

Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd September, 2015 at 3.30 p.m. in Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

PRESENT: Cllr. Patrick McKee, Chairman, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cllr. David Kennedy, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, Cllr. Maurice Shortall.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Kilkenny Garda Station
Inspector Joe Carton, Kilkenny Garda Station
Sergeant Barry Smyth, Kilkenny Garda Station
Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, Kilkenny Garda Station
Derek Hughes, Detective Inspector, Kilkenny Garda Station

Brian Tyrrell, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council
Catherine Cooney, Staff Officer, Kilkenny County Council

Apologies: Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Joe Malone, Mary Mescal, Ossory Youth.

Cllr. Patrick McKee, Chairman - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th July, 2015.

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat O'Neill
Seconded by: Cllr. Michael McCarthy
And Resolved:

“That the minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby adopted.”

Cllr. McKee advised the meeting that he recently met with Age Friendly Alliance Group with a view to ascertaining how the Group could contribute to the Work Programme of the Joint Policing Committee. Cllr. McKee invited a representative of the Group to make a presentation to the Joint Policing Committee at the next meeting.

Cllr. McKee also suggested that a representative from “Kilkenny Cares” initiative be invited to make a presentation to the Joint Policing Committee.

Item No. 2: Presentation by Adrian Noonan (Chair of Seasmh/SOS Kilkenny) on Hate Crime.

The Chairman informed the Committee that Adrian Noonan was not available to make a presentation at this time and sends his apologies. During a discussion on the issue of Hate Crime it was agreed to extend an invitation to Mr. Noonan to make a presentation at the next JPC Meeting.

Item No. 3: Update regarding recent public meeting on Crime.

Cllr. McKee gave the meeting a brief synopsis of the issues raised and discussed at the public meeting on Crime held recently in Pembroke Hotel, Patrick Street, Kilkenny and expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Pdraig Dunne for his participation.

Members of the Committee raised the following issues:

- Bring Joint Policing Committee Meetings out to the rural communities.
- Operation of the text alert scheme

Item No. 4: Garda Update on 'Operation Storm'.

Detective Inspector Derek Hughes gave a brief outline of the process involved in carrying out 'Operation Storm' which took place on 9th September, 2015. Members commended the Gardaí on the success of the operation.

Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, informed the meeting that crime prevention is high on the Agenda of Policing Plans and a number of initiatives are being put in place to deal with this problem.

Following a discussion, Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes informed the meeting on statistics in relation to 'Operation Storm' and advised that it is proposed to run similar operations in the future on a bi-monthly/quarterly basis.

Item No. 5: Presentation on recent initiative 'Kilkenny Cares'.

Inspector Joe Carton updated the meeting on the 'Kilkenny Cares' initiative and the organisations involved in the initiative. Inspector Carton circulated the information leaflet prepared by the Group for visitors to the City. The Committee expressed their support for the initiative.

Item No. 6: Issues involving anti-social behaviour within Local Authority Housing Estates and Local Authority Homes in Kilkenny City and County.

Members raised a number of issues in relation to the Council's Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. In response, Mr. Brian Tyrrell explained that this issue is dealt with at a number of different fora and advised that the issues raised should be discussed at the forthcoming housing meeting which will give the staff of the Housing Department an opportunity to explain Housing Policy.

It was suggested that in preparation for the Housing Meeting, the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy document should be circulated to Members.

Item No. 7: Questions submitted by Elected Members.

Members raised questions in relation to the following:

1. Speed Limits Review.
2. Road markings removal by NRA on Motorways.
3. Farm yard related burglaries.

In response, Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes agreed to interact with Councillors and identify locations of signage removal and will raise the issue at a higher level. He further advised that the reason 'Operation Storm' was set up was because of rural crime and recent statistics show a reduction in burglary/theft crimes.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach stated that a Notice of Motion was brought before the July Meeting of the Council in relation to the removal of road markings and suggested that the response to this Motion should be put before this Committee.

Cllr. Patrick McKee expressed his appreciation to everyone for their attendance and involvement in the Meeting.

The meeting then concluded.