

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE EXHIBITION AREA,  
MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON TUESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2016 AT 2.30 P.M.**

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**PRESENT :** Councillors Ó Ceallaigh, Keller, Lynch, Daly, O'Brien, Keary, O'Donoghue,  
and Mitchell

Senator Kieran O'Donnell, Maurice Quinlivan, T.D.

Chief Superintendent Sheahan, Superintendent Smart and  
Lynda Breen, Senior Crime & Policing Analyst

Ms. M. McElvaney, Adapt Services, Mr. P. McElligott, GOSHH  
and Mr. T. O'Dwyer, Anglesboro Tidy Towns

Mr. Murray, Chief Executive, Mr. O'Connor, Senior Executive Officer (Corporate) and Dr. .  
Humphreys, Research Assistant, Social Development  
And Ms. Creamer, Staff Officer (Corporate)

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Joint Policing Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016**

Circulated, copy of minutes of Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

On the proposal of Councillor Daly, seconded by Councillor Ger Mitchell, the Minutes of Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, were confirmed.

Councillor Ó Ceallaigh said he asked at the last meeting that consideration be given to having a Garda kiosk in the city centre and a bigger presence of gardai but that same was not recorded in the minutes.

Chief Superintendent Sheahan said he saw the benefits of such a kiosk in the city centre but added that he did not have the resources to operate it.

Dr. James Ring, Chairman, Limerick Business Association to come to next meeting and give his views on such a kiosk which the Limerick Business Association said they would finance. Discussions could take place regarding the running of the kiosk.

At the request of Ms. Monica McElvaney, statistics on breach of barring orders and domestic violence will be submitted to the next meeting.

**2. To receive update on Annual Work Plan and Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategy.**

Dr. Humphreys gave presentation on the preparation of Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategy 2016 – 2020 and Joint Policing Committee Annual Work Programme.

Councillor O'Donoghue requested that additional gardai be allocated to Croom Garda Station and that consideration be given to lapping over of areas for policing purposes. He asked if there were any plans for CCTV in rural areas.

Mr. M. Quinlivan, T.D., said the PPN should be developed as soon as possible. He asked if the Gardai reassigned to Templemore from Limerick will be replaced.

Chief Superintendent Sheahan said this meeting should be focused on progressing the Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategy before the year end and not discussing operational issues.

Councillor Lynch suggested that the next Joint Policing Committee Meeting would be a public meeting and as all the PPN representatives were not coming on board the Committee should go out into the communities and consult with the public. The public needed to see visibility of Gardai and have their fears relieved.

Senator Kieran O'Donnell stated that the Six Year Strategy should reflect An Garda Síochána's plans. He asked what strategies were being put in place to deal with anti social behaviour which was one of the main issues in Limerick city and county. He asked what the politicians can do to request additional Garda resources as there were inadequate resources in Limerick at present.

In reply to Members, the Chief Executive said that the Joint Policing Committee had a role in the compilation of a Joint Policing Committee Six year Strategy. He acknowledged the work of An Garda Síochána but said that if a public meeting was being held then the Council and Gardai need to be very clear on what was being presented to the public. Options needed to be brought back to this Committee for consideration and a decision was required on how to meet with the public. Both the Council and the Gardai needed to be supporting the same approach and strategy. He commended the PPN Representatives that had come through and stressed the importance of their role. He said it was possible to have a six year Strategy in place by the end of the year.

The Chief Superintendent stressed the importance of getting feedback from the councillors on the various issues being experienced in each area which could be incorporated into the six year Strategy. The Gardai work very closely with the HSE, Local Authority and other services and the councillors assistance was needed to bring in other agencies. He stated that the Garda Divisional Plans were on the Garda Website and the six year Strategy compiled by the Joint Policing Committee should run parallel with the Garda Strategy. The six year Strategy should deal with key issues at a higher level and he expressed his disappointment that the Committee could not come back with four or five key issues for discussion.

