



***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***  
***County Meath Joint Policing Committee***

***25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in the Beaufort Meeting Room Buvinda House Navan***

**In Attendance:**

**Chairperson:** Cllr Francis Deane

**County Council Members:** Maria Murphy, Gillian Toole, Noel French, Tom Behan, Yemi Achiola, Alan Tobin

**Oireachtas Members:** Senator Sharon Keogan, Dp Darren O'Rourke

**An Garda Síochána:** Chief Superintendent Fergus Healey,

**County Council Officials:** Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon

**Community & Voluntary Sector:** Ronnie Owens, Conor O'Leary, Tinu Achioya, Bernard Kenny,

**Co-ordinator:** Eugene Farrelly SSO

**Apologies/Absent:**

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<b><u>Confirmation of Minute of Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020</u></b> The Minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Gillian Toole seconded by Cllr Francis Deane
2.	<b><u>Matters arising and Correspondence</u></b> There were no matters arising from Minutes and no correspondence for raising with the Members. Cllr Gillian Toole volunteered to liaise with the liaison officer in arranging for a presentation on drugs issues in the County for the next meeting in September as had to be deferred from today's meeting due to Covid 19.



**3. To Receive an update on crime stats for Meath from Chief Super Fergus Healey**

CS Healy informed the Committee of the workload that the Covid 19 pandemic had impacted on the Division in place from 12<sup>th</sup> March .He thanked the many agencies that had come together such as HSE,MCC,AGS and the many voluntary bodies that have cooperated closely in delivering an outstanding service to the community.One of the consequences of the pandemic is the great reduction in crimes due to persons being largely home based and no business operation ongoing.

Crime category	%
Property crime	-11
Burglary (non aggravated)	-7
Theft from Vehicles	-8
Theft of Vehicles	-37
Theft from Shop	-10
Theft of Other Property	+2
Crimes against the person	+8
Drugs ( sale & supply)	
Drugs (possession)	

Two fatalities had occurred on Co Meath Roads with a motorcyclist on the Navan - Kells road in March and a pedestrian recently on the M1 outside Drogheda. Overall the reduction of traffic on the roads had led to a general reduction in road casualties and collisions. There have been issues with congregations of youths at the Beach during the good spell of weather which has meant extra patrolling of the beach and having a presence at Laytown and Gormanstown stations when trains come in from Dublin which involve turning persons back to Dublin.

**New appointments as follows:**

Supt Martina Noonan to Trim from Navan

Supt Tara Waters to Kells from Dublin

Supt Frank Duggan retired recently in Ashbourne

Supt Sean Farrell retiring in September from Navan

2 No Community Hubs Meath North-Navan /Kells Meath South -Ashbourne/Trim

Overall SC Healy is happy with the operational side during the pandemic with the road checkpoints being successful in capturing a number of criminals for drugs and gangland offences and indeed confiscation a number of cars for many offences. He is also happy with the way the AGS has been accepted into the Community and voluntary sector.

**Chair Deane thanked Fergus for his comprehensive presentation and then opened it to the floor for comments or queries on the content of the report.**



	<p><b>Members who made contributions were:</b> Cllr Noel French, Dep Darren O Rourke, Cllr Yemi Atenuga, Senator Sharon Keogan, Cllr Maria Murphy ,Cllr Tom Behan, Conor O Leary, Ronnie Owens, Cllr Alan Tobin, Cllr Gillian Toole, on various topics such as: Complementing AGS on works during covid and AGS visibility ,Domestic Violence increase and stats for same in September,12 hour better than 10 hour shifts, No of S12 (child into care) issues -no increase ,speed on minor and major roads, National slow-down day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Influx of persons to Bettystown and Mornington beaches during Covid Lockdown, Idea of engaging text alert groups in the digital age of Zoom calls .</p> <p><b>Chair Deane thanked Chief Supt Healy for his report and responses to members and it was agreed that a good part of the next meeting would be devoted to the drugs issue in the county with suitable speakers</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Report from the 3 Sub Committees</b> Eugene referred to the written report as circulated last week where the work of the sub-committees is outlined including the recommendation from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Sub Committee to seek a presentation from the company looking at Text Alert connectivity in Co Monaghan for the September meeting. <b>The Chair acknowledged the work the Sub Committees are undertaking and thanked all for their participation .</b></p> <p><b>AOB and next Meeting Date</b> Cllr Tobin raised the issue of outdoor consumption of alcohol in public places on foot of his motion to the main Council some years ago similar to what has been instigated in Dublin LAs recently. CS Healy commented that it can work well if incorporated in the Fixed Penalty Notice APP as currently used by the front line officers .It was noted that the Navan Town Council had instigated same some years ago with enforcement by AGS and authorised officers of the Council. If the on-the-spot fine was not paid it was up to the Council to pursue payment through the District Court.  Barry Lynch regarded that a piece of work needs to be done to make such an APP workable . Senator Keogan deplored the talk of closing the Garda Museum in Templemore when its to be closed for new recruits and proposed that a letter should issue from the JPC to the Minister for Justice /Garda Commissioner for response to this issue.  Next JPC Meeting dates confirmed as 14<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> December with Public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October in Ratoath MD. The Chief raised the issue of drugs in the County and informed that the Commissioner was keen that a part of a JPC Meeting should be devoted to this subject with relevant speakers invited.</p> <p>The Chair suggested and the members agreed that a good part of the Sept meeting should be concentrated on the Drugs issue.</p>



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

CLlr Francis Deane

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_