

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 2nd SEPTEMBER, 2019.**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS IRENE WINTERS, VINCENT BLAKE, AVRIL CRONIN, DERMOT O'BRIEN, TOMMY ANNESLEY, GERRY WALSH, MAGS CREAN, SHAY CULLEN, STEVEN MATTHEWS, PAUL O'BRIEN, PEIR LEONARD, AND JOE BEHAN.
BRENDAN GILROY* (Amended at meeting of the 3/2/2020)

OIREACHTAS MEMBERS

DEPUTY STEPHEN DONNELLY AND DEPUTY JOHN BRADY.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR

MS. LIZ FERRIS, MR. GODFREY O'BYRNE, AND MR. CONOR O'LEARY.

GARDA REPRESENTATIVES

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN P. QUIRKE, SUPERINTENDENT DECLAN MCCARTHY AND INSPECTOR EOIN PHIBBS.

OFFICIALS WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MR. FRANK CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. GILLIAN LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

APOLOGIES

COUNCILLORS TOM FORTUNE AND SYLVESTER BOURKE.
MS. ANN HALPIN AND MR. STEPHEN KEARON.

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- 1. Election of Chair, Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee (paragraph 4 of Policing Committee Guidelines - amended August 2014)**
Cllr G. Walsh was proposed by Cllr. Irene Winters and seconded by Cllr. Shay Cullen as Chair of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. G. Walsh took the Chair.
 - 2. Election of Vice Chair, Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee (paragraph 4.5 of the Policing Committee Guidelines - amended August, 2014).**
Cllr. I. Winters was proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Paul O'Brien. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Winters was elected as vice chair of the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee.
 - 3. To agree minutes of meeting of JPC held on Monday 3rd December, 2018.**

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

It was proposed by Cllr. Gerry Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Joe Behan and agreed to adopt the minutes of JPC meeting on Monday 3rd December, 2018.

4. To receive a presentation on the work of the Joint Policing Committee and to consider proposed configuration of working/sub committees.

Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer, gave the following presentation to the committee:

Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee

- Established 2007 as part of the initial pilot phase
- Then JPCs in each of the Town Council Areas (Bray, Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow)
- Town Councils abolished following the local elections in 2014
- One Statutory Committee: **Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee**
- Held its inaugural meeting on Monday 8th December, 2014, carried out its functions for the last five years
- Reconstituted following the local elections 2019

Membership of the Committee

- 15 Local Authority Elected Members (3 from each MD)
- 5 Oireachtas Members
- 7 Community Representatives (PPN)
- 2 Members of An Garda Síochána
- 2 Local Authority Officials
- Cathaoirleach of the day is an ex-officio member.

Steering Group

- The JPC is facilitated by a Steering Group
- Chair (Elected Member)
- Chief Superintendent John P. Quirke
- Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran (or his nominee)
- Group meets/consults prior to the JPC meetings to prepare the work of the committee
- Committee meets ordinarily 2/3 times a year at County Buildings and twice a year facilitates public meetings at various locations throughout the County

Work of the Committee

Strategic in nature:

- Must prepare a six year strategic plan (Wicklow County Council JPC six year Plan 2016 – 2021)
- Prepare an annual report and support to the Policing Authority
- Prepare an annual work plan
- Hold public meetings
- Function as a committee

Purpose of the JPC

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- Provide a forum where the LA and senior Garda officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area (local solutions for local issues)
- Should be co-operative in nature
- Operate with the minimum of formality in accordance with guidelines
- Identify, raise awareness of and find solutions for issues impacting on or causing concerns for the local community.
- Collaboratively contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community.
- The establishment of JPCs should not detract from, or substitute for, either regular day to day contact or consultation at ground level which is a feature of ordinary policing or the maintenance and development of suitable local liaison between local authority and Garda representatives not require a formal structure.
- There should be flexibility to adapt to particular local circumstances such as population, the nature of the area and policing priorities and there should be proper linkage between the JPCs and their authorities.

