

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 3rd December, 2018.**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR JIM RUTTLE, CHAIR; COUNCILLORS PAT VANCE, VINCENT BLAKE, GAIL DUNNE, TOM FORTUNE, GERRY WALSH, IRENE WINTERS, SHAY CULLEN, DAIRE NOLAN, GERRY O'NEILL, BRENDAN THORNHILL, MARY MCDONALD, JOE BEHAN.

OIREACHTAS MEMBERS: DEPUTY ANDREW DOYLE

REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

MS. LIZ FERRIS , MS. ALICE O'DONNELL AND MR. GODFREY O'BYRNE.

GARDA REPRESENTATIVES

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN P. QUIRKE, SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK WARD AND SUPERINTENDENT FRANK FERRY

OFFICIALS WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MR. FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MS. GILLIAN LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

APOLOGIES

COUNCILLORS TOMMY ANNESLEY, STEVEN MATTHEWS

MS. ANN HALPIN, MR. SEAN MALONE AND MR. BRENDAN GILROY.

At the outset of the meeting the Chair extended congratulations to Cllr. Steven Matthews on his recent marriage and to Superintendent Paul Hogan and his recent retirement. He also welcomed Cllr. Brendan Thornhill, Ms. Maeve Shanley and Mr. Godfrey O'Byrne to the meeting.

1. Confirmation of minutes of Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd July, 2018.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. D. Nolan and agreed to confirm minutes of Joint Policing Committee meeting held on Monday 2nd July, 2018 as circulated.

2. Matters arising from the minutes / actions agreed

There were no matters arising not included in the agenda.

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

3. **Overview of Policing Achievements: Presentation from Chief Superintendent John P. Quirke.** Chief Superintendent J. Quirke gave a power point presentation on the Wicklow Division 2018 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 which were responded to.

- Drop in crime figures welcomed, query as to whether there a specific budget for THOR?
- What is the position with regard to under age offenders and are the bail laws an issue
- Establishment of the drugs unit is welcomed
- Major problems experienced on the N11 in morning traffic, request that additional resources be put into the area. Reference made to minor accidents occurring and traffic coming to a standstill. A bike or two patrolling the N11 would be welcome
- The increase in detection figures highlights the work being done by the Gardai in preventing crime
- When are new recruits expected to take up duty
- Sympathy extended to the family of a young man who lost his life recently

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- Can guards search a premises if drugs are suspected?
- Burglary rate is down – is the text alert system having an impact?
- Reference made to road traffic collisions with cyclists which appears to be an issued on the stretch of road between Kilmacanogue and Glendalough. Also motorists are taking chances to overtake cyclists. This is turning into a serious issue and need policing.
- Query as to whether there was any contact with the Gardai regarding the recently established Direct Provision Centre in the Grand Hotel, Wicklow? |
- Query as to what is happening with community policing and reporting of crime. It appears that anti social behaviour is on the up. Persons with a history of anti social behaviour should be considered seriously prior to granting a tenancy.
- The southern cross route highlighted as a huge issue and is causing traffic chaos
- Rat running in Kilpedder to avoid traffic congestion in the mornings highlighted as an issue
- Staff working in petrol stations at night, described as vulnerable working on their own and are the Gardai satisfied that there is sufficient level of training in this area.
- 200 year old station in Blessington described as not adequate – what is the position with regard to a new Garda Station at this location.

4. Presentation Mr. John McLoughlin: Select DNA

Mr. John McLoughlin, of Select DNA gave the following presentation:

History

- Global U.K. company established in 1985
- Specialists in Asset Registration, Property and Offender Marking
- Response to Insurance, U.K. Police & Home Office requirement to mark property
- Focus on quality, tested and accredited solutions
- Launched SelectaDNA in 2004. Directly used by 40 UK Police Forces
- Currently in 37 countries and now in Ireland since 2017.
- Seeking to establish two social partnership schemes, urban and rural.
- Zero robberies at Circle K pilot.

Brands

- **SelectaMark** offers a full range of visible and permanent chemical etching products and is relied upon to secure the valuable equipment of many public and private sector organisations across the world.
- **SelectaDNA** is a global leader in forensic marking, offering a full range of property and offender marking products combining its unique DNA coding with microdot technology. Launched in Ireland August 2017.
- **SelectaLabel** is one of the leading suppliers of security and asset labels offering a wide range of materials to suit all types of requirements.
- **BikeRegister** is the UK's national cycle database and the leading online bicycle identification and registration initiative aiming to reduce cycle theft, identify stolen bikes and assist in owner recovery. Launched in Ireland October 2018.

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- SelectaDNA has rapidly become a globally recognised brand

What items can be marked?

Forensic Marking systems which are tested to PAS820 are proven to safely and securely mark many different types of assets and infrastructure, such as:

- Tools
- Air conditioning, heating & extraction units
- Generators & lighting equipment
- Groundcare & landscaping equipment
- Plant & Trailers
- Batteries and cabling
- Barriers
- GPS, lasers & detectors

- **Garda Training**
- **Advantages**
- **Some Facts**
- **Next Steps**

- Agree in principle to proceed with pilot project.
- Agree funding sources & budget, householders/State/SelectaDNA.
- Identify a suitable area to conduct pilot.
- Identify suitable personnel to engage.
- Structure Plan of Action.
- Engage with key stakeholders, community, gardai, local authority, NGOs.
- Agree Plan, commencement date and time period.
- Monitor, evaluate and track progress.
- Review, collate and publish outcomes.
- Agree/disagree to rollout on wider scale.

Further information can be found at www.selectadna.ie. At the conclusion of the presentation the committee thanks Mr. McLoughlin for attending the meeting and presenting to the committee.

5. To request approval for proposed CCTV system for Blessington.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Ruttle, seconded by Cllr. G. O'Neill and agreed that the JPC approve the request to provide a CCTV system for Blessington. It was also considered that Greystones should be the next location for CCTV in 2019 followed by Wicklow Town.

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

6. 2019 Garda Policing Plan for Wicklow Division – Request for submissions

Chief Superintendent John Quirke advised that the 2019 Garda Plan for Wicklow Division was currently being worked on and any submissions regarding the local policing plan could be made through him.

Garda Youth Awards: The Chief Superintendent advised the committee that the closing date for receipt of recommendations/applications for the Garda Youth Awards is February 2019.

7. 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 updated the committee in relation to the work of the sub-groups. Noted that not all sub groups are meeting, highlighting resources as an issue. This was noted.

8. Update: Public meeting in Rathdrum on Wednesday 24th October, 2018.

The public meeting was held in Rathdrum on Wednesday 24th October, 2018. The meeting was well attended and had one of the highest attendances at a public JPC meeting. L. Gallagher gave an update of the issues raised.

9. To agree the schedule of meetings for 2019.

It was proposed the next public meeting of the JPC would take place in Greystones for March 2019. The committee noted that the local elections were due to be held in May, 2019 following which the committee will be reconstituted.

10. Any other business

The Chair Cllr. Jim Ruttle wished all the members of the JPC committee a very Happy Christmas.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
COUNCILLOR JAMES RUTTLE
CHAIR.

DATE: _____