWS, GERRY O'NEILL, MARY KAVANAGH, MARY MCDONALD, JOE BEHAN AND MICHAEL O'CONNOR.

OIREACHTAS MEMBERS

DEPUTY PAT CASEY, TD

REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

MR. JOHN J. SMITH, MS. LIZ FERRIS, MR. SEAN MALONE, MS. ANN LYONS, MR. BRENDAN GILROY.

GARDA REPRESENTATIVES

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN P. QUIRKE, SUPERINTENDENT GERARD MCGRATH, INSPECTOR RONAN LAWLOR AND SERGEANT RONA BARKER.

OFFICIALS WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MR. DES O BRIEN, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

APOLOGIES

COUNCILLORS EDWARD TIMMINS, TOM FORTUNE, IRENE WINTERS, DAIRE NOLAN.

SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK WARD AND SUPERINTENDENT PAUL HOGAN

MS. ANN HALPIN,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

MS. MAEVE SHANLEY, EAST COAST DRUGS TASK FORCE

MR. CONOR OLEARY, MUINTIR NA TIRE

MR. MICHAEL NICHOLSON DOS, COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MS. RICHELLA WOODS, COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

JPC SUB COMMITTEE FACILITATORS

MS. MAIRE HALVEY, COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MS. SUSAN NICHOLS, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, BALTIGNLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MR. GARVAN HICKEY, HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

1. Confirmation of minutes of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to confirm minutes of Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017 as circulated.

2. Matters arising from the minutes / actions agreed

There were no matters arising not included in the agenda.

Welcome to the committee: Cllr. J. Ruttle welcomed Mr. Brendan Gilroy to the committee representing the PPN

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:

- 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 the Chief Superintendent responded to:-

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- Proposal by bank of Ireland to withdraw cashier services in rural areas will lead to people keeping cash at home and add to crime against older persons in rural areas
- CCTV - expand in the rural areas
- Station closures in rural areas, particularly in relation to Donard
- Decrease in crime figures welcomed
- Internet safety campaign welcomed
- Increase in Garda Resources welcomed
- Increased Community Garda resources requested particularly in Wicklow Town

It was agreed to deal with Item 6 next.

6. 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.

Ms Lorraine Gallagher outlined the background to the setting up of the working group as set out in the WCC JPC 6 year Strategic Plan and welcomed the working group facilitators to the meeting. Each of the facilitators reported as follows on the work of the respective sub committees:-

Ms. Maire Halvey, Facilitator, Working Group 1 Policing Communities

My name is Máire Halvey and I have recently taken over as administrator for the JPC Working Group "Policing Communities". The first meeting of the working group has been scheduled for Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 2.30 p.m. in Greystones Civic Offices. Hopefully, the working group will move on to progress its plan to achieve the strategic objectives listed in the 6-year strategic plan of the JPC.

Mr. Garvan Hickey, Facilitator, Working Group 3 - Drugs and Alcohol Prevention

- Three meetings have been held, they were held on the 19th January 2017, 6th March 2017 and 15th May 2017
- It was recognised that the whole issue of drug misuse was a wide area and that there was excellent work being done in the area by ECRDTF and SWRDTF. It was also recognised that it was important not to duplicate the work that was being done.
- During the meeting there was also a discussion on the impact of use of illegal drugs on the mental health of users especially young people. Some members felt that there has been a lack of discussion on this.
- Members received a detailed presentation from ECRDTF at the March meeting. Submission received from ECRDTF and at the meeting in May it was agreed to support the implementation of the six issues highlighted.
- Coordinator of ECRDTF Maeve Shanley and Development worker with the South West Regional Drugs Task Force Stephen Joyce have been invited to join the

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

taskforce. This will assist in the sub group supporting the work of the two taskforces and avoiding duplication.

- Misuse of alcohol was also discussed. The use of the age cards discussed and the possibility of carrying out test purchases.
- During the meetings it was apparent that the whole area of drug prevention was very wide and far reaching and in order for the sub group to be effective it should focus on one or two key projects in the area of drug prevention.
- There was also recognition that the 14 - 18 years needs specific targeting, it is an age which people are likely to become involved in the drug trade. Need to target these young people with specific measures and include their social outlets.
- The development of a drug awareness programme aimed a transition years and young people who have left school early should be developed by the sub group utilising World Health Organisation information and programmes developed nationally. Programme needs to appeal to young people. It would be important that this would be a cross team programme which would engage all stakeholders. The programme could possibly be delivered utilising the Community Gardai network in partnership with local secondary schools and school liaison officers.
- The subgroup is exploring with the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership the development of a late night league. This had previously run in Bray on a pilot basis in partnership with the FAI.
- One of the difficulties facing the sub group is organising meetings at time that suits all members.
- There is a vacancy on the sub group for a PPN representative.

Ms. Susan Nichols, Facilitator, Working Group 2 - Combating crime in rural areas

The group is headed up by the Chairman, Cllr. Gerry O'Neill. The committee has met twice. There is high attendance rate and all members are enthusiastic about trying to reduce the amount of crime in rural areas and reassure rural residents that they are in a safe environment.

