

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST JOINT POLICING SUB COMMITTEE HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER, 2019, AT 11.45 AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J. Scanlan, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin and Ruddle.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Senior Manager, Libraries, Museum and Gallery of Art (Mr. D. Brady), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Councillors Collins and Sheahan.

Director, Community Development Directorate (Mr. G. Daly).

Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. J. Rigney).

Superintendent A. Magner, Inspector A. Lacey, Detective Sergeant M. Reidy and Sergeant G. Thompson.

At the outset of the Meeting the Cathaoirleach and the other Members welcomed Superintendent Magner to her first meeting of the Newcastle West Joint Policing Sub Committee and wished her well on her new appointment.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Policing Sub Committee Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 6th March, 2019.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed”.

2. Policing Issues in the District

Superintendent Magner commenced by thanking the Members for their welcome and gave an update on policing issues within the District. She confirmed the number of checkpoints carried out within the District and the cases, which the Gardai dealt with including criminal damage, public order offences, assaults, thefts, road traffic accidents, drink and drugs.

She stated that there was a decrease in the incidents of burglary, crime, public order offences, minor assaults but confirmed that there was an increase in assault causing harm. She stated that the incidents of drug detection and possession had decreased but there was an increase in the incidents of Section 15 Drugs for Sale and a significant increase in drug drivers detected.

She noted two fatal Road Traffic Accidents that had taken place in the District. She also referred to the increase in domestic incidents and the new policy in place for dealing with same. She stated that there has been an increase in theft from shops carried out by young girls in the 12-18 age group but a Juvenile Liaison Officer is working in this area. She also referred to juvenile anti-social behaviour in housing estates. She encouraged the use of the community text alert system and referred to community policing noting that the District is divided into different areas with a Guard assigned to each area.

Inspector Lacey referred to assaults in public areas and the measures taken by the Gardai to address same. He also referred to the Defensive Weapons Strategy where key trends are being identified and the implementation of a media campaign in the schools to highlight the dangers associated with carrying weapons. He mentioned the concerns of the elderly at Halloween time but confirmed that additional resources would be in place on Halloween night.

Detective Sergeant Reidy referred to serious crime in the District and the key areas to focus on in relation to burglaries. He referred to local criminal elements where individuals live locally, organised crime gangs who travel the country to carry out burglaries and organised foreign groups who fly into the country and target a particular area. He referred to the importance of the assistance of members of the public in the investigation of crime and also noted the use of CCTV in tackling incidents.

Detective Sergeant Reidy also made reference to theft from vehicles and the advice not to leave property on display in vehicles. Theft from shops was also referred to where a good detection rate is achieved.

He referred to the stealing of metal by criminals and that the Gardai are working with metal companies on this matter. He also noted the increase in fraud and economic crimes and the need to be cautious when disclosing bank details.

Sergeant Thompson gave a comprehensive overview of the Text Alert System, which is of great benefit to the local community and the Gardai. He also noted its use in locating missing persons.

The Members acknowledged the work of the Community Alert groups and the importance of providing monitors to people living alone.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed the comprehensive overview of policing matters within the District. The Members referred to a number of items including the opening hours of Abbeyfeale Garda Station and the need for a Sergeant for the station. The Members also referred to illegal dumping and asked if the Gardai could liaise with the Council to alleviate the issue of illegal dumping. Inspector Lacey confirmed a Liaison person has been assigned to liaise with the Council on these matters. The following items were also raised including road numbers on local roads, anti-social behaviour in housing estates, cctv cameras and their monitoring. The Superintendent also confirmed an extra two people have been assigned to the Roads Policing Unit in Abbeyfeale.

On a query from the Members regarding the provision of a new Garda Station, for Newcastle West, the Superintendent confirmed that designs for a new Garda Station are being prepared. The Members also referred to the importance of having a Superintendent remain in the town of Newcastle West.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