Functions of the Committee (Set out in An Garda Siochana Act, 2005)

- NB: Neither the JPC or any of its subcommittees may consider matters relating to a specific criminal investigation or prosecution or matters relating to the security of the state.
- This also applies to public meetings arranged by the JPC

Suggested issues the JPC can focus on

- Provision of CCTV, in accordance with guidelines
- Illegal drugs
- Public order
- Anti social behaviour
- Underage drinking | drinking in public places
- Vandalism
- Safer neighbourhoods
- Estate management
- Youth diversion
- Crime prevention initiatives
- Pro-active input into divisional policing plans/relevant LA plans

Policing is a matter for all

Policing should not be left solely to the Gardai but a matter for all, i.e. An Garda Siochana, public representatives, community representatives, local development agencies and the community in general

Strategic Priorities - Sub committees

- Strategic Priority 1 - Policing Communities
- Strategic Priority 2 - Tackling Crime in Rural Areas
- Strategic Priority 3 - Supply Reduction
- Strategic Priority 4 - Communications
- sub committees established to implement/focus on strategic priorities 1 - 3.

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

Alignment with Local authority structures

- Guidelines provide the establishment of subcommittee either thematic or where it is considered necessary on an area basis
- Care to be taken to avoid a proliferation of sub-committees which would represent an unproductive use of scarce resources.
- Should be established only where the JPC is satisfied that this is necessary for the pursuit of the objectives described in the 6 year plan and that there are sufficient resources available to support the effective functioning of the sub-committee
- Any proposal to establish a sub-committee must be agreed in advance with the JPC.
- Where a JPC considers it necessary area based sub-committees may be established provided that any proposal to establish is agreed in advance by the JPC steering group.
- Experience/issues/resources implications
- Proposing that **Policing Plan Committees** be established by **municipal district area** driven by municipal district administrators.
- Elected members of municipal districts currently meeting with An Garda Síochána, propose that these meetings include the community representatives and TDs and focus on the objectives contained within the 6 year plan where relevant to the area

Policing Plan Committees by Municipal District Area - Proposed reconfiguration of working groups/sub committees. L. Gallagher gave a background to the setting up of sub committees by thematic areas set out in the JPC 6 year strategic Plan. She outlined the challenges in terms of resourcing the committees and that the guidelines provided for the establishment of sub committees where it is considered necessary on an area basis.

In this regard it is proposed to establish 5 policing Plan Committees, operating on a municipal district area basis, and chaired by the MD Chair. PPCs will be supported by the Members of An Garda Síochána, the MD Administrator. It is envisaged that the PPCs will meet quarterly and in advance of MD meetings. All representatives of the JPC to be invited to attend. Following a brief discussion on the matter it was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. D. O'Brien and agreed to proceed with Policing Plan Committees being established by municipal district area immediately. It was also agreed that the MD Engineer attend the meetings. L. Gallagher to draw up terms of reference and circulate to the committee.

Cllr. Shay Cullen raised the matter of membership to the Committee and that Mr. Malone of the Uplands was no longer a member having been such since the committee was incepted and referenced the valuable contribution made by Mr. Malone at committee and public meetings representing the views of the rural community in tackling crime. L. Gallagher advised that the membership to the committee was set down in guidelines and that the community representatives being 7 in number came via the PPN. She advised that she had communicated with the PPN and Mr. Malone in this regard and highlighted also the valuable contribution he had made to the work of the committee.

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

5. To receive a presentation from Chief Superintendent John P Quirke: Overview of Policing achievements (year to date).

Chief Superintendent J. Quirke gave a power point presentation on the Wicklow Division 2019 YTD figures (difference and % change) covering the following areas and responded to the queries raised.

- 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 :

- What type of engagement exists between CAB and the Gardai
- What advice can we give young people in the fight against drugs, drug debt and consequent intimidation and threats
- Reference made to the two new schools in Bray, Colaiste Raithin and Ravenswell and that the new road providing access is being used as a 'rat run' with no speed limit.
- Recently retired Superintendent Pat Ward commended for his contribution to policing in Bray and soon to retire Chief Superintendent John Quirke also commended for his contribution to policing in the County. Agreed to send a message of thanks to both
- What is An Garda Síochána's policy in relation to Garda visibility in the Bray area on a regular basis.
- Parking offences; parking in cycle way and on footpaths, viewed as unacceptable and puts others at risk

