

## **CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of Meeting held at 4.30pm on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow**

- Present:**
- Cllr. Michael Doran (Chairperson)
  - Cllr. Andrea Dalton
  - Cllr. Ken Murnane
  - Cllr. John Murphy
  - Cllr. William Paton
  - Cllr. John Pender
  - Cllr. Fintan Phelan
  - Deputy Pat Deering
  - Senator Jennifer Murnane O'Connor
  - Ms. Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive, Carlow County Council
  - E. Brophy, A/Director of Service
  - Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, An Garda Síochána
  - Superintendent Aidan Brennan, An Garda Síochána
  - Mr. Joe Butler, Graiguecullen Community Alert
  - Mr. David McNamara
  - Ms. Daiga Ezermale
- In Attendance:**
- Helen Hall, Chief Executive, Policing Authority
  - Barry Smith, AGS
  - Inspector Audrey Dormer, AGS
  - Sgt. Louise O'Neill, AGS
  - Brian Farrell Chief Executive, Chamber of Commerce
  - A. Oakes, Meetings Administrator
- Apologies:**
- Sinead Minchin, Ballinkillen Area Community Alert
  - Martin Tuite, Bagenalstown Community Alert

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Joint Policing Committee, members of the public, Garda members, Council Officials and in particular, extended a warm welcome and congratulations to Superintendent Aidan Brennan on his recent appointment to Carlow.

#### **Approval of Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017**

*Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton*

*Seconded by Cllr. A Dalton*

and following a show of hands it was Resolved:

“That the Minutes of Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, having been circulated to each member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.”

## **Garda Policing Report**

Superintendent Aidan Brennan introduced himself to the Members in attendance and delivered the Garda Policing Report which included statistics for 2017 in relation to road traffic fatalities, crime figures, possession of drugs detentions, assaults and public disorder. Superintendent Brennan also outlined his plans for a Community Policing Unit and his objectives for 2018 which will be aided by an increase in staff by April 2018.

Cllr Phelan welcomed Superintendent Brennan to Carlow and queried what could be done to combat the increase in thefts on business and noted that the figure for “assault causing harm” was high.

Cllr Paton noted the increase in all statistics and queried if this was as a result of more crime or more detection and if the road network was contributing to criminals coming from outside the area.

Cllr Dalton queried if the increase from 2016 to 2017 was as a result of additional resources in An Garda Siochana.

Senator Murnane O’Connor welcomed the proposed increase in garda numbers and advised that she felt that an increased garda presence was needed particularly in Tullow Street and in relation to the increase of sulkies on the roads. Senator Murnane O’Connor also queried if it was true that 5 garda stations in the Kilkenny Carlow district did not have access to PULSE.

Deputy Deering enquired if there were any proposals to put cameras on motorways or interchanges which might deter criminals and queried how many additional gardai were recruited in the previous 18 months. Deputy Deering also noted the 400% increase in number of fatalities and queried the timeline for the re-opening of Leighlinbridge Garda Station.

J Butler confirmed that there was an issue with the increase in sulkies in the town and the increase in drug distribution. J Butler welcomed the introduction of Community Policing Unit highlighting that many residents felt intimidated by groups gathering in estates etc.

Cllr K Murnane referred to the public order offences and queried if the Central Statistics Office issued statistics based on reports from An Garda Siochana.

Cllr Doran welcomed the proposed engagement with businesses and the re-opening of Leighlinbridge Garda Station. Cllr Doran also referred to a sulkie incident.

The issues raised were addressed by Superintendent Aidan Brennan and Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes who also advised of the launch of the Victims Support Group.

Senator Murnane O’Connor also queried in relation to arrests of persons who may have mental health issues. Superintendent Brennan advised that if there are any health issues when a person is arrested, a doctor is called.

## **Any Other Business**

Cllr Phelan queried the timeline for the installation of CCTV cameras in the Town Park. E Brophy advised tenders had been received and currently being assessed. Senator Murnane O’Connor stressed that this work must be given priority as Carlow has a lovely Town Park and people do not want to use it now. E Brophy

[https://carlowcoco-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mloughn\\_carlowcoco\\_ie/Documents/Website/Joint Policing Committee Minutes 26th February 2108.doc](https://carlowcoco-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mloughn_carlowcoco_ie/Documents/Website/Joint%20Policing%20Committee%20Minutes%2026th%20February%202108.doc)

advised that the costs for this project were now in the region of €100,00 despite an initial budget of €40,000 being passed by the Members. Notwithstanding same, the service was committed to and would be implemented. E Brophy also highlighted possible data protection issues. E Brophy will give an update at the next meeting.

Cllr Doran advised that Rag Week had just taken place, that it had went well overall and thanked An Garda Siochana for all their work in relation to same.

Cllr Doran thanked An Garda Siochana and all groups involved for all their work and assistance during the severe winter weather incident. It was noted that Superintendent Brennan would now sit on the Severe Weather Co-Ordination Group within Carlow County Council.

Cllr A Dalton queried if there was an issue with boy racers in Carlow and referred to an incident on Christmas night. Cllr Dalton was advised that this appeared to have been a one-off event.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**