

**Meath County Joint Policing Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**Venue: Council Chamber**  
**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012**  
**Time 11.00am**

**In Attendance:**

**Chairperson:** Cllr. Gerry O'Connor.

**County Council Members:** Cllrs. Joe Fox, Oliver Fox, Seamus O'Neill, Tracy McElhinney, Maria Murphy & Wayne Harding.

**Oireachtas Members:**

**An Garda Síochána:** Michael Devine, Chief Superintendent.

**County Council Officials:** Ger Murphy, A/Senior Executive Officer.

**Community & Voluntary Sector:** Shaun Lynch & Charlie Traynor.

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Noel Leonard, Anne Dillion-Gallagher & Niamh McGowan.  
Deputy Ray Butler.

**1. Adoption of Minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011:**

Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>9th</sup> September 2011 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Seamus O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Tracy McElhinney.

**2. Correspondence:**

It was noted that there was no correspondence.

**3. Reports from the working sub-groups:**

It was noted that the three working sub-groups met as one group at from 10.00 – 11.00am due to limited attendance. It was agreed that the sub-groups were not functioning as had been originally intended. It was then agreed that the work of the sub-groups, and the issues which each sub-group was intended to address, would be carried out by the Committee. This was proposed by Cllr. Maria Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Seamus O'Neill.

**4. Reports:**

**(a) An Garda Síochána:**

Chief Superintendent Devine advised the meeting in relation to policing in the county for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2012 as follows:

- There was a decrease in property crime (burglary, theft, criminal damage) countywide (9%);
- There was a decrease in public order offences countywide (6%);
- There were 2 fatalities as a result of road traffic accidents/incidents;
- There was a significant decrease in serious crime (50%);
- It was outlined that Garda resources are being deployed in any areas where there are increases in crime rates;
- It was outlined that a re-configuration of the Laytown/Duleek Stations in that they are now amalgamated with the Ashbourne Station (1 Superintendent for these three Stations).

- It was outlined that An Garda Síochána, similar to the rest of the public service, is re-configuring some operations due to the recent retirement of some members of staff. This however would not affect policing levels or effectiveness of service.

**(b) Meath County Council:**

Ger Murphy, A/Senior Executive Officer advised of anti-social behaviour affecting the Council's housing stock as follows:

<b>Housing Investigations</b>	<b>September to December 2011</b>	<b>January to March 2012</b>
<b>Number of Complaints investigated</b>	11	17
<b>Number of Verbal Warnings issued</b>	4	5
<b>Number of Written Warning issued</b>	1	2
<b>Number of Abandonment Notices issued</b>	1	0

It was outlined that these figures indicate a decrease in activity from the figures outlined at the previous meeting of the Committee.

**5. Any Other Business:**

- There was agreement that the Committee would formally request the Council to advance the process of formulating bye-laws in relation to regulation and control of intoxicating substances based on Cllr. Oliver Fox's motion on the matter.
- There was general discussion in relation to parking on Main Street, Enfield particularly in terms of the enforcement of the 2 hour parking limit. It was agreed that publicising the fact that there is a 2 hour parking limit would help alleviate the issue of long-term parking.
- There was general discussion in relation to the issue of Community Alerts. It was noted that were this system is in place it works very well.
- It was noted that no Garda Stations are being closed in the county and that there is a reconfiguration and restructuring of staff in some areas. This will no have an affect of service provision or policing.
- There was a query in relation to responsibility for road markings. It was outlined that the Council is responsible and must comply with national regulations on the matter. The Council also liaise with An Garda Síochána on the matter.
- It was outlined that the next public meeting would likely be arranged for September (notes from the previous meeting in November 2011 were distributed and noted).
- The Chairman outlined that he had met with the Chairs of the three Town Council Committees and noted a number of initiatives being undertaken in the towns. He also noted that the County Committee should make better use of the

Committee page on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) and that Committee meeting minutes should be posted.

- There was discussion in relation to a neighbourhood watch texting scheme which exists in Longford. It was outlined that a similar scheme has been in operation in the Slane Area for about 5 years. It was outlined that the system works quite well although there are some Data Protection issues. As well as this the system is being overtaken by social media such as Facebook and Twitter.
- It was outlined that despite a general overall reduction in crime rates that people must remain as vigilant as possible.

#### **6. Next Meeting Date:**

It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with Ger Murphy in relation to arranging a date for the next meeting of the Committee in June.

The Chairman outlined that he would write to all members of the Committee in relation to gaining their commitment to the Joint Policing Committee process so that the Committee could function as intended and as best as possible.

This concluded the business of the meeting.