



*County Meath  
Joint Policing Committee*

## Minute of Meath JPC Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013

### **Attendance:**

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

**County Council Members:** Cllr. Maria Murphy, Cllr. Oliver Fox, Cllr. Joe Fox, Cllr. Jim Holloway, Cllr. Joe O'Reilly, Cllr. Wayne Harding.

**Oireachtas Members:** Apologies from all.

**An Garda Síochána:** Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken, Superintendent Michael Devine, Sergeant Peter Gilsean.

**Community and Voluntary Sector:** Nick Killian

**Council Officials:** Shane Donnelly, Administrative Officer  
Fiona Casserly, Clerical Officer, CS

**Apologies:** Cllr. Niamh McGowan, Cllr. Noel Leonard, Cllr. Anne Dillon Gallagher, Cllr. Arian Keogan, Cllr. John V. Farrelly, Cllr. Bryan Reilly, Cllr. Tracey McElhinney, Cllr. Francis Deane and Des Foley, Director of Services.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes held 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

The Minutes of the Meath JPC Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 were approved on the proposal of Maria Murphy and seconded by Gerry O'Connor. No matters arising.

### **2. Update from An Garda Síochána**

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken expressed apologies for being unable to attend the workshop held by the Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013. An update on policing matters to the Committee was provided.

- Personnel
  - 292 Garda Members in Meath which is down 22 from 2011.



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- Announcement on Garda Recruitment this week is welcome.
- 41 Garda Reserves operating in Meath.
- Volume Crime such as burglaries and theft down 6%
  - 222 less burglaries in the County
  - Reductions in other crimes such as thefts from cars
  - Increase in theft from Shops (perhaps recession)
  - Burglaries in Ashbourne (120) and Trim (80) reduced this year.
- Public Order Offences down (Might be due to lack of night time economy).
- Road Fatalities
  - 9 Fatalities to date in 2013 compared (12 Fatalities in 2012).
- Drug Offences
  - Remain the same. 4.5m drugs seized in the County this year.
- Underage Drinking – operations ongoing
- Crime Prevention – A number of exhibitions held with great participation.
- Age Friendly Alliance
  - Launch of Crime prevention ambassadors took place with 17 participants from County Meath.
- Neighbourhood Watch / Text Alerts
  - 85 Neighbourhood watch areas
  - 30 Text Alert Areas
  - Sizable reduction in burglaries in these areas.
- Social Media (Facebook)
  - Meath Crime prevention page proving very useful
  - 8.5 thousand Followers.
- Schools Programmes
  - 310 schools visited this year

The Chief Superintendent encourages the ongoing efforts of Chamber of Commerce and Local Authorities in promoting towns and villages as excellent and safe places to shop and do business in. It was suggested that maybe some initiatives could be agreed between retailers in the towns similar to those in other Counties which have been formed under the National Strategy - An Garda Síochána "Theft from Shops Prevention and Reduction Strategy".

The following Questions/ Issues were raised by members present;

1. How much of Meath is currently covered by Community Text Alert Areas.  
It was noted that approx 60/70% of County is currently covered.
2. Thanks were expressed for the great job Garda are doing in Ratoath/Ashbourne while under pressure from low staffing levels. However a greater Garda presence was encouraged in Ratoath during school terms. It was also queried how many Garda Reserve numbers were operating in this



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Area. Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken advised 13 Garda Reserves operating in this area. They are recognised by the Letters **GR** on the shoulder epaulettes. Members of Meath division of An Garda Síochána are recognised by the letters **MH** on their epaulettes.

3. A comparison on staffing levels from 2006 as compared with 2011 was requested. The Chief Superintendent advised that with a population increase of 13% and consideration for retirements being accelerated it was only natural that staffing levels would be down. However Meath was in a stronger position than other Counties due to the Generation of staff in Meath who were not due for retirement consideration.
4. Traffic Management on the M3 between Dunshaughlin and Clonee where a few traffic incidents have occurred recently. It was noted that minor incidents have occurred which will always create tailbacks. Garda procedure is to notify road users as quickly as possible to the delays.
5. A Garda Presence was also requested at Enfield Train station where there are alleged groups of youths forming and intimidating commuters.

### **3. Community Representative Nominees**

The following nominees were put forward to fill the current vacancies on Meath Joint Policing Committee as Community Representation.

1. Mr. Tom Brady
2. Mr. James Ellis

Both nominees were approved by the group proposed by Cllr. Oliver Fox and seconded by Cllr. Wayne Harding.

It was agreed that both nominees be invited to the next meeting.

### **4. Draft Playground Bye-Laws**

The Draft Playground bye-laws were circulated to the Members present, the contents of which were discussed and clarified.

Shane Donnelly proposed to extend/modify the draft Playground bye-laws to Park bye-laws which would include all Meath County Council owned parks, playgrounds, multi-use areas, pitches etc. Once the park by-laws are approved by the JPC they would;

- Be brought to a meeting of the full Council in January/ February.
- There would be a period of display of one month.



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- Following display period the bye-laws would be returned to the Council meeting in April / May.
- If approved the Bye-Laws would be Implemented 30 later.

It was agreed by the committee to proceed on this basis.

### **5. Progress from Navan, Kells and Trim Joint Policing Committees**

It was noted that updates were included in the draft Joint Policing Committee Newsletter to be discussed under Item 7.

### **6. Draft dates for Meath JPC Meetings 2014**

Draft dates for 2014 Joint Policing Committee meetings and Annual Public Meeting were circulated and agreed by the Group. The meeting times will be decided closer to the dates.

### **7. Joint Policing Committee Newsletter**

A copy of the Draft newsletter was circulated and agreed by the group.

### **8. Any Other Business**

- The members acknowledged the work undertaken by Shane Donnelly in progressing the projects being undertaken by the Committee.
- The issue of people cycling on footpaths was raised. Perhaps the JPC could find some way to discourage this activity.
- It was suggested that Community Guards could introduce themselves in person to retailers in towns and villages.
- Stronger Garda presence requested at Ratoath BMX track.

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