The work plan for 2017 is set out as follows:

Annual Work Plan 2017 - Working Group 2: Tackling Crime in Rural Areas			
	Actions Agreed	Objectives	Measure
1.	To meet with Muintir na Tíre to discuss text group sizing and neighbourhood watch scheme.	No. 3 and No. 5	Meeting with Muintir na Tíre
2.	To seek more information re. Pendants	No. 3 and No. 5	Seek information re. Pendants
3.	To engage with key stakeholders in Wicklow County Council regarding animal controls and welfare (including dog controls).	No. 6	Engagement with new forum Appointment of dog warden
4.	To aim to work with TÚS Tourism Ambassadors Project and to request information from them to see how we	No. 4	Request report and act on same.

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

can work with them.		
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Progress to date:

Action 1: Mr. Conor O'Leary, Community Alert Development Officer, Muintir na Tíre, attended the June meeting of the working group and gave a short presentation covering areas such as:

- Community Text Alerts
- Property Log
- Community based CCTV
- Seniors Alert Scheme
- Other initiatives including 'Bottle in the Fridge', bogus caller cards and befriending services.

Action 2: Mr. O'Leary provided some information in relation to the Seniors Alert Scheme. The Meetings Administrator has also researched the service as provided through Pobal and provided that information to the working group.

Action 3: Work to commence shortly.

Action 4: The Meetings Administrator has sourced information on the TÚS Ambassador Project which will be considered at the next meeting.

It was agreed that the working group would need input from other agencies, especially Wicklow Uplands Council. It was agreed that the group would engage with the Uplands Council before the next meeting.

An additional action for 2017 is to target thefts from cars through CCTV. This was brought about by the announcement of a Community Based CCTV Scheme by the Department of Justice and Equality and a seasonal increase in this type of crime. It has been noted that a sub-group of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Group had previously carried out some work on this issue. The Meetings Administrator has sourced this information and it will be brought to the next meeting. The information will form a good basis from which to start progressing this matter.

The working committee facilitators reports were noted by the committee. The Chairman thanked the members of the committee and looked forward to receiving continued reports.

4. To consider Department of Justice and Equality Community Based CCTV Scheme.

Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, advised the following set out the background to the scheme advising as follows:-

- The scheme is commitment of introduce CCTV to deter antisocial behaviour
- Max grant €40,000 with match funding of 20%
- 50% up front then balance paid
- Wicklow County Council will lead the project
- JPC will approve applications

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- Wicklow County Council is the data controller
- CCTV in Arklow just about ready so obvious applicant for this year
- Inspector Ronan Lawlor is currently working with Arklow Town Team
- The role of the Council would be to maintain the payments

Inspector Ronan Lawlor then advised that:

- There were 1,440 incidents over 5 years in Arklow
- From the 1st January 2017 to June 2017 public order offences occurred mostly in Arklow
- There are 8 cameras in Gorey
- Cllr. S. Bourke and Cllr. T. Annesley are on the committee

Conor O'Leary from Muintir Na Tíre commented that there was a lot of work done in neighbouring counties in rural areas where CCTV has been set up – Laois for example and while the work is onerous the community groups are grateful.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. G. Walsh and agreed to submit an application for CCTV for Arklow.

5. Presentation: Age Friendly Strategy, 2017 to 2022. Theme 9: Safety and Security

Ms. Richella Wood, Community Cultural and Social Development gave the following presentation:

The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2017 -2022

- ▶ The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2017 – 2022 was officially launched on the 26th May 2017.
- ▶ The strategy was launched by Minister Simon Harris
- ▶ The launch took place at the Brockagh Resource Centre Laragh at the AGM of the County Wicklow Older Persons' Council which had an attendance of approx. 120

The Strategy

- ▶ Census 2016 shows an increase in older people in County Wicklow from 21,640 in 2011 to 25,688
- ▶ The strategy has 9 themes in keeping with the World Health Organisation 's Global age guidelines
- ▶ There are 61 Action Items contained in the strategy
- ▶ It is a document by the older people for the older people

Theme 1 – Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Theme 2 – Transportation

Theme 3 – Housing

Theme 4 – Social Participation

Theme 5 – Respect and Social Inclusion

Theme 6 – Civic Participation and Employment

Theme 7 – Communication and Information

Theme 8 – Community Support and Health Services

Theme 9 – Safety and Security

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

Chief Superintendent John Quirke also presented to the meeting in relation to the work of the Garda with Older People and the initiatives undertaken.

7. Update: Public meeting in Dunlavin held on 9th May, 2017.

L. Gallagher advised that the meeting held in Dunlavin on 9th May, 2017 was well attended with some of the following issues raised:

- Uplands – cyclist issues
- Crime in rural areas
- Request for information on crime stats by station rather than by division
- Deer problems in uplands
- IFA totally opposed to a ban on lamping between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 am
- Update on proposed garda station closures
- Illegal notices on lamp posts – ‘Cash for cars’.

8. Any other business

- The 12 month end of year report for 31st of December, 2016 has been submitted to the Policing Authority.
- Next JPC meeting is schedule for 4th December 2017.
- It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. S. Matthews and agreed to hold the next public meeting, scheduled for October 2017 in Bray with Ballywaltrim Community Centre to be given first priority and then Fassaroe Community Centre.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
COUNCILLOR JAMES RUTTLE
CHAIR.

DATE: _____