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- What is the profile of the drink driving offenders
- Speeding on rural roads mentioned, cyclists in Kilmac and Glendalough and the challenges to overtaking motorists
- What can public representatives do to assist at a national level, is it additional Garda resources, additional patrol cars?
- Are gardai being replaced in the Blessington area
- PPN representatives hope to work closely with the JPC consulting with community groups, have An Garda Siochana any planned events ?
- Community alert groups – pleased with the relationship with An Garda Siochana, - Text alert is an excellent tool combating crime
- Is there consultation between traffic wardens and the Gardaí?
- The increase in drink driving – is it a particular age group?
- Any plans to reopen the garda station in Ashford?
- At a national level – what can be done to help?
- Welcomes the new protection unit
- What is current position with older persons register?
- Operation THOR still vital

6. To receive a presentation on the Policing Plan, 2020.

Inspector Eoin Phibbs gave the following presentation covering the following areas:

- Plan will be based on the Mission and Strategy 2019 – 2021

“Keeping People Safe”

- Follow on from the Wicklow Division [2019 Policing Plan](#)

The Divisional Policing Plan is based around the **Key Pillars** of the Garda Strategy Statement 2019 - 2021:-

1. **Community Policing**
2. **Keeping People Safe**
3. **A Secure Ireland**
4. **Transforming our Service**
5. **Our People – Our Greatest Resource**
6. **A Human Rights Foundation**

Pillar 1 - Community Policing

- Engaging with Communities (Inc. JPC Engagement)
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Public Order & High Visibility Policing
- Engaging with minorities and other vulnerable groups
- Children and Young People
- National Drug Strategy

Pillar 2 - Protecting People

- Investigation and Detection (Burglary, Robbery, Assault and Volume Crime)
- Crime Prevention
- Controlled Drugs

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- Organised Crime (including firearms offences, Human Trafficking and European Arrest Warrants)
- Criminal Intelligence (Including CHIS)
- Offender Management & Recidivism (including Child Diversion & SAOR)
- Victim Support
- Missing Persons
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Offences
- Roads Enforcement Activities (including the National Roads Policing Operations Plan)
- Road Safety Education & Awareness
- Event Management

Pillar 3 - A Secure Ireland

Ensure the security of the State, managing all possible threats, including but not limited to the threat of terrorism

Pillars 4 & 5

- Transforming our Service
- Our People – Our Greatest Resource

These will be affected by the Operational Policing Model recently announced by Commissioner Harris

What we will achieve:

- Increased ability to provide **local, bespoke, victim-centred policing** services
- Focus on **community engagement** with emphasis on **vulnerable members** of society
- More skills and capabilities within Divisions
- More consistent delivery of policing service
- More operationally-autonomous Divisions

Timeframe

Regions have already been re-aligned with effect from 26th August 2019

- No date specified for merging of Divisions
- Likely to occur as Chief Superintendents retire
- **Wicklow & Wexford** will possible merge in October under the responsibility of 1 Chief Superintendent
- Other Structural Changes will occur during the lifetime of the National Plan 2019 to 2022

What do we want you to do:

- Make submissions relating to any matter which you believe should be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Wicklow Divisional Policing Plan
- Issues Relevant to Pillars 1 & 2
 - Community Policing
 - Protecting People

Submissions should be as detailed as possible describing

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

- **The issue to be addressed**
- **The potential solutions and**
- **The anticipated benefits**
- Submissions to Bray_DV@Garda.ie

This is the Divisional Policing Plan

Issues more relevant to District Policing Plans will be forwarded to the relevant District Officer for consideration

L Gallagher to circulate and request submissions by the end of September/October.

7. To request approval for proposed CCTV system for Greystones.

It was proposed by Cllr. Irene Winters, seconded by Deputy John Brady and agreed to the request for approval for proposed CCTV system for Greystones.

8. To agree a schedule of meetings.

The schedule of meetings was proposed by Cllr. Joe Behan, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters and agreed.

9. Any other Business.

It was proposed to hold the next public JPC meeting in West Wicklow in Baltinglass.

Invitation to Commissioner Harris to attend a meeting of the JPC: It was agreed that a letter issue to Commissioner Harris or his representative to attend a meeting of the WCCJPC to explain the impact of the new districts on County Wicklow. It was also agreed that a special meeting of the JPC would be held to facilitate attendance from the Commissioners Office.

The Chair Cllr. G. Walsh and the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran, on behalf of the elected members and staff made a presentation on behalf of Wicklow County Council to Superintendent John P. Quirke on his upcoming retirement.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
COUNCILLOR GERRY WALSH
CHAIR.

DATE: _____

Comhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin