

# COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

## AN COMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA - JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Miontuairiscí an Chruinnithe a tionóladh Dé Luain, 13<sup>th</sup> Marta 2023 i Halla  
na Cathrach ag 2.00 p.m.

*Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 in  
the Council Chamber, County Hall at 2.00 p.m.*

**Chair:** Cllr. Martin Brett

**Present:** Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, John Coonan, Michael McCarthy, Eugene McGuinness, Joe Malone.  
Chief Superintendent Anthony Petit  
Superintendent Aidan Brennan  
Acting Superintendent Claire Kenealy  
Detective Sergeant Brian Sheeran  
Sergeant Peter McConnon,  
Sergeant David Gorman  
Anthony Morrisson, Vintners Association  
Sean McKeown, Interim Chief Executive,  
Tim Butler, Director of Services,  
Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer.

**Remotely:** Cllrs. John Brennan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Fidelis Doherty

**Apologies:** Deputy John Paul Phelan, Deputy Malcolm Noonan.

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Cllr. Martin Brett, Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. In particular he extended a special welcome to Chief Superintendent Anthony Petit and Superintendent Aidan Brennan who have taken responsibility for the Kilkenny District.

### **Item No. 1: Minutes of Kilkenny JPC Meeting**

Minutes of Kilkenny Joint Policing Committee meeting held on the Monday, 12th December, 2022 were:

**Proposed By:** Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick

**Seconded By:** Cllr. Pat Dunphy

**And Agreed:**

*"That the Minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby approved as accurate."*

Ms. Anne Maria Walsh noted that no public meeting was held in 2022 which means a public meeting will be required in 2023.

### **Item No. 2: Draft Annual Report 2022**

The Annual Report for 2022 was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed by all.

### **Item No. 3: Draft Work Plan 2023**

The Work Plan for 2023 was proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed by all.

### **Item No 4: Crime Statistics update from An Garda Síochana**

Cllr. Martin Brett invited Detective Inspector Sean O'Meara to present an overview on Crime Statistics for the Kilkenny/Thomastown Districts. In his PowerPoint Presentation he gave an overview on the following since 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 based on figures on data extracted on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023.

#### **Preventative/Proactive Policing:**

- For the year 2022, Gardaí within the Kilkenny and Thomastown Districts recorded a total of **4,196** crime incidents
- Kilkenny and Thomastown Districts have responded to **4,440** calls for service from members of the public through the Regional Control Centre

#### **Community Engagement:**

- Christmas and New Year Road Safety Campaign Update
- Keeping communities safe, Clinic in Freshford to cover station services until stations re-opens .
- Thomastown Gardai upskilling communities in use of Defib and CPR in conjunction with IFA and National Ambulance Service
- Rolled out 'Drugs Ruin Lives' in County Kilkenny in partnership with Kilkenny GAA
- Burglaries have increased including commercial premises.
- Reduction noted in online fraud.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Pat Dunphy, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Tomas Breathnach, Michael Delaney, Joe Malone and E. McGuinness.

Issues arising:

- Comparison between 2019 and 2022 crime figures.
- Increase in driving under the influence.
- Increase in Domestic Violence.
- Consideration at the next meeting regarding a breakdown in repeat offenders. To include: how many are charged and court appearance timeline, numbers appearing and not requesting a bail application and level of objection to bail.

- Review of Garda initiatives that are in place a number of years to show their effectiveness.
- Detailed Drug Report.
- Hard copy of the presentations.

Detective Inspector Sean O'Meara noted that figures are provisional, supplied solely for the information of the Joint Policing Committee and not for circulation. Other items taken under consideration.

### **Item No. 3: Drugs Initiative**

Sergeant Peter McConnon Crime Prevention Officer Waterford/Kilkenny Carlow Garda Division provided a detailed overview on the 'Our Players, Our Clubs, Our Future' Drugs Initiative.

Contributions were made by Cllrs Eugene McGuinness, Joe Lyons, Pat Dunphy, Tomás Breathnach, Pat Fitzpatrick, Joe Malone, D. Cullen, M. Delaney, M. Doyle, M. McCarthy, J. Brennan and J. Coonan.

Issues arising:

- Excellent initiative that should be continued
- Well attended information evenings
- Drug use at pandemic levels
- Dedicated Drugs Task Force
- Garda resources across the county
- Kilkenny Garda Station overcrowding issue-new Garda Station is required.

Sergeant Peter McConnon responded to the issues raised.

### **Item 4. Active Travel Initiatives.**

Mr. Tim Butler presented an update on Active Travel Initiatives:

#### **Major Schemes:**

- Radial Route Improvement Schemes
- Ring Road Improvement Scheme
- Inner Orbital Route
- Lacken Walk Improvement
- Cootes Lane to Ring Road
- Greensbridge Improvement
- Eastern Environs Connectivity Scheme
- Laneway Network to West of City Centre Feasibility Study

#### **Proposals for 2023:**

- Continue to progress major schemes
- Rapid Deployment Scheme
- Safe Route to Schools Programme

Contributions were made by Cllrs Eugene McGuinness, Joe Lyons, Pat Dunphy, Tomás Breathnach, Pat Fitzpatrick, Joe Malone, D. Cullen, M. Delaney, M. Doyle, M. McCarthy, J. Brennan and J. Coonan.

Issues arising:

- Cycling on footpaths in the City Centre
- E-scooter users lack of reflective clothing and regulation
- Ballymack Cross works
- Works being carried out in County towns and villages
- Active Travel presentation on county wide initiatives
- Funding allocations/opportunities outside of Active Travel
- Connection between Dunmore Park, Jenkinstown, Castlecomer and Kilkenny City to include Castlecomer Discovery Park
- Increase in Community Policing
- Lack of infrastructure in rural areas to allow for non-car focused mobility options
- Breakdown of funding in rural areas welcome
- Garda resources in North County Kilkenny

Mr. Tim Butler responded to the issues arising. Mr. Butler noted cycling on footpaths is not permitted, Active Travel funding is based on the population size and has been divided equally between Kilkenny City and towns to-date. A number of mobility plans are being drafted for county towns. The largest Scheme under Active Travel for 2023 is in the Callan Area making the temporary One Way system permanent. Mr. Sean McKeown added that measures around the County include the Greenway are creating new connections between several county towns/villages. Mr. McKeown congratulated Tim Butler and his team on the works undertaken to-date.

The Chief Superintendent Anthony Petit noted the concerns regarding the use of E-scooters.

#### **Item No. 5: Any Other Business**

Under any other business the following was raised:

- Detailed Drug Report at a future meeting.
- Consider including Baseline statistics from 2019 to 2022 to allow comparison on reports.
- Garda resources in local towns and villages.
- The need for the sustainability of the drug initiative.
- Level of retail crime in Kilkenny City.
- Night time safety in Kilkenny City.

Cllr. Martin Brett concluded the meeting and thanked all for attending.

#### **Item 6. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next Joint Policing Committee meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHAIRPERSON**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_