

Meath County Joint Policing Committee
Minutes of Meeting

Venue: Council Chamber

Date: 8th October, 2012

Time 2.00p.m.

In Attendance:

Chairperson: Cllr. Gerry O'Connor.

County Council Members: Cllrs. Anne Dillion-Gallagher, Maria Murphy, Niamh McGowan, Jim Holloway, Francis Deane, Joe Fox, Oliver Fox.

Oireachtas Members: Senator Thomas Byrne

An Garda Síochána: Chief Superintendent Aidan Glackin, Superintendent Michael Devine.

County Council Officials: Olive Falsey, Administrative Officer.

Community & Voluntary Sector: Charlie Traynor, Cllr. Nick Killian, Shaun Lynch.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of **6th June, 2012** were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Chair, Cllr. O' Connor, invited proposals for the filling of the position of Vice Chair of the JPC, following the resignation of former Councillor, Seamus O' Neill. Community representative, Councillor Nick Killian was proposed by Councillor Oliver Fox and seconded by Councillor Francis Deane. It was queried whether Councillor Killian could take up this position given his status as a community representative on the JPC. Olive Falsey advised the meeting of the wording in the Standing Orders, which states that *'it shall be open to a committee or sub-committee to appoint a vice chairperson from the Local Authority Members'* It was agreed that clarification would be sought on the matter and reported at the next meeting.

3. Correspondence:

Correspondence was noted from:

Niall Collins T.D. Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Justice and Equality in Dáil Éireann. It was agreed to acknowledge his letter.

4. Reports:

(a) An Garda Síochána:

Chief Superintendent Aidan Glackin addressed the meeting and acknowledged the three key areas identified by the JPC in relation to its work i.e. Anti-social Behaviour, Older People and Traffic. The meeting was advised in relation to policing in the county as follows:

- Incidences of crime reduced by 4% in comparison to same time 2011. Assault and public order offences have also decreased.
- The main concern is the increase in burglaries across the county.
- Very important that the public co-operate with the Gardaí in addressing criminal activity.

Other issues raised:

- Vandalism in Dunboyne and forced closure of skate park.
- Perceived reduction in Garda resources. Gardaí should be visible in communities.
- Figures for burglaries are up 10% nationally.
- Vehicles parked for a long period of time with no tax or insurance displayed.
- Under-age drinking and easy access to alcohol at affordable prices. Licensing laws should be reviewed.

Chief Superintendent responded and outlined that:

- Garda resources are included in the general reduction in staff numbers in the public service.
- The work of the JPC should be at a strategic level rather than identifying specific issues in specific areas.

(b) Meath County Council:

Olive Falsey, Administrative Officer advised of anti-social behaviour affecting the Council's housing stock as follows:

Housing Investigations	September to December 2011 (4 months)	January to March 2012 (3 months)	April to May 2012 (2 months)	June to September (4 months)
Number of Complaints investigated	11	17	11	32
Ongoing cases April 2012	0	0	(6)	4
New complaints	0	0	5	32
Number of Verbal Warnings issued	4	5	2	1
Number of Written Warning issued	1	2	1	1
Number of Abandonment Notices issued	1	0	0	1

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

The work of the county JPC was discussed and the following points were made.

- Relevance of County JPC with three Town JPC's also working on similar issues.
- JPC needs a meaningful programme of work.
- Funding needed to work on communications.
- A Director of Service should attend JPC meetings.

It was agreed that the Chair would write to all members of the JPC and invite suggestions on how the JPC could be more effective.

It was agreed to write to each of the town JPCs (Kells, Navan and Trim) to nominate a representative to attend the County JPC meetings.

5. Any Other Business:

Chief Superintendent Glackin addressed Senator Byrne's query regarding the change in structure re Laytown and Ashbourne Garda Stations. The meeting was informed that the decision was made by the Garda Commissioner and that there has been no reduction in staff and no dilution of Garda services in Co. Meath.

6. Next Meeting Date:

- It was agreed that the annual public meeting would take place on 21st November in Slane.

This concluded the business of the meeting.