

## Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

### Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 3.30 p.m. in Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairman, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. David Kennedy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Melissa O’Neill, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr. Breda Gardner, Mary Mescal, John Hayes.

Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Superintendent Ger Egan, Thomastown Garda Station  
Sergeant Peter McConnon, Crime Prevention Officer, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Barry Smith, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Sergeant Anthony Casserly, Garda Telecoms

Colette Byrne, Chief Executive, Kilkenny County Council  
Tim Butler, Director of Services, Kilkenny County Council  
Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council  
Catherine Cooney, Staff Officer, Kilkenny County Council  
Ronan Ryan, Community Section, Kilkenny County Council

**Apologies:** Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Patrick McKee, Mary Mescal, Deputy John Paul Phelan, T.D., Deputy Bobby Aylward , T.D., Cllr. Melissa O’Neill.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Chairman - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

#### **Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings:**

Minutes of Meeting of Kilkenny County Council Joint Policing Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017:

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick  
Seconded by: Cllr. David Kennedy  
And Agreed:

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

#### Matters Arising

Cllr. Maurice and Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick congratulated Sergeant Paul Donoghue, formerly stationed in Castlecomer, on his promotion and wished him well in his new role and enquired regarding the timeframe within which a new appointment will be made to Castlecomer.

Superintendent Derek Hughes advised that there is a process in place for the transferring of staff and the new appointment should take place over the coming weeks.

## **Item No. 2: CCTV**

Sergeant Anthony Casserly gave a presentation to the meeting setting out a general overview of An Garda Síochána CCTV system in Kilkenny City, Location of cameras around the City, Update on 2016, proposed location of existing cameras and benefits of the system to An Garda Síochána and the business community.

Following presentation queries were raised in relation to:

- General Data Protection Regulations.
- CCTV on slip road off the motorways.
- Social Media evidence.

Sergeant Peter McConnon followed up with a presentation on the process for applying for a grant to the Department of Justice for community based CCTV system.

Sergeant McConnon responded to questions put forward in relation to:

- Identification of licensed plates.
- Is there any statistics to show that CCTV cameras act as a deterrent for crime?
- Could existing community based CCTV systems make an application for grant?
- Maximum amount of cameras that can be installed under one application.
- Are cameras monitored full time by An Garda Síochána.

Ronan Ryan advised the meeting that 4 no. cameras, funded by the Department of Justice, are located on the Hebron Road, 7 no. groups have expressed interest in the scheme when it was launched and 3 no. applications are currently in the process of being put together. Mr. Ryan stated that difficulties are arising in relation to matching funding and communities must demonstrate that the cameras can be maintained over a five year period.

Ms. Colette Byrne highlighted that the General Data Protection Regulations coming into effect on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, will have an impact on CCTV systems.

Following further discussion it was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
Seconded by: Cllr. David Kennedy  
And Agreed

“that the Joint Policing Committee write to the Minister for Justice seeking funding of €150,000 for the provision of CCTV cameras in Kilkenny City.”

## **Item No. 3: Crime Statistics, Traffic and Road Safety Update by An Garda Síochána**

Superintendent Barry Smith and Superintendent Derek Hughes gave the Committee an update outlining statistics for 2017 in relation to Crime and Road Safety and giving details of the following:

- Fatal Collision Details – Kilkenny Carlow Division 2017.
- Christmas Campaign
- Road Traffic incidents.

- Increase in Garda visibility across the county, i.e. extra speed checkpoints.
- Statistics on crime for 2017
- Road Security.
- Crime Free Periods.

Queries were raised by Councillors in relation to the following:

- More checkpoints on the N24.
- Retrieved Stolen items – difficulties returning to Owners.
- Driver Feedback Signage.

Mr. Tim Butler and Superintendent Derek Hughes responded to all queries raised.

**Item No. 4: Purple Flag Initiative**

Mr. Tim Butler explained the background to the Purple Flag Initiative which is the international accreditation for town centres in the evening and at night from 5.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. and by achieving Purple Flag Status, Kilkenny will be seen as a safe place to come, socialise and live. Mr. Butler stated that it is intended to revitalise the Kilkenny City Cares group for the purposes of inviting a number of groups to set up a sub-committee to look at the specification required to achieve Purple Flag Status and it is hoped that Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce will take on the application process. The Local Authority will provide funding for the application process and annual fee of €1,000.

The meeting then concluded.