After much discussion, the Senior Executive Officer suggested that Officials work with the Chief Superintendent over the next four weeks and then come back to the Joint Policing Committee with a document for discussion at a workshop. Items for the Annual Plan could be developed at that stage.

This was agreed.

### **3. To note activities under 'Operations Hands Free'**

The Chief Superintendent stated that they had a number of high profile days of action regarding people using mobile phones and approx. 60 people were detected daily using mobile phones while driving. In conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, The Gardai have launched an incentive with businesses who sell hands free mobile phone kits to supply hands free kits at competitive rates to members of the public. The incentive is to run until Christmas and will then be reviewed. It is hoped that this new incentive will result in a decrease in the number of people using mobile phones while driving and to change peoples behaviour.

Members welcomed this new incentive and commended the Chief Superintendent on being proactive on this matter.

#### **4. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Submitted the following Notice of Motion from Councillor Malachy McCreesh (referred from Meeting of Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016) :

"That this Council takes a more active role in resolving the ongoing problems associated with student events in licensed premises in the Milk Market area. The commencement of the new academic year has again seen unacceptable levels of behaviour by the patrons as they arrive and leave the Night Clubs. There are many families living in this area that have to endure this situation on at least three nights every week".

In reply to Members, the Chief Superintendent stated that there had been a large number of complaints from residents in the Milk Market area regarding anti social behaviour and noise from patrons arriving and leaving the night clubs in the area since the commencement of the new academic year. A sergeant had been appointed to deal with residents near University of Limerick and the Students Union prior to and during 'Rag Week'. The Guards had a strong relationship with the vintners and Superintendent Smart work very closely with the Chamber of Commerce in relation to the Purple Flag. The Chief Superintendent agreed to take on board members concerns regarding problems being experienced in the Milk Market area and Denmark Street with a view to having a greater presence of Gardai when patrons are entering and exiting night clubs in that area.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chief Superintendent gave a powerpoint presentation giving a Divisional Overview for 2015 and 2016 year to date. This showed a decrease in each area in 2016 compared to 2015 apart from Crimes against the Person.

He pointed out that there had been a loss of 90 Gardai from Limerick Division over the last few years due to retirements, promotions and an open competition to go to Tullamore College to train young recruits. It was hoped that the ten Guards who went to Tullamore would be replaced when the new recruits had passed out in November/December this year.

Members commended the Chief Superintendent and the Gardai for the tremendous work that had been done and stressed the importance of keeping up this good work.

At the request of Cllr. Lynch, the Chief Superintendent stated that the number of searches which had taken place for possession of drugs would be included in future presentations.

In reply to Cllr. O'Donoghue, the Chief Superintendent stated that there was a strategy in place since June in relation to the spate of stolen quad bikes in the county, as a result of which there has been no thefts of quad bikes since June.

At the request of Ms. McElvaney statistics on domestic violence would be included in future presentations.

The Chief Superintendent appealed to the public to be extra vigilant regarding the theft of diesel from tanks and vehicles.

Cmhlr. Ceallaigh asked for a breakdown of when drink driving and drugs testing took place and was informed by the Chief Superintendent that he would submit such figures at the next meeting. He added that 99% of drunk drivers were not morning catches. He would also submit to the next meeting statistics in relation to uninsured drivers and cars seized. He added that 45 test purchasing operations took place in off-licenses as a result of which there were eight breaches of the law. Another such operation would take place in a few weeks time again.

Cllr. Lynch informed Members that a Policing Authority was set up this year and all the Chairs of Joint Policing Committees were invited to a meeting and consultation day. The Authority is putting together a Code of Ethics for Gardai and civilians that work with The Gardai and will be coming out in a booklet form. All Members are invited to look at such booklet which can be downloaded from the Policing Authority's website [info@policeauthority.ie](mailto:info@policeauthority.ie). Members had until Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September to make submissions. By the end of this year there will be a Code of Ethics for everyone working with An Garda Siochana.

#### **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that a Workshop would be held on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2016 at 2.30 p.m. in the Exhibition Area, Ground Floor, Merchant's Quay.

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

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