**Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 22nd February 2019 at 3pm.**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr Sarah O’ Reilly, Cllr Winston Bennett, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Smith, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cllr Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr Carmel Brady, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Madeleine Argue

**Community Representatives:** Bob Gilbert, Noleen Brady, Vanessa Clarke,

**Executive**: Gráinne Boyle (Community & Enterprise).

**Garda Officers**: Chief Superintendent John O’Reilly, Superintendent James Coen

**Oireachtas Members:** Senator Joe O’Reilly, Deputy Brendan Smith,

**Apologies:** Cllr Shane P. O’Reilly, Frank Mc Dermott, Cllr Noel O’ Connell, Cllr Damien Brady, Senator Diarmuid Wilson, Aisling Tobin, Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Brendan Jennings, (Director of Services), Deputy Niamh Smyth, Superintendent Timothy Burke,

**In Attendance:** Inspector Valerie Gahen - Bailieborough Division, Barry Carey (IFA), Sean Mc Mahon Anglo Celt,

Chair Cllr Feeley welcomed everyone to the meeting including Inspector Valerie Gahen, Bailieborough Division and Barry Carey IFA.

**Minutes from meeting of 7th December 2019 & Matters Arising**

No matters were arising from the previous meeting.

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. P. Mc Vitty and seconded by Cllr. W. Bennett.

**Overview on Crime Prevention Initiatives undertaken by the IFA – Barry Carry, Crime Prevention Officer, IFA**

B. Carry provided an overview on the type of activities undertaken by the IFA in relation to crime prevention under the following categories:

* Bodies and organisations they engage with to undertake this work, including providing annual submissions to the Policing Authority for Policing Plans
* Current trends nationwide - the IFA are seeing trailers, tractors and quad bikes as the main items targeted in recent times, the trend of steeling cattle and sheep seems to have decreased. The other area of concern is the theft of tools from outhouses, farms and vans.
* Crime prevention measures including the Rural Crime Task Force, 999/112, WhatsApp Group, Eyes & Ears Group, Community CCTV Scheme

Chair Feeley complimented B. Carey on a very interesting presentation and invited questions from members.

Senator O’Reilly enquired if the IFA endorses the Property Marking Initiative to its members. B. Carey said they welcome all initiatives which can prevent crime and theft and this initiative is particularly useful in helping to recover property items to return to their owners. IFA still strongly promote TheftStop also.

Senator O’Reilly asked what impact Operation Thor has had on IFA’s members. B. Carey replied that it has been a great success to date, certain areas have been continually targeted in the past and this has proved to be a great deterrent.

Cllr. W. Bennett made the point that the IFA and the GAA are a great help to the gardaí in supporting crime prevention. However he believes the problem still lies in the short sentences being handed down to those committing crimes.

Cllr. Mc Vitty brought up the issue of livestock theft and the ongoing problem around this for farmers. B. Carey agreed with him adding that this area of crime in particular can be difficult to detect and prevent. He referred to Community CCTV Schemes and the important role these can have in preventing this area of crime. Cllr. Mc Vitty said that the ongoing issue of who will monitor the CCTV screens under this scheme needs to be resolved. Ideally he believes the gardaí should have the responsibility for this. He asked if there were any further updates in relation to the Community CCTV Scheme. Chair Cllr. Feeley replied that the issue is still with the County & City Managers Association as they have raised concerns on the County Council’s being appointed as data controllers for the scheme considering the recent GDPR legislation. He also added that there a multitude of issues which should be reviewed in connection with the scheme such as where the equipment is housed, costs etc.

Deputy Smith commented that there is a very good traceability system on animals currently. However he believes that there needs to more severe penalties and zero tolerance on anyone who trades in livestock. It is up to everyone to be vigilant in this area as the gardaí are too under resourced to tackle this on their own.

**Crime Statistics for Q.4 2018 compared to Q.4 2017**

Chief Superintendent O’Reilly read through the Crime Statistics for Q. 4 compared to Q.4 2017.

Deputy Smith highlighted the lack of supports available for those suffering domestic violence in Counties Cavan and Monaghan. He enquired if this need has been identified through An Garda Síochána. Chief Superintendent O’ Reilly said the nearest domestic violence refuges are in Navan and Dundalk. Tearmann also operate in Castleblaney providing support services in this area. He stated that follow up supports are available to reporters of domestic violence however it is not within the remit of An Garda Síochána to provide a domestic refuge facilities.

