

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

Venue: Community Centre, Dunshaughlin

Date: 19th September 2011

Time 11.00a.m.

In Attendance:

Chairperson: Councillor Gerry O'Connor.

(a) County Council Members: Cllrs. Noel Leonard, Ann Dillon Gallagher, Joe Fox, Oliver Fox, Seamus O'Neill, Niamh McGowan, Jim Holloway, Tracy McElhinney, Maria Murphy, and Joe Reilly

(b) Oireachtas Members: Senator Thomas Byrne.

(c) Council Officials: Kevin Stewart, Director of Services and Martin Rogers, Senior Executive Officer.

(d) Garda Officers: Pdraig Rattigan Chief Superintendent, Michael Devine Superintendent and Peter Gilsenan Sergeant.

(e) Community & Voluntary: Nick Killian and Shaun Lynch.

Apologies: Cllrs. Eoin Holmes, Bryan Reilly, Wayne Harding and Francis Deane. Deputies Peadar Toibin, Damien English, Ray Butler and Regina Doherty. Community & Voluntary Representative Charlie Traynor.

1. Adoption of Minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2011.

Minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2011 were adopted on the proposal of **Cllr. Ann Dillon Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Seamus O'Neill**.

2. Correspondence

It was noted that there was no correspondence.

3. Report from An Garda Siochana

It was noted that each of the three Working Sub Groups had been re-established and had met in advance of the JPC meeting. The meeting was advised that each had agreed a work programme and would meet in advance of the next meeting of the JPC. It was agreed that an update from each sub group would be provided to the next meeting.

4. To consider fixing a date for Public Meeting.

It was agreed to arrange a public meeting for late October/early November in Ashbourne. In this regard Councillor McGowan will check the availability of the Ashbourne Community Centre. It was also agreed that other locations in the county such as Oldcastle, Athboy should be considered for future meetings.

5. Reports

(a) Garda

Chief Superintendent Rattigan advised the meeting in relation to policing in the county as follows:

⇒ Whilst crime numbers had increased so had the number of detections

⇒ There was a reduction in incidents of drink driving and also in road fatalities (3 in 2011)

- ⇒ If Members wanted specific issues addressed at the meeting they could notify the Garda office in advance
- ⇒ A major challenge facing the Garda was one of manpower (public service recruitment ban and potential retirements) coupled with reduction in budgets. Figures on Garda resources would be provided to the next meeting.
- ⇒ Major policing event was the forthcoming Solheim Cup

There followed a general discussion on community policing matters in the county and on the interaction between the Garda with the communities through neighbourhood watch, visits to schools and the elderly, and assistance to local groups. The meeting noted and welcomed the co-operation between the Garda and the Council in relation dealing with criminal activity and in particular on a number of recent planning cases. It was agreed by the Garda as there was no community bus in Meath an application would be made for inclusion in the scheme.

The issue of speeding on the roads in the county and in particular around the Dunshaughlin/Ratoath/Ashbourne areas was raised. The meeting was advised by the Chief Superintendent that where Members were aware of specific issues/cases of such activity they should be channelled through the District Superintendent.

(b) Meath County Council

The report from Meath County Council on anti social behaviour affecting the Council's housing stock indicated the following was the position at September 2011:

- ⇒ Number of Complaints investigated was 72 (58 June)
- ⇒ Number of Verbal Warnings issued was 26 (23 June)
- ⇒ Number of Written Warning issued was 11 (8 June)
- ⇒ Number of Abandonment Notices issued 4 (2 June)

6. Presentation on the Needle Exchange Programme.

Lorna Weldon from the project provided a presentation (copy attached). She advised that a pilot project was in place in Navan for a few months now and provides access to a hidden population of drug users not in contact with agencies/services. She explained that the project was delivered through Anna Liffey Drug Project, HSE Outreach Services and Meath Community Drug & Alcohol Response and that the programme was flexible and mobile and in this case the mobile unit was based at a fixed site in Navan. She confirmed that the plan would be to move the unit to other parts of the county in the future and that the response to the project had been very positive in Meath. Questions raised by Members were answered. The Chairperson thanked Lorna for her presentation and wished her continued success with the project.

7. Business

- ⇒ Discussion on the need for **regulation and control of intoxicating substances** such as alcohol, drugs in public places in the county and it was suggested that bye-laws were required to be drafted and implemented. It was noted that Navan Town Council had made bye-laws in this regard recently. It was agreed that this matter should be considered by the Anti Social Behaviour Working Sub Group.

This concluded the business of the meeting.