

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, ON FRIDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2018, AT 10.00 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor Seán Lynch

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Keller, Costelloe, Ó Ceallaigh, Gilligan, Daly, Keary, Mitchell, O'Donoghue, Ryan, O'Brien.

**OIREACHTAS MEMBERS:**

Ministers Mr. N. Collins, Mr. M Quinlivan, Ms. O'Sullivan

**GARDA NOMINATIONS:**

Chief Superintendent (Mr. G. Roche), Superintendent (Mr. D. Smart), Superintendent (Mr. B Byrne) Sergeant Inspector (Mr. D. O'Connor)

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:**

Mr. T. O'Dwyer, Anglesboro Tidy Town, Ms. M. McElvaney, Adapt Services.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. J. Clune), Administrative Officer, (Ms. F. McCormack) Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. C. Sheehy).

**OTHER:**

An Garda Siochana (Ms. A. Garrard, Ms. B. Leech)

**APOLOGIES:**

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray)

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Proposed by Councillor Mitchell;

Seconded by Councillor Keary;

And Resolved:

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

Councillor Keary requested an update in respect of a previous query in relation to Garda road signs being removed from National Primary Routes. The Chief Superintendent requested that details of same be forward to Sergeant O'Donoghue for his attention.

Ms. McElvaney requested that the names of all the Community Guards and the areas they are covering be circulated to the Joint Policing Committee and not just all Councillors.

**2. To receive presentation from Sergeant Bernie Leech, Crime Prevention Officer, Limerick City and County on Crime Prevention for Autumn 2018**

Sergeant Leech gave a PowerPoint presentation on Crime Prevention. She informed the Members that her role as Crime Prevention Officer was to provide advice to groups within the City and County by engaging with the Communities, visiting victims of crime and to conduct security surveys of properties.

She informed the Members that the number of burglaries is likely to increase dramatically during the winter months. She highlighted the need to ensure windows, doors were locked, alarms are activated, and to give the impression properties are occupied.

The Members thanked Sergeant Leech for her presentation and acknowledged the work being carried out. The Chief Superintendent stated that prevention was key and unfortunately, during the winter months there would always be a spike in crime.

In response to queries, the Chief Superintendent acknowledged the need for Community Gardaí within the County, highlighted the importance of the Community Policing framework, and acknowledged the support from the Members.

**3. To receive Presentation from Linda Breen, Senior Analyst on Crime Figures and Trends**

It was agreed that this item would be dealt with under Item 4 of the agenda.

**4. To receive update from Chief Superintendent**

The Chief Superintendent gave a PowerPoint presentation on the latest crime statistics for Limerick City and County under the following headings:

- Property crime
- Crimes against the person
- Criminal damage and Public Order
- Drug crimes
- Traffic

He acknowledged that vehicle thief was a problem around the city, with some vehicles being left unlocked. He informed the Members that the amount of burglaries had decreased over the last few months due to an increase of patrolling and arrest of a number

of offenders. He stated that an anti-burglary strategy had been drawn up for the remainder of the year, which would see members of the Roads Policing Unit carrying out additional patrols.

Councillor O'Brien raised concerns over the increase use of recreational drugs in particular around the Shannon Estuary. He highlighted the need for a multi-agency approach as outlined in the National Drugs Strategy.

**5. To receive Presentation from Inspector Dermot O'Connor in relation to Control of Horses**

The Inspector gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Control of Horses for the Limerick Garda Division outlining the following key points:-

- Types of complaints
- Multiagency Co-operation
- Horses seized
- Equine Education and Therapeutic Programme

He informed the Members that the Gardaí worked closely with Limerick City and County Council and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine when enforcing the legislation and that no licence allowing a horse to be kept within the city had ever been issued. He stated that considerable resources were deployed during every operation to seize loose horses.

The Members thanked Inspector O'Connor for his informative presentation and expressed the need for a Horse Strategy to be put in place. The Members expressed disappointment that officials from the Council who dealt with the Controls of Horses were not present. Some Members expressed concern with the proposed Horse Project and with the cost associated with the project. The Members also expressed concern at the outdated legislation governing the Control of Horses, particularly in Urban Areas.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary**

*I will move at the September Meeting of Limerick City and County Council Joint Policing Committee that this Committee ask the Minister for Transport to immediately bring forward more stringent legislation regarding the sale of second hand vehicles in the Republic of Ireland. This legislation should place an onus on the sellers and purchasers of such vehicles to have the sale and purchase legally recorded before possession of a vehicle is given to the purchasers.*

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Keary and seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

In proposing, the Motion Councillor Keary highlight the controls of selling most goods and services. The Members acknowledged that Traffic Corps were proactive in policing this

issues but legislation for same needed to be strengthened. Following further discussion, the Members agreed that this Motion should be forward on behalf of the Committee to the Minister for Transport.

### **QUESTION**

#### **7. Question submitted by Councillor F. Daly**

*In light of recent serious incidents where knives were used, have the Gardaí increased the level of stop/search legislation to deal with such crimes. Have there been many knives or similar type weapons seized during such searches.*

The Chief Superintendent informed the Members that there were difficulties in conducting random searches on members of the public who guards believe may be carrying knives or other weapons. However, this is an area that guards continue to proactively deal with and all instances which are reported are investigated.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Date:

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