Cllr. Argue enquired if the gardaí provide a call back service to reporting domestic violence. Chief Superintendent O’ Reilly responded yes they are obliged to provide a call back service, it is a huge step for an individual to make a complaint so this after support is needed.

G. Boyle referred to a local multi-agency group called Cavan Against Domestic Violence who are exploring the possibility of applying for funding support to set up a domestic violence refuge and support service for County Cavan. This group is being supported through Breffni Integrated. She said the work of this group is pending following a study being conducted by Tusla into the availability of refuge centres nationally, following this it is hoped that funding will be made available to develop a refuge centre locally. Both Deputy Smith and Senator O’ Reilly both acknowledged this study stating that it has been going on for some time and needs to be progressed.

Chief Superintendent O’ Reilly pointed out that Cavan has the highest Drug Driving detections outside of Dublin which is an ongoing concern.

Cllr. Mc Vitty referred to the rise in the number of public order offences and enquired if this is caused by late night drinking on the weekends. Superintendent Coen replied that these incidences are not exclusive to the weekend only and can happen any time of the week although there would be a spike in the numbers then. He explained that with the enforcement of Liquor Licence Laws society has seen a cultural shift. More people are drinking at home and by the time they try to enter into public premises they are often refused, as a result they end up on the streets. Another issue relating to this is often the unavailability of taxis late at night so people end up hanging around.

In relation to specific figures around elderly abuse Bob Gilbert stated that he was not surprised with the low figure recorded as people are often very reluctant to come forward, however he referred to research that indicates as much as 1 in 20 people suffer from this. Superintendent Coen acknowledged that this is a very difficult and sensitive area but individuals who do come forward are provided with lots of support.

Cllr. Mc Vitty offered his gratitude to the gardaí for attending a public meeting in Mullagh recently.

**Review of the 2018 JPC Work Programme**

G. Boyle presented a report detailing all the work undertaken over 2018 to progress the implementation of the JPC’s Strategy 2017 – 2022. Some of the highlights undertaken include:

* Quarterly meeting of the JPC.
* One public meeting and two public information meetings hosted by the JPC.
* Community Property Marking Initiative underway.
* Cavan Drugs & Alcohol Forum – ‘Local Directory of Services’ produced and Teacher Training Workshop delivered on Drugs & Alcohol.
* Ongoing supports provided for the Community CCTV Scheme. Three applications submitted and reviewed by the national CCTV Advisory Committee. Two further groups are also being supported to prepare applications.
* Public Participation Network hosted two public JPC Linkage Group meetings over 2018.
* Sports Partnership hosted various safety initiatives as part of Bike Week 2019.
* Road Policing and Road Safety – An Garda Síochána hosted ‘Beep Beep Day’ and the ‘Are you too young to die’ Programme.

Cllr. Mc Vitty said it was good to see that activity is underway and receive an overview of what is going on.

Cllr. C. Kelly thanked the Chief Superintendent for the recent increase in the garda numbers allocated to the Kingscourt area. He went on to say that he would like to see consideration provided for a Sergeant to be appointed also.

Cllr. Mc Vitty sought clarification on what is happening with the Ballyconnell Community CCTV Scheme, explaining that poles have recently been put up for the cameras, but nothing has happened since. G. Boyle said she would make enquires into this and come back to him with further information.

**Next Meeting**

Chair Cllr. Feeley explained that this would be the last meeting of this current JPC as it will be necessary to reform a new committee following the local elections in May.

He acknowledged the support of the Vice Chair Cllr. Mc Vitty and also G. Boyle for her assistance with the co-ordination of the JPC. He also thanked the elected representatives and community representatives for their involvement in the JPC over the past term. Lastly, he praised An Garda Síochána for their co-operation and openness.

Chief Superintendent O’ Reilly thanked Chair Cllr. Feeley and members of the JPC for their input and assistance over the duration of the JPC’s term.

Cllr. Kelly complemented Cllr. Feeley for excellent chairing of the meeting and was joined by Cllr. Argue in this sentiment, she also thanked the Chief Superintendent and the local media for their role in supporting the JPC.