**Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 31st March 2017 at 3pm.**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** ChairpersonCllr. J. P. Feeley, Cllr. W. Bennett, Cllr. P. Mc Vitty, Cllr. P. Smith, Cllr. M. Argue, Cllr. N. Connell, Cllr. P. Mc Donald, Cllr S. O’ Reilly, Cllr. C. Brady, Cllr S. P. O’ Reilly, Cllr. F. Curtin

**Community Representatives:** Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott,

Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady Smith, Ashling Tobin,

**Executive**: Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle, (Social Inclusion Unit)

**Garda Officers**: Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan, Superintendent James Coen, Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan

**Oireachtas Members:** Senator J. O’ Reilly

**Apologies:** Cllr. C. Kelly, Deputy N. Smyth, Senator D. Wilson, Cllr. C. Brady

**In Attendance:** David Farrelly, Roads Safety Officer

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1. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Cllr. D. Brady proposed the minutes and Cllr. W. Bennett seconded them.

There were no matters arising.

1. **Presentation on the County Cavan Road Safety Plan by David Farrelly, Road Safety Officer, Cavan County Council**

Cllr. Feeley introduced David Farrelly, the Roads Safety Officer within Cavan County Council and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr. Farrelly provided a comprehensive overview on the development of the County Cavan Road Safety Plan 2017 to 2020, detailing:

* Membership of the Road Safety Plan Working Group
* Their mission statement
* Objectives & targets of the plan
* Overall profile of the county
* Cavan’s Collision and Fatalities Statistics
* Stakeholders Involved
* Details on actions within the plan

Cllr. Feeley thanked Mr. Farrelly on his presentation, adding that it’s good to see a multi-agency approach being taken through the plan.

D. Brady thanked Mr. Farrelly on his presentation also. He stated that some of the decisions being taken by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are putting road users in danger. He requested that the County Cavan JPC issue a letter to TII in relation to this issue.

Mr. Farrelly agreed that this is something the Roads Safety Committee could work on jointly with the JPC on and a joint submission could be made.

Cllr. P. Smith believes that the TII and the Roads Safety Authority are not interested in councillor’s comments and suggestions. More enforcement is needed around speeding and more speed limits are needed.

Cllr. Feeley noted that this matter had already been discussed at a recent County Council Meeting and the request has been put forward to the TII to come and meet with them. He hopes that this will go towards helping to resolve some of the issues.

Senator O’Reilly welcomed the Road Safety Plan, stating that its important to see education programmes included within the plan. He believes that it is especially important that such programmes are targeted at Transitional Year (TY) students. He suggested that Mr. Farrelly links in with all the TY Co-ordinators within the county’s schools to ensure these education programmes are targeted directly at these schools

Cllr. Feeley informed members that the Road Safety Plan will be adopted at the next council meeting.

1. **County Cavan JPC Six Year Strategic Plan**

Ms. Boyle provided an overview of the six year strategic plan developed for the County Cavan JPC, covering in detail the main objectives and actions contained within it.

Cllr. Feeley said that it is important to note that the JPC is not an implementing body; it has more of a co-ordinating role and this plan is reflective of this. He invited feedback and comments from members in relation to the plan put forward.

Deputy O’Reilly congratulated all those involved in the development of the strategy. He stated that the best and most effective activity included within the plan is to have a dedicated community guard allocated to each urban area. He is happy to see that the plan highlights the importance of the interaction between the JPC and the Drugs & Alcohol Forum and stated the importance of the JPC supporting the work locally of the Cavan Drugs Awareness Project. He thought the Bailieborough Garda Open Day initiative was a great idea and is glad to see that it will be rolled out further to other stations within the county under the plan. He stated that the CCTV Scheme has huge potential; it’s a deterrent to crime being carried out and it’s also very useful for evidence gathering purposes. He also made reference to a new bill which is currently being drafted involving contact between motorists and cyclists which he believes will be of importance.

Supt. Coen responded to the point made around community guards. He said that gardaí are currently being assigned to different estates and built up areas within the county.

