

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

AN COMHCHOISTE PÓILÍNEACHTA - JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Miontuairiscí an Chruinnithe a tionóladh Dé Luain, 12 Ú Meitheamh
i Halla na Cathrach ag 2.00pm
*Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 12th June, 2023
in the Council Chamber, County Hall at 2.00 p.m.*

Chair: Cllr. Martin Brett

Present: Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy, Joe Malone, David FitzGerald, John Coonan, Michael McCarthy, Detective Inspector Sean O'Meara, Superintendent Aidan Brennan, Anthony Morrisson, Vintners Association, Sean McKeown, A/Chief Executive, Tim Butler, Director of Services, Anne Maria Walsh, Senior Executive Officer. Martina Walsh, Staff Officer.

Remotely: Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Delaney, Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Cllr Joe Lyons, Marion Acreman, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce,

Apologies: Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit, Deputy John Paul Phelan.

Cllr. Martin Brett, Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Item No. 1: Minutes of Kilkenny JPC Meeting

Minutes of Kilkenny Joint Policing Committee meeting held on the 13th March 2023 were:

Proposed By: Cllr. Pat Dunphy

Seconded By: Cllr. John Coonan

And Agreed:

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

Item No. 2: Crime Statistics update from An Garda Síochana

Detective Inspector Seán O'Meara presented the update on the crime Statistics as follows:

- Fraud offences have reduced. In January to March of this year there were 64 fraud offences compared with 123 in the same period in 2022.
- Garda within the Kilkenny and Thomastown Districts recorded a total of 1,021 crimes in the first quarter of 2023 and responded to 1,894 calls through the Regional control centre.
- Thefts from shops increased significantly.
- Thefts from MPVs decreased from 23 in the same period last year to 10 this year.
- Assaults causing harm also dropped from 28 in the first quarter of last year to 18 in the same period this year.
- An increase in the supply of drug offences with 17 detections this year compared to 14 in the same period last year.
- A decrease in sexual offences with 8 reported in first quarter of 2023 compared with 13 during the same period last year.

Contributions were made by Cllrs. John Brennan, Martin Brett, John Coonan, Pat Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Fidelis Doherty, Eugene Mc Guinness, Michael McCarthy and Joe Malone.

Issues raised:

- Lack of foot patrol on the streets.
- Rural areas being neglected in terms of policing in particular the Castlecomer area
- Insufficient Garda numbers.
- Ongoing anti-social behaviour at St Canice's steps.
- Time frame in attending to calls.

Superintendent Aidan Brennan responded that resources are a problem and that six new recruits were appointed in Kilkenny in the past two years.

In relation to the time frame for attendance to calls, he informed the members that all calls are dealt with through the Regional Headquarters. A new GPS system is in place and the nearest unit is deployed to a callout.

He also informed the Committee that a new Superintendent has been appointed in Thomastown, Superintendent Foley who will have a divisional portfolio for all major crime in that area.

The Superintendent also advised that the antisocial behaviour at St Canice's Steps is being tackled by the Gardai and that the numbers of "rough sleepers" is not a Garda matter.

Cllr Martin Brett proposed:

"That a letter be written to the Minister highlighting the lack of resources"

This was seconded by Cllr Michael Doyle & agreed.

Item No. 3. Operation City Safe

Superintendent Aidan Brennan informed the meeting that this was a successful Operation and that due to high visibility on the streets that only one minor incident was reported on St Patrick's night.

Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick commended the Garda on the success of Operation Safe and congratulated the other stakeholders involved including Anthony Morrisson, Chairman of Kilkenny Vintners Association and Marion Acreman, Manager of MacDonagh Shopping Centre for their efforts in ensuring the success of the Operation.

Item No. 4 : Freshford to Tullaroan Road update:

Tim Butler advised the meeting that no further housing development will be permitted until the link road is in place.

Issues raised by Members:

- Timeframe for completion
- Speed on N77

Tim Butler responded that it is hoped Consultants could be appointed by end of this year.

It will be a minimum of 7 years before works are completed.

He confirmed that in the meantime, low cost safety measures would be introduced at the Dinan bridge to deal with the speed issue.

Item No. 5 Fix date & venue for public meeting.

This item was deferred.

Item No. 6 Any Other Business

Sympathy was extended to the Rafter family, Callan Road, Kilkenny on their recent bereavement.

Cllr Fidelis Doherty paid tribute to Superintendent Ted Hughes, Thomastown who has retired.

Cllr Michael McCarthy enquired about the time frame for opening of the Freshford Garda Station.

Superintendent Aidan Brennan responded that this was imminent.

Cllr Martin Brett thanked all those in attendance and the meeting was concluded.

Item 7. Date of the Next Meeting

The next Joint Policing Committee meeting will be held on Monday 11th September, 2023 at 11am

Signed: _____
CHAIRPERSON

Date: _____