

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held at 4.30pm on Monday, 28th May 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
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue
Deputy Pat Deering
Senator Jennifer Murnane O'Connor
Ms. Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive, Carlow County Council
E. Brophy, A/Director of Service
Superintendent Aidan Brennan, An Garda Síochána
Mr. David McNamara
Rev. Paul Maxwell
- In Attendance:** Inspector Audrey Dormer, AGS
Sgt. Peter McConnon , AGS
Sgt. Louise O'Neill, AGS
A. Oakes, Meetings Administrator
- Apologies:** Chief Superintendent Dominic Hayes, An Garda Síochána
Mr. Joe Butler, Graiguecullen Community Alert
Deputy Kathleen Funchion
Martin Tuite, Bagenalstown Community Alert
Cllr. John Cassin
Cllr. Denis Foley

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Joint Policing Committee, members of the public, Garda members, Council Officials.

Approval of Minutes of 26th February 2018

Proposed by Cllr. J. Murphy

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 26th February 2018, having been circulated to each member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.”

Annual Joint Policing Committee Report 2017

The report was taken as read and noted.

Garda Policing Report

Superintendent Aidan Brennan delivered the Garda Policing Report which included statistics for 2017 and 2108 in relation to road traffic fatalities, property crime, burglary, thefts from shops, theft of bicycles, theft from vehicles and theft from other properties. Superintendent Brennan also gave statistics for arrests for possession of drugs, public order offences, serious and minor assaults and driving while intoxicated offences.

Superintendent Brennan advised that 5 new Gardai had commenced, 4 recruits from Templemore and an experienced officer from Limerick and also confirmed that sanction had been received for the Community Policing Unit which he hoped to have in place in the near future.

Following Superintendent Brennan's report the following issues were raised:

Cllr Phelan queried Superintendent Brennan's opinion in the context of the proposed Prohibition of Begging bye laws and if AGS felt that begging had become more aggressive and that people were feeling intimidated and fearful. Cllr Paton stressed his support of the bye laws giving examples of situations that had been reported but stressed that he would prefer if only the serious cases were enforced/prosecuted. E Brophy confirmed that if the Municipal District decides to proceed that the proposal would go to public consultation and would also be sent to AGS. Cllr Phelan queried if AGS currently had powers did he feel the need for these proposed byelaws. Cllr Paton suggested if byelaws were implemented then a 2 week discretionary period should be imposed. Cllr Pender agreed that this was a big problem and people were concerned they were being watched at ATMs but felt that fines wouldn't work in such cases and could social services not intervene or engage with these persons. Deputy Deering agreed with Cllr Pender that fines would not be paid. Cllr Doran stated that it was important for AGS to have the power to enforce in these situations as their powers are limited at present.

Superintendent Brennan advised that AGS were very aware of the aggressive nature of some of those begging and was in no doubt that it was organised begging. Superintendent Brennan also stated that he had met with the Chamber of Commerce in relation to same and had committed to increased patrols. Superintendent Brennan further added that AGS were very conscious of the problem and that he felt it could only be aided by enforcement and the presence of AGS.

Cllr O'Donoghue raised the issue of drink driving and concern of publicans in relation to their responsibilities. Cllr O'Donoghue also raised the issue of the increase in the speed limit approaching Rathvilly.

Cllr Murnane stated that there was not enough emphasis on community policing and that he was disappointed that there were no extra patrols in the Town Park and also in Dereen Heights.

Cllr Paton queried if there was anything that could be done to reduce graveyard vandalism. Cllr Paton also referred to incident at Parkville United grounds when youths smashed railings and then had a barbeque on the pitch. Cllr Paton stated that there is open drinking in the park in Tullow and TUS worker and volunteers clean up practically daily. Cllr Paton advised that recently up to 6 bins had been set alight in Tullow and that

Mulhall's shed appears to be a gathering point for youths. Cllr Paton requested a strong presence of AGS to combat this. Cllr Paton thanked AGS for the removal of an abandoned car in recent weeks. Cllr Phelan queried if AGS had any powers in relation to horse trading going on in some residential estates in the town.

Cllr A Dalton asked if AGS could do anything in relation to anti-social behaviour and referred to a lady in her 80s who is being tormented by her neighbours.

Cllr Murnane again referred to the need for community policing stating that a shop that opens on a Sunday morning must employ 2 people for fear of intimidation.

Senator Murnane advised that she had been informed of garda patrols on Tullow Street and that business owners were delighted with this presence. Senator Murnane highlighted the bad impression of Carlow given on the Joe Duffy Show and that families were now afraid to use the Town Park. Senator Murnane further stated that when the park opened first, it was patrolled by a security firm and there were no problems so a garda presence would help the situation. Senator Murnane also advised of problems with caravans in The Laurels and horses in Dereen Heights, further commenting that there are huge anti-social behaviour problems in at least 4 estates in the town. Senator Murnane referred to 2 festivals to be held in Carlow in the near future and queried if AGS had been consulted in relation to same.

Rev. Paul Maxwell thanked AGS for the huge work done in relation to Carlow Women's Aid.

Deputy Deering highlighted that Carlow had a lot of good news stories to tell. Deputy Deering also raised the issue of parental responsibility in respect of underage/young offenders.

Cllr Dalton referred to byelaws in place in Kilkenny and queried if they would be helpful in our case.

Cllr Paton agreed with Deputy Deering in relation to parental responsibility but stated that message needed to be sent that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

Cllr Murnane queried if there were byelaws in place in Athy in relation to horses.

Cllr Phelan advised that it was important for the Council and AGS to have powers but questioned why there are no supports in place from the HSE or other agencies to also help to combat these issues.

Cllr Doran concurred with all the issues raised and stated that in relation to anti-social behaviour, the Council had responsibilities to the house owners, local authority tenants and tidy towns/other organisations who were working to improve their areas and Carlow generally.

Superintendent Brennan addressed all the issues raised.

Any Other Business

Deputy Deering queried if the Council had the authority to impound horses and the possibility of introducing byelaws was discussed.

Cllr Paton thanked the Superintendent, Chief Superintendent and AGS for all their help and assistance in relation to CCTV Project in Tullow.

This concluded the business of the meeting.