Chief Supt. Mangan said that in relation to the issue of Drugs he believes that the re-established Divisional Drugs Unit will have a huge contribution to make in tackling this issue. However he believes it is of critical importance that those taking drugs receive the appropriate supports and rehabilitation treatments available to support them to come off them and prevent them from going back on them. He also stated that CCTV is essential in helping to prevent crime and resolves many issues, he is highly supportive of this.

Cllr. Connell welcomed the plan but asked could the An Garda Síochána’s crime statistics which were used within the plan be trusted in light of recent media reports.

Chief Supt. Mangan replied that he would be majorly concerned if the figures for the division were not being recorded accurately. He advised that a major internal audit is underway within the division to investigate the recent media claims. He sought to remind members that there is excellent work being undertaken by the gardaí by some very committed and responsible personal.

Cllr. Feeley commended Chief Supt. Mangan for his honest and frank response. He expressed his gratitude and respect for the work An Garda Síochána carry out, stating that it is important to acknowledge the level of risk they put themselves under in carrying out their duties and he believes that the vast majority of people recognise this.

B. Mc Dermott enquired into the census figures used within the report. He asked why the 2011 census data was used and not the more up to date 2016 data. He also enquired into the Electoral Divisions highlighted as ‘disadvantaged’ within the report and where they are located within the county. G. Boyle replied that at the time of writing up the report only preliminary data from the 2016 census was available, the more detailed county data will not be available until later in the year. She said that a map to highlight areas of deprivation within the county will be included within the final report.

The plan was proposed by Cllr. W. Bennett and seconded by Cllr. P. Mc Vitty.

Cllr. Feeley told members that they will be contacted regarding the launch of the JPC Strategy once arrangements were made.

1. **AOB**

Cllr. Feeley informed members that the Ballinagh Community Alert are applying for funding for a Community CCTV Scheme within the town and are seeking endorsement of their project through the Co. Cavan JPC.

Cllr. W. Bennett said that there are huge volumes of traffic going through the town and the installation of a Community CCTV System would be of benefit for both the town and An Garda Síochána.

Cllr. S. P. O’Reilly proposed the endorsement of the scheme and Cllr. P. Mc Vitty seconded this.

Supt. Coen commended the community within Ballinagh for driving this project.

E. Doyle informed members that an announcement by the Department of Justice on a new round of funding for the Community CCTV Scheme is to be made shortly. He asked the elected members to consider suitable CCTV Schemes which could be supported in the future through this funding source. Communities are to provide match funding but there is potential to co-fund such schemes through the Council’s Municipal District Funding Scheme.

Cllr. Feeley suggested that this scheme would be of particular importance to areas where garda stations have closed down. He encouraged the elected members to work with their local communities who wish to apply for funding under the new scheme. Cllr. S.O’ Reilly and F. Mc Dermott both said that there was a strong requirement for a CCTV Scheme in Shercock.

Cllr. D. Brady welcomed the new scheme for Ballinagh and enquired who would be responsible for monitoring the cameras. Supt. Coen replied that the camera’s will not require continual monitoring, however they are good to revert back to as and when needed.

Cllr. S. P. O’Reilly raised the issue for the need of a Dog Handling Unit within the Cavan & Monaghan Division. He also wanted to request that extra garda personal be assigned to the Mullagh area due to the significant increase in its population growth. He congratulated the staff of the Bailieborough Garda Station for their recent Open Day.

Chief Supt. Mangan replied to say that he would look further into the viability of a Dog Handling Unit. He said that they have a very active unit in Dublin which is very effective. He acknowledged Cllr O’Reilly’s request for additional gardaí to be assigned to Mullagh and said that he is continually seeking additional personal for the Cavan & Monaghan Division and in specific for the Bailieborough Sub-District as it is very under resourced.

Cllr. S. O’ Reilly requested that the JPC lobby to fast track the new Garda Headquarters Building which has been agreed to be located in Bailieborough. Cllr. Feeley agreed that a letter would be written to the Minister on behalf of the JPC to request this. Senator O’ Reilly stated that there have been fantastic achievements under this to date with the capital programme for the building having received full approval. He said that he will also continue to lobby for progress on its development and informed members that there is currently a slight technical issue with securing the site for the building, however he is positive that this will be resolved very shortly.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the County Cavan JPC will take place on the 30th June at 3pm in the Council Chamber.